

MSc in Global Environment Economics

J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics

Academic Booklet 26/27

A Guide for MSc Global Environmental Economics Students



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1 Introduction & Welcome

Dear class of 2026/27,

I am delighted to welcome you to Economics at University of Galway, for those who are joining us for the first time, and to welcome back previous students. I, along with all the teaching and support staff involved in the programme, are very much looking forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

You are joining a programme that is unique in Ireland – and beyond – in terms of the focus on applied environmental economics, and we hope that studying with us will be a highly rewarding and enjoyable experience. This is an important and exciting time to study environmental economics.

The lecturers that contribute to the programme are experienced and dedicated. You are also joining an Economics discipline that is highly active in the research area of environmental economics, across a range of sub-themes including agriculture, marine, energy, natural resources, climate change and sustainable development, and this is reflected in the more specialist modules on the programme. Economics at the University of Galway also hosts two research centres dedicated to applied environmental economics themes: the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) and the Centre for Economic Research on Inclusivity and Sustainability (CERIS).

We are continually striving to improve our programme. Over the past years we have introduced several exciting innovations. For example, further international elements in the form of placement and research opportunities. Optional modules have been added that focus on emerging policy issues. The module European Energy Policy is delivered by a policy expert who is currently Deputy Head of Unit at DG Energy in the European Commission. The module Green & Sustainable Finance addresses emerging environmental policy issues across global financial markets. Last year, students had the opportunity to take part in two field trips – one on board a marine research vessel, and another to visit the European Commission in Brussels. We hope to repeat these offerings in 2025/26 but please note that availability / numbers may be limited. We are also offering students greater choice. Students have the option to either pursue a work placement (a competitive process) or a traditional academic dissertation after the end of semester 2. Further details are included here in the handbook and will be discussed during the in-person orientation session on **Tuesday 8th September at 10-12am in CA110.**

Students are expected to attend in-person on campus for all aspects of their programmes. For those students who experience short term issues, such as illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to aid students – e.g. through the provision of lecture notes or slides, but there should be no expectation on the part of students that online lecture recordings will be made available.

I trust you will find the contents of this handbook useful; it will provide a first point of reference for general information about the programme and about the university more generally. If you have any questions or concerns, I point you, in the first instance, to the various resources provided in this handbook. There are many supports available to you from the university, and you should feel free to avail of these as needed. Please also feel free to contact me, and/or Charmain Byrne (who provides excellent admin support for the programme) and we will do our best to help you in any way we can.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luke McGrath', is written over a solid blue horizontal line.

Dr. Luke McGrath

Lecturer (Above the Bar) in Environmental Economics,

University of Galway

Director [MSc. Global Environmental Economics](#)

e: luke.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie | a: Room 203, Aras Cairnes, North Campus, University of Galway.

2 Useful Contacts

On a day-to-day basis, your principal contact in courses will naturally be with your lecturers and tutors. You will generally be able to clarify most issues which arise with them, as the year proceeds.

Economics location and contact information

From time to time, particularly when you are required to submit assignments, you may need to call into the Economics offices. These are located on the first floor of the older part of the Cairnes Building, to the north of the main campus. This older part is informally known as “St. Anthony’s” (officially it’s part of the Cairnes Building). Some teaching rooms are located there also.

See link to campus map: www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/maps

For general enquiries on your academic studies, you are welcome to contact:



Programme Director:

Dr. Luke McGrath

Room 203, First Floor, Cairnes Building (St. Anthony’s)

luke.mcgrath@universityofgalway.ie



Head of Economics:

Professor Alan Aheane

Room CA236, First Floor, Cairnes Building (St. Anthony’s)

alan.ahearne@universityofgalway.ie



Economics Administrative Staff (Professional Support Services):

Charmain Byrne

Room 201, First Floor, Cairnes Building (St. Anthony’s)

Charmain Byrne: Phone 091-492501 (or internal ext. 2501):

charmain.byrne@universityofgalway.ie

Contact details for individual staff members are on the economics web site:

www.universityofgalway.ie/economics

A general contact email for economics enquiries is: economics@universityofgalway.ie

3 Academic Term Dates

The first semester of the 2026-27 academic year begins on Monday 7th September 2026.

Academic Year 2026-2027	
Orientation 1st years	Monday, 31st August to Friday 4th September *
Start of teaching all years	Monday 7th September
End of teaching all years	Friday 27th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday 30th November to Friday 4th December
Semester 1 exams start	Monday 7th December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday 18th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 19th December
2027	
Start of Teaching	Monday 11th January 2027
Easter	Good Friday 26th March to Easter Monday 29th March
End of Teaching	Friday 2nd April (12 weeks of teaching)
Field Trips	Monday 5th to Friday 9th April
Study Week	Monday 12th to Friday 16th April
Semester 2 Exams Start	Monday 19th April
Semester 2 Exams End	Thursday 6th May
Autumn Repeat Exams	Tuesday 3rd August to Friday 13 August (9 days of exams)
Holidays	Easter: Good Friday 26th March to Easter Monday 29th March 2027
	Bank Holidays: Monday 26th October 2026 / Monday 2nd February 2027/ Wednesday 17th March 2027
	Monday 3rd May 2027/ Monday 7th June 2027 / Monday 2nd August 2027

* Updated 23rd March 2026

* Approved AC Standing 29th September 2022

4 About University of Galway

Founded in 1845, we've been inspiring students for over 175 years. University of Galway has earned international recognition as a research-led university with a commitment to top quality teaching. Galway ranks among the top 1% of universities in the world. Our prestigious history spans almost two centuries. Our spectacular location boasts the unique landscape and culture of the west of Ireland. Our global network connects us to partners around the world. Our researchers are shaping the future. Our students are shaping themselves. Visit www.universityofgalway.ie to learn more about the University of Galway.

