

Galway Field Studies

Offering Schools a range of courses in
Seashore & Grassland studies.

FIND OUT MORE



Galway Field Studies Centre is lead by the education team at Galway Atlantaquaria.

Galway Field Studies Centre, 2018/19

Our Mission Statement

Galway Field Studies Centre aims to connect students with their natural world using habitats found throughout Galway City. Our goal is to pass on the skills and knowledge to enable students to carry out meaningful ecology fieldwork activities.



Our area of work includes Grattan beach and Terryland forest park, Galway city.

Contact us:

Call. 091 585 100

Email. info@nationalaquarium.ie

Website. www.nationalaquarium.ie

Social media. [@galwayfieldstudiescentre](https://www.instagram.com/galwayfieldstudiescentre)

Key Learning Outcomes

Field Study & Student Learning Activities include;

During this ecosystem study you will:

1. Mark out, measure, describe and draw a map of the study area.
2. Get an introduction to flora and fauna keys and how to use them. Identify and describe five flora and five fauna.
3. Identify the apparatus which will be used to collect fauna. Place various apparatus in a number of locations throughout the habitat.
4. Carry out a quantitative and qualitative study of flora: for this you will have to calculate percentage cover and percentage frequency for a number of flora using quadrats within the ecosystem.
5. Carry out a quantitative study of a fauna (animal) within the ecosystem.
6. Measure three Abiotic factors at each quadrat within the ecosystem and identify how the flora changes in relation to the Abiotic factors.
7. Assess the fauna collected by each apparatus throughout the habitat. Draw and describe the apparatus.
8. Identify other habitats within the ecosystem and the adaptations of a number of organisms to their habitat.
9. Present your results (back in class).
10. Draw conclusions from your results and identify sources of error in your study (back in class).



Research, describe, investigate & evaluate

Let Galway Field Studies Centre help you choose what's best for your school!

"Our Ecology studies workshop enables students to conduct a Habitat study; research and investigate the adaptation, competition and interdependence of organisms within specific habitats and communities."



Our areas of work



Galway Field Studies Grassland & Woodland area. Located at Galway Retail park, Bus parking at Dyke road.

Book your course today. Call 091 585 100

Field Study Area

Grattan Beach Salthill



Grattan Road Beach is located to the west of Galway City, close to Salthill. The beach is approximately 180m in length. The beach itself faces directly out to Galway Bay and boasts breathtaking views stretching for miles across the bay to County Clare and the Aran Islands. It is accessed from the Grattan Road. Limited free parking is available along the promenade adjacent to the beach, however there is additional parking at Toft park, which is in close proximity and approximately 750m from the beach.

It has a safe, shallow, sandy beach of approximately 0.18km bounded on one side by a made outcrop and the other by the rock armour along the promenade. It is suitable for swimming at both high and low tide.

Flora/Fauna, Riparian Zone Vegetation is sparse along the upper zone of the sandy shore. On the rocky outcrops, colonies of mussels, periwinkles, limpets and common barnacles can all be found. Small stands of seaweed can be present on both the strand and the rocky outcrops. Birds commonly found on or along the beach include Grey Herons, Curlews, Gannets, Herring Gulls, and Common Terns. The beach has a macro-tidal range of (>4m) with medium and maximum depths of the bathing area varying in relation to the tide height and position.

The entire area of Inner Galway Bay is covered by SAC and SPA designations, including Grattan Beach.

The entire beach area lies within the Inner Galway Bay Special Protected Area, and Galway Bay Complex, a Special Area of Conservation and houses a number of habitats of high conservation status, being listed in Annex I of the EU habitats Directive.

Adapted from http://www.bathingwater.ie/files/profile/BWPR00395_2017_01_profile.pdf

Field Study Area

Terryland forest park, Galway



The Terryland Forest Park was the largest urban neighbourhood forest project in the history of the Irish state when it commenced in January 2000. Initiated as a result of years of campaigning by resident groups, 120 acres was zoned by Galway City Council for a new woodland and riverine park.

Over a five year period, approximately 100,000 native Irish trees were planted by the people and schools of Galway city, thus creating an expansive natural habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna located not far from the city centre that connects into the vast Lough Corrib waterways, one of the most cherished areas of biodiversity in the country.

Source; <http://terrylandforestpark.blogspot.com/>



Course Content

Galway Field Studies Centre has three courses on offer, including;

- A. Junior Certificate Biology**
- B. Transition Year Programme**
- C. Leaving Certificate Biology (including LCA)**



JUNIOR CERTIFICATE BIOLOGY

This study includes

- Identification of plants and animals, using flora and fauna keys
- Exploration of micro-habitats
- Examination of adaptations in flora and fauna
- Explore a range of methods for sampling flora and fauna including using quadrats, pitfall traps, nets and pooters (in grassland studies)

TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

This study includes

- Animal Anatomy workshop with squid dissection
- Marine litter workshop and seashore clean up



LEAVING CERTIFICATE BIOLOGY

This Study includes:

- Keying out and describing five flora
- Mapping the study area
- Carrying out a qualitative and quantitative study of flora
- Carrying out a quantitative study of selected fauna
- Measuring three abiotic factors
- Identifying adaptation and placement within food chains and webs for five selected fauna
- Identifying a number of different collection methods for fauna

Course Fee

Prices start from **12* euro** per person.

*Includes free workbooks and use of equipment.

Thanks for thinking of us, from the
team at Galway Field Studies Centre

Galway Field Studies

Contact us today

Call: 091 585 100

Email: info@nationalaquarium.ie

Web: www.nationalaquarium.ie

