



Mike Nelson  
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Montreal, QC, H3B 2S2

February 8, 2018

Dear Mike,

I trust you are well and managing to deal with this winter. I wanted to follow up on our conversation on how the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society might continue to be associated with the School of Irish Studies.

I enclose a flyer from Queen's University Belfast publicizing some of the activities of its Irish Studies Institute, which is the oldest centre for Irish Studies anywhere in the world. As you will note, it advertises a summer course, designed for international students to visit Belfast for a period of four weeks. The course is a broad-based introduction to the history and culture of Northern Ireland. Students come from all over the world so, in addition to being given an in-depth appreciation of the achievements and complexities of Northern Ireland, they have an opportunity to get to know people from other countries and cultures. If the IPBS were interested, it might wish to sponsor a student to attend the course each summer. Perhaps on the student's return, an informal presentation on the experience might be presented at one of the IPBS meetings, or present a written report to be distributed to members. The enrolment fee, plus expenses, comes to a total of approximately £2,600 (roughly \$4,500).

An alternate possibility would be for the IPBS to sponsor a summer course on the history and culture of Northern Ireland, taught perhaps by one of the professors at Queen's. For example, this summer the School is introducing a new initiative to offer the following summer courses: "The Irish Economy and European Union," "Contemporary Irish Fiction and the Irish Landscape," and "Introduction to Irish Visual, Material and Design Culture," all to be taught by visiting professors from Ireland (Trinity College, UCD, and the Institute of Art, Design and Technology). The duration of these courses is flexible, ranging from four to seven weeks. In addition to paying a modest salary (\$9,000), the School covers the cost of travel and accommodation. So, depending on the length of the visit, the total cost per course would range from \$14,000 to \$17,000. Various factors would influence course enrolment, but it could be somewhere between thirty and fifty.

As you will appreciate, the two options are quite different. Whereas the first would provide an intense immersion in Northern Ireland society for one individual, the second would

develop an understanding of Northern Ireland's history and culture in a larger group of students. For both, it would be made clear – to the extent that you wish – that the IPBS was the sponsor.

I know that you and members of Council will wish to reflect on these options, and I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have. As always, let me thank you and the members of the IPBS for your interest in, and support of, the activities of the School of Irish Studies. I have greatly appreciated the interest and commitment of the Society for many years. Incidentally, we are about to award this year's scholarship winners so I will let you know the details once all the bureaucratic processes have been completed.

I look forward to hearing from you and, of course, seeing you at some of the upcoming community events.

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Kenneally".

Michael Kenneally

P.S. You will be pleased to learn that I heard from Hannah Chestnutt about the successful defense of her PhD thesis at the University of Glasgow. To explore possibilities of sharing her ideas, I have introduced Hannah to a Concordia Professor in Education. I understand they are planning to meet in a few weeks.



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## **Institute of Irish Studies**

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13 December 2018

Dear Colleague,

The Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University Belfast is the oldest research and teaching center for Irish Studies in the world. It was established in 1965 by the eminent geographer Professor Estyn Evans to provide an interdisciplinary 'gateway to Irish Studies', and we have played a prominent role in Irish Studies research over the last fifty years. We are genuinely interdisciplinary, with more than 75 Associate Fellows and over 40 PhD Research Associates drawn from 15 disciplines from across the university.

The Institute offers a number of programmes and research opportunities. Please see below a couple which may be of interest to faculty and students with an Irish Studies focus in your institution:

- **International Summer School in Irish Studies** (25th June – 20th July 2018). Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, our Summer School covers 4 weeks, and has dedicated 'Literature & Culture', and 'History & Heritage' strands as well as a core component introducing students to aspects of Irish culture, history and society from a range of disciplinary approaches, and explaining and interrogating the recent Irish Peace Processes. It also features a range of field trips to cultural and heritage sites across Northern Ireland. The Summer School is open to all and is fully credit bearing for undergraduate students. It is also available as a Fulbright Summer Institute. More information about the Summer School is available at: <http://go.qub.ac.uk/IrishSS>
- **MA in Irish Studies** Our 1-year MA programme features a core interdisciplinary course on '*Belfast: Place, Identity and Memory in a Contested City*', in addition to a range of Irish Studies option courses and research methods and placement courses from many disciplines. In 2018 we have two **Mary McNeill Scholarships** available for US/Canadian applicants to the MA (closing date 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018). More information is at: <http://go.qub.ac.uk/IrishMA>

I would be very grateful if you could include our Summer School programme in your Study Abroad options for 2018 and circulate the above information and enclosed posters to any faculty or students in your institution who might be interested.

Prof. Peter Gray  
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