5 Environmental Economics at University of Galway

The MSc Global Environmental Economics is hosted by the Discipline of Economics at University of Galway, part of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, one of three Schools in the College of Business, Public Policy and Law at University of Galway.

Throughout the programme, you will mainly be engaged with academic staff of the Economics discipline. You can find staff profiles and contact details at this link (see also the profiles of core staff teaching on the programme towards the end of this document).

<https://economics.universityofgalway.ie/people/>

Economics at University of Galway has a long and proud tradition of engaging with environmental issues, both through our teaching and research. The MSc in Global Environmental Economics was introduced in 2018, replacing the previous MSc in Natural Resource Economics and Governance.

The programme is now established as the only postgraduate programme in Ireland dedicated to environmental economics. Our graduates are employed in leading public sector organisations in Ireland including the Irish Government Economic Evaluation Service, ComReg and the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities. Other graduates are employed by leading private sector companies both in Ireland and internationally, across banking, consultancy and wider industry, including EY, Aer Lingus, AIB, AECOM, and RPS. In addition, a number of our graduates have proceeded to study for their doctorates in environmental economics at various universities in Ireland and elsewhere.

Environmental Economics represents one of the core areas of research focus within Economics at University of Galway, and this is reflected in the presence of two highly active research groups in the area of environmental economics:

The Centre for Economic Research on Inclusivity and Sustainability (CERIS):

The CERIS Mission is to conduct high-quality economic research that helps develop a more inclusive society and sustainable environment, ensuring a better future for all. We aim to better understand individual behaviour and policy decisions, from the local to the global scale.

The Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU):

SEMRU is the foremost marine economic analysis centre in Ireland. SEMRU was established with the objective of expanding marine socio-economic research capability in Ireland, centred around a research cluster in Galway led by University of Galway and linking with Teagasc and the Marine Institute.

5.1 Economics events

Economics at University of Galway strongly encourages economics students' wide and deep engagement in their studies. One avenue to do that is through attending our many economics events on campus, such as conferences, workshops, and the regular seminars given by academic staff, researchers and PhD students from economics at University of Galway, and by external visitors. As a class you will be notified of and invited to attend relevant events in Economics.

6 Class representatives

It has proved very valuable at times to have good class representatives (at least one or perhaps two, depending on numbers in the class) to raise issues and help communication amongst the class, so I hope some of you will consider putting your names forward for this role, which is not onerous. The class representatives are the first point of contact for raising issues and providing feedback to the programme director.

7 Canvas (on-line learning platform)

Canvas is the web-based learning environment used at the University of Galway. There is a Canvas page for each module, including course content, and information on class projects, assignments and assessments. *All students are required to familiarize themselves with Canvas and to log on regularly to keep up to date with the requirements of each module.* Canvas will not only be used to contain and circulate key module materials (lecture notes, announcements, assignments, etc.). In most modules, submission of assignments will also be facilitated through Canvas, via Turnitin Assignments. Turnitin generates a 'Similarity Report' which identifies unoriginal submitted material. For a quick guide to Canvas, please see the following link: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/canvas/>

8 M.Sc. IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

COURSE OUTLINE

Note: The following information is intended to give an overview of the programme. Full details will be provided in modules outlines by individual lecturers at the beginning of each semester.

This programme is designed to address many of the greatest challenges facing societies around the world today including climate change, food and energy security, the need to achieve sustainable and resilient forms of economic development, pollution and biodiversity loss. A global environmental economics perspective is central to our understanding of these challenges and students acquire relevant theoretical and practical skills to meet these global challenges and formulate appropriate policy responses. A unique combination of theoretical

and applied subjects is delivered through small group teaching by academics as well as industry and policy experts. This guarantees a practical focus strengthened by the opportunity to pursue work placements in related companies or research institutes in Ireland or abroad.

Programme objectives

The programme objectives of the MSc in Global Environmental Economics are:

- Core economic knowledge - our graduates will understand and analyse global environmental issues from an economic perspective.
- Analytical skills – our graduates will have advanced knowledge of economic methods used to analyze environmental problems.
- Influence public policy – our graduates will have the required knowledge and skills to critically evaluate and inform future public policy in relation to the environment.
- Global perspective – our graduates will be able to understand interlinkages regarding environmental problems and how these differ around the world.
- Communication skills – our graduates will have effective communication skills and be proficient with various media.

