

## Science and Arts taster days at NUI Galway



### Report by Lucy Fitzgerald and Sophie Ennis

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, NUI Galway hosted a Science taster day for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> year students all over Ireland. Students had the opportunity to attend online information days held by NUI Galway where we got an insight into each course and each subject in the arts degrees, business degrees, science degrees and even into hotel management. Our Transition Year coordinator let us know about this amazing opportunity.

### Science

The meeting started with a female lecturer from the University, who introduced some lecturers of Science in NUI Galway, and a student who is currently studying a Science subject in the University.

The female host asked many questions of the members about the area of science they teach or study in. Each member expressed their love for the area they are in and what career opportunities can arise from it. All of them explained how they did not know what to do when they entered their first year of college but that they followed what they were interested in. They said the Science courses and modules NUI Galway offer are so diverse, many students can find things that really interest them. The members believe that more and more women are entering STEM and that no girl should think twice about entering a career in Science. They advised the students watching that you should always do something you enjoy and find interesting as a career and to follow your heart. The members also explained why you should study at NUI Galway and what the amazing University has to offer for its students. NUI Galway is in the top 1% of Universities and has a 98% employability rate.

After the introduction, the first taster lecture started. It was a maths lecture with a female lecturer. She taught a quick lesson on an equation and how it is used in our everyday lives without us even knowing it, e.g., technology determining if an entered

credit card number is correct. She then explained the different careers one can enter if they do a mathematics degree. The next lecture was on genetics and genomics, taught by a different female lecturer. She explained what genetics and genomics are and how technology about determining one's genome has become much cheaper and easier. The lecturer also talked about how genetics and genomics can help in the future in many different areas such as agriculture and microbiology.

The third taster lecture was on Physics (applied, astrophysics, biomedical, theoretical), taught by a male professor. He explained how people in Ireland are being exposed to radians from soil and how houses are now built with a cover underground to protect the people living inside. He then explained the different areas of physics a student can go into at NUI Galway. After that, there was a Geology lecture taught by another male. He talked about the formation of the Earth and how even 8,000 years ago, Ireland looked a lot different. He then explained what a student who is studying Geology in the University would be doing and the different research opportunities they would have. Following on from Geology, there was a microbiology lecture held by a male professor who spoke about the fermentation of foods and how bacteria play a role in the process. He also expressed how important the role of genetics and genomics will be in microbiology in the future.

The second last lecture was on Environmental health and safety. The female lecture talked about the different things people are exposed to daily and how that exposure can lead to things such as developing asthma or cancer. She explained that taking on this degree will allow you to learn how to help prevent exposure in different public areas such as schools and hospitals. The final lecture was on Biotechnology. The male lecturer spoke about how important this area of science is becoming and how we can use bacteria and technology to our advantage.

### **Arts**

There were three taster days for the arts, including everything from Psychology and English to History, Music, and Art. On each day we were given an overview of options to get into the University, what courses we can take and life in Galway. Then each day was composed of different lecturers at the University speaking about their subject and what is involved in each year of study.

Day one included: Fake news, Classics, Modern Irish culture studies, Archaeology, History, Celtic Civilisation and Languages.

Day two included: Psychology, Philosophy, Child and youth studies, Politics and sociology, Geography, Human rights and Education.

While day 3 included: English and digital arts, Creative writing, information on studying abroad, Visual arts, Drama, Film and digital media, Music and Journalism and Global Media

NUI Galway did a great job on providing lots of useful information that will inspire many students to take on a Science or Arts degree. The lecturers were amazing and successfully showed why you should go to NUI Galway. The University sounds and looks amazing, the degrees and opportunities there look so interesting and unique. No wonder it is in the top 1% of Universities!