

Establishing Humanities Collaborations and Graduate Exchanges with NUI Galway
Faculty Grants for International Connections Proposal
Jenna Lay, Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, English

Professional and Personal Goals

Lehigh's longstanding partnership with NUI Galway offers exciting opportunities for further development. Building on the strong foundation in undergraduate education established through the College of Business and Economics and the more recent exchanges initiated in biological sciences and biomedical engineering and at the level of graduate education in economics, I propose a trip to explore possible collaborations in the humanities, especially between faculty and graduate students in the English departments at Lehigh and NUI Galway.

This is an ideal time to visit: my colleague at Galway, Dr. Marie-Louise Coolahan, is the principal investigator on a European Research Council Consolidator Grant called RECIRC: The Reception and Circulation of Early Modern Women's Writing, which runs from July 2014 until June 2019 and employs graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in a project tracing how women's writing circulated in manuscript documents, international correspondence, and through transnational religious orders. This project is closely related to my own research, including my first book, *Beyond the Cloister: Catholic Englishwomen and Early Modern Literary Culture* (The University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), and the research I have begun on my second book project, on women's writing and political networks in seventeenth-century England. Meetings with Dr. Coolahan and the students and postdocs working on her project will be valuable for my own work, while also providing a basis for future graduate exchanges.

As the English department's director of graduate studies, I am especially interested in exploring opportunities for our Ph.D. students to participate in research or teaching exchanges at Galway, and to host Galway Ph.D. students at Lehigh. Such an exchange program would provide our students with valuable international experiences at a moment when both academic and non-academic job markets are increasingly focused on global competencies. The English department is also eager to expand its international footprint, and I plan to share information about our graduate degrees with undergraduate and M.A. students at Galway, in order to encourage them to apply to our graduate programs.

Expected Outcomes

In addition to exploring possible collaborations with Dr. Coolahan, including ways that Lehigh faculty and graduate students might contribute to the RECIRC project, we aim to develop a plan for competitive graduate student exchanges between the English departments at Lehigh and Galway. At the same time, my visit will help raise awareness of Lehigh's humanities graduate programs among students and faculty at NUI Galway, in part through a talk I will give on my research and its relationship to the Lehigh English department's focus on Literature and Social Justice. We will also explore the possibility of additional collaborations around faculty research and more sustained English involvement in the *Lehigh in Ireland* summer program for undergraduates. In the long term, I hope to invite Dr. Coolahan to Lehigh in order to further solidify this partnership.

Nature of Interaction

I plan to travel to Galway in mid-May, and Dr. Coolahan has invited me to give a talk on my research at the beginning of my trip. The rest of my visit will involve conversations and meetings with members of the RECIRC team, faculty and students in the English department, faculty involved in other aspects of the partnership between NUI Galway and Lehigh, and administrators such as Dr. Brian Hughes, dean of International Affairs at Galway.

Pre-Trip Planning

In spring 2014, Scott Gordon (chair of the English department) and I had a conversation with Vince Munley about the possibility of pursuing this partnership, and in fall 2015 Scott and I met with Dr. Hughes during his visit to Lehigh. Both of these conversations provided a strong conceptual foundation for thinking about the possibilities for partnership and exchange, and I subsequently contacted Dr. Coolahan to discuss how we might best pursue a partnership between our departments. I have attached an email from Dr. Coolahan that outlines plans for the trip. In the coming months, Dr. Coolahan and I will collaborate on a more detailed schedule for my visit, and I will further develop the English department's goals and expectations for a graduate exchange program in consultation with our graduate committee.

Expected Follow-Up Steps

When I return, I will prepare a report detailing the results of this trip for my chair, the dean of CAS, the Vice President for International Affairs, and other interested faculty at Lehigh. I also plan to develop a brief proposal outlining the planning process, resources, and expected outcomes associated with developing a graduate student exchange, which I will circulate among graduate faculty in the English department. I would be delighted to share information about this experience with new faculty or other faculty interested in applying for the program, as well. Following this initial reporting stage, I will work with the graduate committee in English, the CAS Graduate Associate Dean, and our partners at NUI Galway in order to pursue plans for implementation.

Budget

May 7–21, 2016

Item	Estimated amount (USD)
Flight: Newark (EWR) – Shannon (SNN) round trip economy (estimated cost based on purchase in late February)	\$900
Round trip bus transportation between Bethlehem and Newark	\$52
Round trip taxi/car service between SNN and Galway	\$270
Per diem (\$108) for 13 days (U.S. Department of State)	\$1404
Lodging at Arus Grattan Apartments (at €450/week)	\$975
Total	\$3601



Jenna Lay <jdl210@lehigh.edu>

invitation to discuss Lehigh/NUIG exchange possibilities

1 message

Coolahan, Marie-Louise <marielouise.coolahan@nuigalway.ie>

Fri, Jan 8, 2016 at 10:39 AM

To: Jenna Lay <jdl210@lehigh.edu>

Dear Jenna,

I hope Christmas entailed a good break!

This email is by way of jotting down plans for your information-gathering trip to NUI Galway the week of May 9th. With a view to developing new initiatives for the Humanities and consolidating that side of our universities' relationship, I'd very much like to pursue the idea of a competitive PhD student exchange. The value, I think of making this competitive would be that it adds prestige to the exchange itself, that it attracts the highest-calibre graduate students, and that it generates a buzz around the opportunity itself. We would need to make this cost-neutral, insofar as possible, for the students themselves. I would hope the exchange would be for at least one semester, with opportunities for teaching as well as scholarly exchange at each host institution.

Secondly, I'd very much like you to present a paper based on your own research, at the Moore Institute for Humanities and Social Studies. In particular, your research is cognate with that pursued by the team I currently lead working on the RECIRC project, and funded by the European Research Council. Currently, this team comprises 7 postdoctoral researchers and 2 PhD students as well as myself. I believe it would be of great mutual benefit and extend our scholarly networks.

Finally, I'd like to explore with you any other initiatives. The trip would offer the chance to meet again with our Vice-President for Internationalization, Prof. Brian Hughes, as well as those involved with the Business Studies exchange program between our universities.

I look forward very much to welcoming you to Galway.

All best wishes,

Marie-Louise

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Principal Investigator, RECIRC: The Reception and Circulation of Early Modern Women's Writing, 1550-1700
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