Learning objectives

On successful completion of this programme, graduates should be able to:

- Apply suitable theoretical and practical economic methods to analyse global environmental challenges;
- Conduct economic evaluations of environmental policies and projects;
- Apply advanced econometric and statistical methods to analyse various environmental problems;
- Utilize economic theory and practical skills to inform public policy;
- Discuss and explain differences and similarities regarding environmental problems around the world;
- Critically evaluate and summarize the current scholarly environmental economics literature in selected specialized fields;

Communicate clearly the outcomes of analyses and recommended actions and decision.

9 Programme Structure

Programme Structure (Full-time)

Semester 1 Core

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC501	Microeconomic Theory	10
EC506	Econometrics	10
EC5118	Climate Change Economics	10
EC5117	Natural Resource Governance & Sustainability	10

Semester 2 Core

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC5115	Environmental Economic Modelling	10
EC517	Cost Benefit Analysis & Evaluation	10
EC5116	Global Issues in Agricultural, Marine and Renewable Energy Economics	10

EC505	Dissertation <u>OR</u>	10
EC5140	Applied Environmental Economics Placement	10

Plus 10 credits from the following optional modules (in semester 2)

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC5102	Renewable Energy Economics and Policy	10
EC5153	Applied Behavioural Economics and Finance	10
EC5119	Derivatives and Risk Management	10
EC5137	Green and Sustainable Finance	10
EC5121	Applied Econometrics	10
EC5144	European Energy Policy	10

Programme Structure (Part-time) Year 1

Semester 1 Core

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC501	Microeconomic Theory	10
EC5118	Climate Change Economics	10

Semester 2 Core

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC5116	Global Issues in Agricultural, Marine and Renewable Energy Economics	10

Plus 10 credits from the following optional modules (in semester 2)

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC5102	Renewable Energy Economics and Policy	10

EC5119	Derivatives and Risk Management	10
EC5153	Applied Behavioural Economics and Finance	10
EC5137	Green and Sustainable Finance	10
EC5121	Applied Econometrics	10
EC5144	European Energy Policy	10

Programme Structure (Part-time) Year 2

Semester 1 Core

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC506	Econometrics	10
EC5117	Natural Resource Governance & Sustainability	10

Semester 2 Core

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC5115	Environmental Economic Modelling	10
EC517	Cost Benefit Analysis & Evaluation	10

EC505	Dissertation <u>OR</u>	10
EC5140	Applied Environmental Economics Placement	10

Plus 10 credits from the following optional modules (in semester 2)

Mod Code	Module Title	ECTS credits
EC5102	Renewable Energy Economics and Policy	10
EC5119	Derivatives and Risk Management	10
EC5153	Applied Behavioural Economics and Finance	10
EC5137	Green and Sustainable Finance	10
EC5121	Applied Econometrics	10
EC5144	European Energy Policy	10

10 Additional (optional) courses

Note that these are non-credit bearing elements of the programme and are offered as additional support and training for students who wish to avail of them. Further details to follow at the orientation session and via Canvas.

Semester 1:

Mathematics for Economists (refresher course) – **strongly recommended for all**

Overview:

This course in *Mathematics for Economists* aims to give students the necessary mathematical skills to successfully complete the more quantitative and technical modules in economics offered under the various master's degree programmes in economics at University Of Galway. It provides a thorough revision of a range of mathematical concepts commonly used in economic analysis.

COURSE DELIVERY: This short course will run on Thursday mornings for the first four weeks of the semester (from Thursday, 10th of September).

Semester 2:

Introduction to R for economists (TBC)

Short practical course delivered over 4 weeks (two hours per week)

In person delivery (in computer labs)

11 EC505 Dissertation or EC5140 Placement

Students have the option to choose between a traditional Research Dissertation (EC505) and an Applied Environmental Economics Placement (EC5140). These are technically year-long modules, and some engagement throughout the year will be required, regardless of which option you ultimately choose. The bulk of the work in either case will be carried out after the end of semester 2 exams (i.e. over the summer months). The Dissertation or Applied Placement modules are each worth 10 credits – equivalent to one core taught module on the programme. Each will be evaluated and marked against a set of pre-defined criteria, details of which will be provided to students in advance. Some indicative guidance is provided here for information. You will be asked to indicate your preference for pursuing either the placement or the dissertation early in the programme (in the first weeks of semester 1). It is important to recognise that a student who opts for the placement option but does not secure one can still switch to the dissertation option. However, a student that opts for a dissertation cannot switch to the placement option.

Placements

It is important to understand that the placement process is a competitive one, that is effectively a job search (with many advantages – e.g. support from the university, introductions to potential placement organization and opportunities etc.). To participate in the placement process, it is **mandatory** to attend all information and support sessions provided by the placement officer Grainne Carey and more generally to engage with the process from the outset. This includes submitting documents as requested, meeting deadlines, engaging with employers, making yourself available for interview etc. Failure to do so will result in you

being removed from the placement option and onto the dissertation option. Full details of the placement process will be provided in a separate guidance document and discussed with the programme director and placement officer during our orientation session and in subsequent information sessions.

