



**First year, 2011 – 2012**  
**Student Guide**

Welcome to St. Patrick's College and especially to the Geography Department. We hope that your studies in Geography will be both interesting and enjoyable and that they will give you new and additional insights into the world in which we live.

**What is Geography?**

Geography is the study of the environments created on the earth's surface by nature and people. Geographers concern themselves especially with the physical and human elements of these environments, together with their historical development, spatial organisation, inter-relationships, management and planning.

**Who's in the department?**

<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Email<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Phone extension*</b>
Dr Ruth McManus (Head of department)	D112	<a href="mailto:Ruth.McManus@spd.dcu.ie">Ruth.McManus@spd.dcu.ie</a>	2198
Dr Susan Hegarty (Year coordinator)	E232	<a href="mailto:Susan.Hegarty@spd.dcu.ie">Susan.Hegarty@spd.dcu.ie</a>	2123
Dr Almar Barry	E316	<a href="mailto:Almar.Barry@spd.dcu.ie">Almar.Barry@spd.dcu.ie</a>	2085
Dr Jonathan Cherry	Moville 22	<a href="mailto:Jonathan.Cherry@spd.dcu.ie">Jonathan.Cherry@spd.dcu.ie</a>	2116
Dr Gerry O'Reilly	E227	<a href="mailto:Gerry.OReilly@spd.dcu.ie">Gerry.OReilly@spd.dcu.ie</a>	2185
Ms Geraldine Healy (Departmental administrator)	C112	<a href="mailto:Geraldine.Healy@spd.dcu.ie">Geraldine.Healy@spd.dcu.ie</a>	2064

\* Dial 01 – 884 if ringing from an outside line.

† All staff have both office hours and email hours. They are more than willing to answer your questions during either of these times. For details of staff office and email hours, please see website.

**Who do I contact if I have a problem on the course?**

The staff contact for First Year is Dr Susan Hegarty. Should any issues arise during your first year in Geography (either individually or collectively) please ensure that you make contact with Dr Hegarty as soon as possible.

**What will I be studying?**

The geographic theme that runs through all of First Year is **SUSTAINABILITY**.

During First Year Geography you will take the following modules:

<b>BA and BEd</b>		<b>BA Only</b>
Semester 1	<p><i>Geog 101 – An Introduction to Human Geography</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lead: AB and JC</li> <li>○ 3 units (7.5 ECTs)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Geog 103 - Geographical Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lead: RMM and SH</li> <li>○ 2 units (5 ECTs)</li> <li>○ Manual and equipment cost = €15</li> <li>○ Check the notice board for start date!</li> </ul>
Semester 2	<p><i>Geog 102 – An Introduction to the Physical Environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lead:</li> <li>○ 3 units (7.5 ECTs)</li> </ul>	Continue Geog 103

Further information on these modules is available on the departmental website, at <http://www.spd.dcu.ie/main/academic/geography/index.shtml>.

All modules have an associated Moodle page. Moodle is an online learning environment used widely in the college. You will receive information about how to log on to this in the first lecture (you should already have received a login for the college computer network).

The college Moodle site can be found at [www.spdonline.ie](http://www.spdonline.ie).



### ***Are there tutorials in first year?***

Yes. You will be split into groups in the first few weeks of term, and you will be told during lectures (and on the geography noticeboard) when your tutorials begin. Until then, don't worry too much about it. When they do begin, you will be expected to attend, and you will have tasks to complete either before the tutorial or in the tutorial itself, which count towards your continuous assessment grade for the course.

We will also be implementing a Moodle-based support network to encourage you to get to know your peers better and to help each other solve smaller issues that may arise. We will tell you more about this in due course.

### ***Where and when are the lectures held?***

Lecture slots for first year geography are: Monday 9; Wednesday 9 and 10; Thursday 11.10; Friday 10. Most lectures take place in E201, with any lecture on Wednesdays taking place in the Auditorium.

NB not all Wednesday slots are used as lectures, after Geog103 begins on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

### ***What about fieldwork?***

As part of Geog101, all students MUST participate in a day of fieldwork. This will take place on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, leaving at 8.30am or on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, leaving at 9am. Allocation to fieldtrips will take place in October and will be done by tutorial groups. There is a cost of €10 associated with fieldtrips, which will be collected on the third week of classes via the online system.

### ***Do I have to do an essay in first year?***

No. However, each module does have a continuous assessment element associated with it (20% of the marks for Geog101 and Geog102, with all of Geog103 being continually assessed) for which you may be required to write some short pieces. You will be informed about this in lectures. .

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT**

Continuous assessment forms an important part of the Geography course. All students are strongly advised to complete all continuous assessment and practical components fully and on time. Please note that there are NO REPEAT EXAMINATIONS available for elements assessed through continuous assessment, so marks are carried forward from summer.

### ***Where do I find out more?***

The Geography notice boards are located on the corridor outside D111. You are strongly encouraged to check these at least once a week. The departmental website also contains a lot of information on the department and on courses - <http://www.spd.dcu.ie/main/academic/geography/index.shtml>.

All courses also have a Moodle page. You will be given information about this page in lectures. It is essential for you to log onto this page and engage with the courses through this medium.

### ***Dates to remember***

- Money for fieldtrips and equipment for Geog103 will be collected on the third week of classes (week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> October). You will be given instructions in class on how to pay this.  
(BAs = €25 – fieldtrip plus equipment; BEds = €10 – fieldtrip only)
- Fieldtrips take place on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

### ***Geography department one-sheet policy***

Since academic year 2010 – 2011, the department has implemented a one-sheet policy in terms of handouts, as we endeavour to become a greener department and college. In the same way that this student guide is on one sheet of paper, all other handouts you get in lectures (and the electronic Moodle versions) may also occupy one A4 sheet of paper. This will enable you to have a copy of key points; diagrams etc, as well as develop the skills of synopsis and note-taking, which are important for university. At the same time, we are doing one more thing for the environment.