

Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)



Ireland's new landmark cultural institution set to open on Culture Night 2019, Friday, 20 September at 5pm

Dynamic, immersive exhibitions telling the story of Ireland's literary heritage from our earliest storytelling traditions to our celebrated contemporary writers.

Tickets for museum visits from Saturday, 21 September now available to purchase at www.moli.ie

MoLI, UCD Newman House, St. Stephen's Green South, Dublin 2, Ireland. www.moli.ie
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Tuesday, 30 July 2019

On Friday, 20 September 2019 at 5pm, in celebration of Culture Night 2019, the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), will open its doors for the very first time in the historic setting of UCD Newman House on St. Stephen's Green in Dublin.

A major partnership and creative alliance between University College Dublin (UCD) and the National Library of Ireland (NLI), supported by the Naughton Foundation and Fáilte Ireland, the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) is a new landmark cultural institution in the heart of Ireland's capital city. The museum will celebrate Ireland's world-renowned literary culture and heritage from the past to the present, inspiring visitors of all ages to create, read and write.

Picturesquely located on the south side of St. Stephen's Green in one of Dublin's finest historic houses, MoLI draws inspiration from the work of Ireland's most famous writer, James Joyce, and is named for his best-known female character, Molly Bloom. Advance ticket sales for museum visits from Saturday September 21st at 10am are now live on the [Museum of Literature Ireland \(MoLI\) website - www.moli.ie](http://www.moli.ie)

MoLI will feature dynamic, immersive exhibitions that tell the story of Ireland's literary heritage from our earliest storytelling traditions to our celebrated contemporary writers. On display will be a host of literary treasures from the National Library collections including the very first copy of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, as well as handwritten notebooks for *Ulysses* and fascinating letters, including one from Joyce to WB Yeats.

The breath-taking UCD Newman House has undergone years of careful restoration and modernisation under the guidance of award-winning architects Scott Tallon Walker. The historic building is the original site of UCD and a place of learning for a myriad of Irish writers including James Joyce, Flann O'Brien, Maeve Binchy and Mary Lavin. The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins also lived in the building for a time. MoLI will continue this fine history of education with a significant free-to-access national children's programme, literary and writing events, readings, performances, debate and discussion, as well as a Joycean research library accessible to students, scholars and the public alike.

Along with historic house tours, contemporary artistic commissions, a stunning courtyard café set in tranquil hidden gardens and a shop offering the best in Irish publishing and craft, MoLI will present new temporary exhibitions throughout the year, the first focussing on Limerick born writer and former Newman House student Kate O'Brien. MoLI also houses its own digital broadcasting studio, recording interviews, readings, discussions and events with

writers, poets, artists, performers, educators and academics from Ireland and abroad. The in-house Radio MoLI broadcasts 24 hours a day across the world on radio.moli.ie

Of the opening announcement, **Simon O'Connor**, Director of MoLI said: "It is truly exciting to be so close to opening this much anticipated museum to the public. The combination of UCD's beautiful Newman House, Joycean treasures from the NLI, secret gardens, shop and exquisite courtyard café will make the Museum of Literature Ireland more than a major addition to our country's cultural landscape – MoLI will be a literary and educational oasis for locals and visitors alike, in the very heart of Dublin."

Professor Margaret Kelleher, Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at University College Dublin, added: "At the heart of MoLI is Ireland's outstanding literary culture, and not just the riches of the past but also the dynamic present and future of Irish writing. Since its foundation, UCD has played a key part in fostering Irish writing and our educational programmes continue to do so. Through this groundbreaking partnership between our university and the National Library of Ireland, we can bring Irish literature to new audiences and animate the artists of our future."

Dr Sandra Collins, Director of the NLI noted: "The National Library's literary collections are amongst the nation's greatest treasures, and we are committed to opening up those treasures to the world. As such, we are delighted to have partnered with University College Dublin on the Museum of Literature Ireland, sharing both our exceptional collections and our expertise creating major literary exhibitions on figures such as WB Yeats and Seamus Heaney."

MoLI will open from 5pm – 10pm on Friday September 20th as part of Culture Night 2019 and on this first evening entry will be free of charge. MoLI will officially open from 10am on Saturday September 21st. Tickets can now be purchased from www.moli.ie and are priced from €6. Tickets can also be purchased at the museum.

MoLI – Museum of Literature Ireland

UCD Newman House, St Stephen's Green South, Dublin 2, Ireland
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Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

ENDS.

For further media information, images and interviews on **MoLI**, contact **Sync & Swim** www.syncandswim.ie
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A Brief History of MoLI

2010 Dialogue begins between the National Library of Ireland and UCD around a creative alliance between two unique assets – the National Library's James Joyce collections and the university's most significant historic property, UCD Newman House.

2012 A working group is established led by Eamonn Ceannt and Ruth Ferguson and a major donation from Martin and Carmel Naughton enables the appointment of architects Scott Tallon Walker and exhibition designers Ralph Appelbaum Associates to transform UCD Newman House's Aula Maxima building into a modern exhibition space while creating universal access across the entire historic site.

2017 Further generous funding and strategic advice from Fáilte Ireland bring the project to construction stage and builders begin work on site in October 2017.

2019 Friday September 20, 2019 at 5pm will see MoLI open her doors for the first time in celebration of Culture Night 2019. The museum will officially open on Saturday, 21 September, 2019, opening daily from 10am - 6pm, seven days a week.

The Museum of Literature Ireland is a partnership between University College Dublin and the National Library of Ireland, with the generous support of The Naughton Foundation and Fáilte Ireland.

www.moli.ie