Here are some general placement guidelines:

- **Placements are competitive, students engage in a competitive process to win the placement.**
- **If you do not secure a placement, you will switch to the EC505 dissertation module option.**
- Some placements will be paid. Students are strongly encouraged to view the placement opportunities as investments in their future career prospects. Several students have been offered full-time paid positions with their host organisations on completion of the placement.
- Usually, placements are undertaken after the completion of semester 2 exams. Placements should be for a period of not less than 2 months (usually Mid-May to end of July or beyond).
- The placement organisation will generally nominate a supervisor/mentor and/or line manager to whom students on placement will be reporting on a day-to-day basis.
- Students will also be assigned an academic contact (a member of University Of Galway academic staff), who will provide a first point of contact at University Of Galway during the placement.
- Students going on placement will be required to submit a placement report (details will be provided in a separate guidance document), which will be evaluated by the programme director and/or by another nominated member of the academic faculty in the Discipline of Economics.
- A range of placement opportunities and contacts will be provided.
- Students are also encouraged to self-source placement opportunities. However, all placements and placement organizations must be approved by the placement officer and/or the programme director.

Dissertation Guidelines

Some people prefer the word thesis, others dissertation. There is no distinction between them in practice. Full detailed guidance on the dissertation requirements and expectations will be provided separately, including information sessions in semester 2. The dissertation provides an opportunity for independent and original research. The aim of the dissertation is to enable the student to critically evaluate research in economics; to demonstrate independent research and to apply theoretical knowledge acquired; to demonstrate critical thinking skills and to produce a well written minor dissertation of not less than 6,000 words in length that contributes to existing knowledge. This module involves a series of discussions and meetings with supervisors, submission of research proposals, progress reporting to supervisors within agreed timeframes, and delivery of a final academic dissertation. The deadline for the submission of the dissertation is usually the end of July. You will be required to submit an electronic copy to the programme director and to your supervisor. No hard copy of the dissertation is required. Details in relation to formatting requirements, marking schemes and general approaches to writing a dissertation will be provided in a separate guidance document.

Here are some general dissertation guidelines:

- An academic supervisor from University of Galway will be assigned to supervise the research project for your dissertation and grade your final submission.
- The research topic will be agreed by the supervisor and the student. In some cases, supervisors may propose topics, or invite students to join existing research projects. In other cases, students propose their own topics based on their interests.
- The research will involve applying the theories and techniques introduced in the taught modules to an applied research question.

- In most cases, the research should involve an applied research question – and typically data analysis using econometric or other statistical techniques. However there are a range of acceptable formats for the dissertation, provided the approach you wish to take is agreed with your supervisor.

The objective of the dissertation is to provide training and experience in conducting independent research. The result of this research should represent a contribution to knowledge and (ideally) a publication-quality academic output.

12 Module Descriptions – taught modules

Semester 1

EC506 Econometrics

The principal aim of this module is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the core techniques of econometrics and their application, to test economic theories and measure magnitudes relevant for economic policy and other decisions. These skills will provide a foundation for subsequent study of quantitative topics in economics and are one of the key elements in the professional training of an economist. The module differs from the standard approach taken in traditional econometrics courses in that it focuses mainly on the issues and challenges that empirical researchers address when they apply econometric methods. The module's approach reflects how econometric instruction has evolved from simply describing a set of abstract statistical recipes, to showing how econometrics can be used to empirically study questions across a variety of disciplines.

EC5118 Climate Change Economics

This module will apply the theoretical and practical tools of economic analysis to the problem of climate change. A particular focus will be on economic evaluation of the costs of climate change (empirical estimation of climate damages) and the economic tools used to evaluate climate policy (climate-economy models).

EC501 Microeconomic Theory

The course will cover the core topics in microeconomic theory at the master's level.

EC5117 Natural Resource Governance & Sustainability

The term “environmental governance” has been widely used in relation to the concept of sustainable development. The module takes a capital-based approach to the study of sustainability. In this regard particular attention will be given to the relationship between social capital, natural capital and physical capital and institutions and regimes that govern these forms of capital in the context of natural resource management.

EC5115 Environmental Economic Modelling

This module covers a number of key economic modelling approaches typically applied in environmental economics. Topics covered are revealed and stated preference techniques, economic experiments, as well as GIS and spatial methods. The course has an applied focus and students learn to estimate and apply several quantitative models.

EC517 Cost Benefit Analysis & Evaluation

Evaluation of public sector projects or programmes is important and is required to ensure that resources are used in the best possible way and to ensure that the government is getting value for money. The objective of this module is to introduce students to evaluation procedures and to Cost Benefit Analysis, a commonly employed method for the evaluation of public sector projects or programmes.

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the fundamental theoretical and practical concepts and tools of CBA
- Undertake applied CBA to inform public policy.
- Critically appraise CBA case studies/reports used to inform public policy

EC5116 Global issues in Agricultural, Marine and Renewable Economics

This module covers economic concepts about a wide range of problems and issues related to agriculture, marine and renewable energy. This course focuses on contemporary issues and topics may vary from year to year. Examples are agricultural production, markets, trade and policy, asymmetric information. Economic analyses to evaluate specific marine policies in the areas of marine tourism and recreation, shipping, aquaculture, fishing, coastal development, and the protection of marine habitats and biodiversity will also be covered. Finally, the course covers energy policies concerned with energy systems including,

wind, solar and tidal and wave power. The course has a global emphasis using material from both developed and developing countries.

Optional Modules

EC5102 Renewable Energy Economics and Policy

A key focus of the module is the optimal provision of renewable energy resources and on problems that arise due to the incomplete nature of markets for these resources. The course will address the theory of externalities, missing markets and property rights; the theory of public goods and Nash-Cournot equilibria. Attention is given to energy externalities, public goods, Pigovian taxes in the energy sector, emission standards, tradable permits and tradable energy certificates.

EC5121 Applied Econometrics

Economists place a strong emphasis on understanding the causal mechanisms that drive statistical relationships. This is because without a clear view on causation, inferring meaningful results can be challenging. This module considers a range of econometric tools and research designs commonly employed by economists to estimate causal relationships, focussing on 'identification' and the 'credibility' of results and findings. Topics to be covered include panel data methods and fixed effects, difference-in-differences estimation, event study design, regression discontinuity design, instrumental variables, and synthetic control. Throughout the module each topic will present an overview of an econometric method or research design, one or more empirical examples and/or related papers for discussion, as well as an in-class demonstration using Stata. Applied examples and practical experience are a key element of the module and, to this end, a range of relevant real-world applications and datasets will be utilised.

EC5119 Derivatives and Risk Management

This course is an introduction to modern derivatives and risk management. We begin by exploring the basic features of futures, swaps and options with an emphasis on economic intuition and understanding, although important quantitative techniques are developed. We use the insights developed in these topics to examine some well-known examples of derivatives mishaps and recent applications of derivatives, including credit derivatives and weather derivatives.

EC5137 Green & Sustainable Finance

Transforming the global economy to make it more sustainable requires large investments, especially for enabling a green and low-carbon transition. The aim of this module is to introduce students to the important role of financial markets in the transition to a climate-neutral, green, competitive and inclusive economy. The module explores the requirements to mobilise financial markets to align with environmental and climate targets and focuses on the different financial products and instruments that can power the transition. Overall, the module will consider how to embed green and sustainable finance principles and practice into financial decision-making.

EC5153 Applied Behavioural Economics and Finance

Behavioural economics brings psychological insights to bear on economic phenomena. In this module we examine applications of behavioural economics to policy issues in the domains of finance, environment and health. For instance, how do we help people save adequately for retirement while respecting individual freedoms? How can households learn to effectively reduce their carbon footprint, at minimum financial cost? In health, how can behavioural evidence help design effective policies to encourage healthy diets, regular exercise, and demand for preventative healthcare? Students study some of the pillars of behavioural economics – e.g. prospect theory, social norms, present bias, bounded rationality (i.e. limited attention and limited understanding, overoptimism information-avoidance – and how these are relevant to policy problems. How can we measure whether these interventions lead to better outcomes, when there is no rational benchmark? In the second half of the module, an additional focus on methodology is added as we examine the various methods used to generate behavioural evidence for policy. We focus on laboratory experiments and randomised controlled trials in the field. Students learn to assess the pros and cons of each method and how to decide which method is most suitable for a given policy problem.

EC5144 European Energy Policy Masterclass

The module will be taught by Adjunct Professor Tadhg O' Briain, Deputy Head of Unit at DG Energy in the European Commission.

Overview: This module aims to provide students with an overview of the drivers of European energy policy – from the opening of previously closed national markets based on monopolies through to the European Green Deal and the impact dependence on Russian gas supplies.

The course will provide a theoretical overview of the functioning of energy markets – and in particular electricity markets and the economics of renewable generation – and examine how this interacts with the achievement of public policy objectives of affordable, secure and sustainable energy supplies. It will examine how EU policy tools – both legislative and the application of competition (including State aid) rules have been used to achieve these policy objectives.

If feasible the class masterclass would conclude with a field trip to Brussels where students will also be introduced to key actors in the European energy field, from the Commission, and bodies like the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) and the European Networks of Transmission System Operators for Electricity and Gas (ENTSO-E and ENTSG).

Delivery: This module will likely be delivered in a hybrid format – with a mix of online and in-person lectures.

13 On-campus Facilities & Services

Services available to students can be accessed when you click on the University of Galway Students portal: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/students/> . Here we have tried to group some of those that you may find particularly useful during the course of your studies.

Before you embark on your studies at University of Galway, you will first need to register. Registration for the 2025/2026 academic year opens on August 19th and closes on September 30th (for courses) and September 30th (for modules). Please be aware these dates may change, and can be checked at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/registration/quick-links/registration-dates/#tab2>

Information on how to register and further help are available here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/registration/how-to-register/>

Module registration/change of mind for Semester 2 will become available early 2025 (usually closing on or around 1st of February – but as above, please double check these dates on the registration office website).

13.1 Student ID Card

The name and spelling of your name AND date of birth on your birth cert/passport/driver licence is what will appear on your University of Galway student ID card. Your Student ID Card will be your official identification card for the duration of your programme at University of Galway and for all college related matters only.

The main form of distribution of Student ID Cards for postgraduates and undergraduates will be for the students to call in person to the Registration Helpdesk in Áras Uí Chathail on the 1st Floor, on allocated dates / date ranges (as outlined below). The Registration Desk will be open from 09:00 - 17:00, Monday to Friday during the card collection dates.

Áras Ui Chathail, University of Galway, University Rd Gaillimh - Google Maps

If a student is unable to collect their Student ID Card, they can contact Registration via email registration@universityofgalway.ie or 091 494949 and arrange for an alternate means of distribution e.g. send in the post to home address.

13.1.1 Library Facilities

All registered students of this programme are automatically entitled to use the library. ID cards are issued to new students at registration. This ID card enables the user to enter the library and entitles him/ her to borrow material. Please remember that without an ID card you may not borrow and at any time you may be asked to produce it for security reasons. ID cards are not transferable, and users are responsible

for all material borrowed on their card. Students are encouraged to avail of the many facilities offered by the James Hardiman Library at times which are convenient to their study programme. The library charges **fines** for overdue material solely to secure its prompt return so that others may avail of it. Further details may be found at <https://library.universityofgalway.ie/>

13.2 Computer Facilities

PCs are available for students in PC suites around the campus. PCs are available on a "first come first served" (open access) basis for at least an hour each day. These open access hours are advertised on the door of each suite and on the notice board in the suite at the start of term. PCs are also available at times when they are not booked for classes. Should you have any difficulties using the PCs or you wish to report a hardware fault please contact the User Support Centre, Room 118, Computer Services (ext 3325). If necessary, the User Support Centre staff will make an appointment for a technical advisory session for you. Detailed information regarding use of University of Galway computer facilities is available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/cs/>

13.2.1 Academic Skills Hub

The Academic Skills Hub aims to support all University of Galway students to develop the key skills required for academic success. The Academic Skills Hub:

- Provides brief introductions to, and top tips on, **eight key academic skills**, as well as some information to help you get started
- Offers advice and resources for **studying in the online learning environment**
- Links to a range of **additional sources of support** for students, including Library resources and academic skills workshops

Further details and resources are available at <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/academic-skills/>

13.2.2 Academic Writing Centre

The mission of the Academic Writing Centre is to help students to become better writers. They provide free one-on-one tutorials on essay writing and also support student writing through workshops, modules, and competitions.

They offer help in the following areas:

- Brainstorming your essay topic and outline
- Structuring an argument
- Developing your dissertation
- Improving sentence structure and punctuation
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Using secondary sources
- Editing and proofreading techniques

More information on the Academic Writing Centre here: <https://library.nuigalway.ie/awc/>

13.3 *The Students Union (SU)*

The Students Union provides information for First Year students which is useful for anyone who is new to University of Galway: <https://su.nuigalway.ie/help-advice/firstyear/> or call into the Students' Union at Áras na Mac Léinn. Check out the University's student services page:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-services/> The Students Union is very useful with regard to welfare and helping with academic performance. They usually run an excellent study skills workshop during the year.

13.3.1 *Student Health Unit*

The Student Health Unit provides on-campus medical care to full-time registered students in a confidential, professional and courteous manner. Students must be registered for the current academic year in order to avail of this service.

The unit is operating on a very strict **'BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT ONLY'** basis to ensure that optimal infection prevention and control measures can be maintained at all times. Students must be registered for the current academic year in order to avail of this service. **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE STUDENT HEALTH UNIT FACILITY WITHOUT FIRST CONTACTING THE PRACTICE.**

The Health Unit is located upstairs in Áras na Mac Léinn (beside the Students Union Office). Tel: 091-492604. https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health_unit/

13.4 Counselling

You may meet some challenges during university life. Counselling can be an important resource for you. If you would like to set up an appointment please

email: counselling@universityofgalway.ie or phone 091 492484.

They are located at No. 5 Distillery Road (on the right hand side in a two storey house). The website is: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/>

13.4.1 Business Student Advisor

Our Student Advisor, Teresa Lydon, is a support for students throughout their time at university. Students may seek advice or guidance on a variety of matters including academic, personal, professional or financial at various stages of their education. On speaking with our Student Advisor, a student may be referred to an individual staff member or another support service for further advice, relevant to the nature of the query.

Teresa is available to students by email and telephone during the mornings of Monday to Friday. It is a confidential service.

You can make an appointment by emailing businessstudentadvisor@universityofgalway.ie

Teresa's contact number is 086 0836646.

Further details: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/businessstudentadvisor/>

13.5 Disability Office

Bernie McGee, Disability Officer, Room 216, Áras Uí-Cathail Tel. 353 (0) 91 492813

E-mail: disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie

13.5.1 Postgraduate Admissions

Please see [Frequently Asked Question](#) section as your question may already have been answered there prior to presenting a query.

E-mail: postgradadmissions@universityofgalway.ie

T : +353 91 495 999

13.5.2 Fees Office

E-mail: fees@universityofgalway.ie

www.universityofgalway.ie/fees

13.5.3 Accommodation Office

Accommodation advisory service: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/accommodation/>

13.6 Parking

University Of Galway enjoys a central location in Galway City and with this, comes parking restrictions. A system to manage parking was agreed with the staff and students' union as follows:

- There are different types of spaces on campus, including spaces for:
 - staff permit holders only,
 - student permit holders only,
 - shared use (staff student permit holders) and
 - visitor/non-permit holder pay-and-display (P&D) spaces.

- You need a permit to park in University Of Galway, or you can buy a ticket from P&D machines. Please note, that P&D tickets ONLY apply to spaces marked in blue adjacent to the meters - P&D tickets do not allow you to park anywhere else. Permit holders can use P&D spaces, but you must buy a ticket.
- Your permit/P&D ticket allows you to park in specific places and you must familiarize yourself with the zones, and which permit applies to what carpark.
- There are also 'reserved' spaces and loading bays - do not park in these.
- You may use the universally accessible parking spaces if you have correctly procured and display an IWA 'blue badge' permit.
- If you park in the wrong place, or outside of a parking space, you may be clamped. If you don't display your permit, you may also be clamped. Clamp release fee is €60 and €80 after 6pm.
- You can get your student parking permit for a charge at the Parking and Information Office, Arts/Science Concourse. There are application forms on this site.

Allow plenty of time on your first visit to campus with your car. If you have any doubts whatsoever, check the website (below) or telephone/drop into the parking office on the concourse.

How to get a Student Parking Permit

Full details available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/service-helpdesk/parking-get-to-around/>

If you park in a "Pay and Display" space, you must display a valid Pay & Display ticket and park only in spaces marked "Pay and Display". In accepting a student parking permit, you are deemed to have read and understood this Student Parking web page and the following rules and regulations. Please note that abuse of the parking management system may result in a disciplinary procedure.

13.7 Health & Safety

Emergency Information: [Emergency Information - University of Galway](#)

Emergency contacts (further details): <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/contacts-emergency/>

University of Galway Safety Statement

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/healthsafety/Safety-Statement-2022-with-Presidents-Signature.pdf>

****Students are strongly encouraged to consult the University of Galway website for information on college policies**.**

14 University of Galway Campus Map

Please see the Campus map below for the locations of all the main University services and teaching buildings. The Economics discipline is located in the older part of the Cairnes building (marked 35 on the map), known as St Anthony's. You can expect your main location for on campus activity related to the programme to be in the Cairnes building, but other venues around the university campus may also be used, depending on class size, room capacities and availability etc. Full details of lecture times and venues will be provided prior to the start of each semester.

Some of the main room numbers for lectures are coded as follows:

- AM -- the Arts Millennium Building on the main campus
- AC -- The Arts/Sciences Concourse
- CA -- Cairnes Building (including the "St Anthony's" part of it)
- ENG -- the Engineering Building (by the river, near Cairnes)
- IT -- the Information Technology Building on the main campus
- MRI -- Marine Research Institute
- UC -- Áras Uí Chathail, on the main campus, (near Áras na mac Léinn)

There are also various other campus maps online at:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/maps/>

15 Meet the Lecturers

The following economics staff usually teach on the core modules of the MSc Global Environmental Economics programme and are also the main members of staff normally allocated to supervise student dissertations on the programme.



Luke McGrath

Luke is a lecturer in Environmental Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics and Programme Director for the MSc Global Environmental Economics & Policy. Luke's research interests lie in environmental-economic accounting, the economics of sustainable development and regional development. Luke has published in leading field journals across environmental economics (Ecological Economics), environmental science (Journal of Environmental Management), development economics (Review of Income & Wealth) and economic history (European Review of Economic History). Luke is a former Irish Research Council scholar, the recipient of the Labhrás ó Nualláin prize and the title of University Scholar from the University of Galway and a finalist for the Miriam Hederman O'Brien prize awarded by the Foundation for Fiscal Studies. Prior to his academic career, Luke served as an economist for over five years in the civil and public service with the Irish Government Economic Evaluation Service (IGEES) and the Western Development Commission (WDC).



Edel Doherty

Edel Doherty is a lecturer in Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics and she is a member of the Health Economics & Policy Analysis Centre (HEPAC). Her research is focused on the application of discrete choice experiments, economic evaluation and econometrics in Health and Environmental Economics. She has published across a range of areas and she is particularly interested in exploring the socio-economic drivers of health, health inequalities and preferences for health and healthcare. Her work to date has been published in a number of leading international peer-reviewed journals such as *Social Science and Medicine*, the *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organisation*, *Health Affairs*, *Economics and Human Biology*, *European Review of Agricultural Economics* and the *Journal of Agricultural Economics*. Since joining University Of Galway Edel has participated in a number of successful European and National research funding applications to the value of over €3.5 million euro. Previously Edel worked at Queen's University Belfast and she was a visiting scholar to the UC Berkeley in 2009 and Simon Fraser University in 2019.



Tom McDermott

I am the Galway University Foundation Lecturer in the Economics of Climate Change and Development at University of Galway. I am also a founding member of the Center for Economic Research on Inclusivity and Sustainability (CERIS), and a former IRC Government of Ireland Research Fellow. My research interests are at the intersection of environmental and development economics. I have published widely, including in leading economics journals, as well as more generalist science and social science journals. My research has been cited in recent high profile IPCC reports (in 2018 and 2022). I am also co-editor with Sam Fankhauser of *The Economics of Climate Resilient Development* (Edward Elgar, 2016). I have previously consulted for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the Irish EPA and Ireland's Department of

Communications, Climate Action and Environment, including contributing a background paper for Ireland's first statutory National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.



Matthew Collins

Matthew is a Lecturer Above the Bar (Assistant Professor) in Economics at the University of Galway. His research interests lie in applied microeconomics, particularly in labour and development economics. Prior to joining the University of Galway, he completed his PhD at the Economics Department at Lund University, where he is also affiliated with the Centre for Economic Demography. After his PhD studies, he was a visiting researcher at the FAIR Centre, Norwegian School of Economics (NHH). Previously, he was a Research Assistant at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) in Dublin.



Tom Van Rensburg

Tom teaches economics and environmental economics in the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. He received his undergraduate degree from University College of North Wales, Bangor and completed his postgraduate studies at the University of York, UK. His research is multidisciplinary and focuses on the economics of renewable energy, economics of biodiversity, valuation of environmental public goods and ecosystem services and common property resources and the economic analysis of institutions. Tom has published over 30 peer reviewed publications and various reports associated with a variety of economic studies both nationally and internationally. He has published in Land Economics, Ecological Economics, the Journal of Agricultural Economics and the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. He has coordinated two Republic of Ireland Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (DAFF) stimulus

funded projects and was a Co-investigator on two marine Framework projects including PROTECT (EU FP6), and HERMIONE (EU FP7). He has 5 PhD completions and presently has three PhD students working on topics including the economics of controlling nitrate emissions and renewable energy economics.



John Cullinan

John is Professor in Economics at the JE Cairnes School of Business and Economics at University of Galway. He holds a primary degree in Actuarial and Financial Studies and an MA in Economics from University College Dublin (UCD), an MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics from the London School of Economics, and a PhD in Economics from University of Galway. He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley in 2008 and a Visiting Researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015. He previously held lecturing positions at the University of Limerick, Maynooth University, and UCD, and has worked at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London and with Indecon Economic Consultants' Public Policy Division. John's research focuses on the causes and consequences of socioeconomic and geographic inequalities in the areas of health, disability, and education. It generally involves the application of econometric and spatial modelling techniques. He is currently Associate Editor of *The Economic and Social Review*, Secretary of the Irish Economic Association, and Director of the Centre for Economic Research on Inclusivity and Sustainability.



Cian Twomey

Before joining the University of Galway, Cian worked in the Department of Economics at University College, Cork and previously in fund management with Bank of Ireland Asset Management, Dublin. Cian is currently a lecturer in economics within the JE Cairnes School of Business & Economics where he delivers a wide range of modules across the discipline of financial economics. For the past three years, Cian has also been Chairperson of St. Columba's Credit Union in Galway.



Zongyuan Li

Zongyuan is Lecturer in Financial Economics and Technology at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. His research focuses on banking and real estate finance, with particular emphasis on the impact of government regulation and the strategies firms use to bypass these regulations. He has published papers in several economics and finance journals, including Journal of Financial Research, International Review of Financial Analysis and Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money, Zongyuan's work has been presented at several leading academic institutions, such as the People's Bank of China, Columbia University, and Baruch College. He holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration (specializing in Finance) from University of Macau, an MSc in Finance from ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, and a bachelor's degree in medicine from Xi'an Jiaotong University. Before joining the University of Galway in 2024, Zongyuan taught at Wenzhou-Kean University and Dalian Maritime University, and served as a part-time CFA lecturer at Golden Education Institute.



Karyn Morrissey

Karyn arrived at the University of Galway, her alma mater in September 2024 after working as an academic in the UK and Denmark for nearly 20 years. An economist and econometrician by training, and using her skills in Big Data and large-scale population modelling, the main focus of Karyn's research has become the economic drivers of, and socioeconomic and health impacts of climate change, particularly in our oceans and coastal environments. Here Karyn has linked her work on health and marine and coastal economics to understand the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the marine environment on society, and the changes needed to make human-marine interactions more sustainable.

Regarding climate action specifically, Karyn believes that to stimulate action on climate change, research must shift from scientific and technical perspectives to understanding the social and political elements that will motivate the society to undertake the urgent action that is required to mitigate and adapt the very real effects of Climate Change.

To this end, she is one of the co-authors of the Lancet Commissions Countdown on Climate Change and Human Health since 2016, where she has developed a set of indicators to understand the adaption preparedness, needs and barriers of cities in regard to the health-related impacts of climate change.

Karyn is particularly interested in the science-community-policy interface and has worked local, national and international bodies through her career, as well as community engagement groups. Her commitment to engagement is further highlighted with her contribution to approx. 500 policy documents, particularly in the areas of climate change across 50 countries.

*This handbook is issued for the **guidance** of students only. Course content and course options may change and students are advised to verify information in this handbook with the Programme Director and, where appropriate, module coordinators.*

*The information provided is intended for those who are joining the MSc Global Environmental Economics, whether part-time or full-time, in **2026**.*

The information provided here is correct and up-to-date, to the best of our knowledge, at the time of writing (17th July 2026), but is subject to change, particularly with respect to public health guidance and university policies.



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