




ORAL HISTORY MADE EASY

**JOIN US IN 2026 FOR THE
'SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS' PROGRAMME**

**Be transformed from novice to
proficient oral historian - and we're
with you every step of the way.**



Your oral history training, your way

A photograph showing a person's hand resting on a light-colored wooden desk. On the desk, there is a laptop, a stack of books, a small potted plant, and a framed picture. A wire basket is visible on the floor next to the desk.

The people in our communities have extraordinary stories to tell based on accounts of the past. Yet so often these stories remain undocumented for future generations. This proposal details the design, delivery and evaluation of a flexible oral history training and mentorship programme designed exclusively to meet the needs of people in Mayo who would like to engage in the practice of oral history. All course participants will be trained to a high level of professional standards to ensure consistency and quality of oral history work across the county. Easy to follow actionable steps and exercises designed to engage exercises are used throughout this unique programme to maximise the learner experience.

For many, the prospect of training to become an oral historian can be overwhelming. Concerns about ethics, finding participants, recording the oral history interview and curating an oral history collection are just some of the perceived obstacles to becoming an oral historian. Oral History Made Easy removes these barriers and ensures those 'extraordinary ordinary' stories are recorded and curated for current and future generations – and learners are supported at every step in their development journey.

Drawing on tried and tested teaching and learning methods, the programme uses the 'Oral History Made Easy: The Six Steps To Success Programme' framework. Participants develop the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to become a proficient oral historian with targeted support provided throughout the development journey.

➤ **Knowledge**

➤ **Skills**

➤ **Attributes**

➤➤➤ **Proficient oral historian**

Oral history is a people's history

Learn how to preserve our rich oral heritage at your own pace

We are hard wired to share stories. The oral tradition is found across all cultures in the work and this practice includes oral history, storytelling, folklore and other ways the narratives of the county have been captured.

Oral history is a people's history. Oral history is a distinctive and versatile way to record the past as recounted by those who have actually witnessed life events as they unfolded. The oral history tradition helps shape our understanding and appreciation of our material and cultural heritage.

Oral History Made Easy allows you to learn at your own pace. On completion of the **Oral History Made Easy** programme, you will have the necessary skills to lead their own oral history project. In addition, you can share your new found skills so others can benefit too.

“Oral history is a people's history”

- Recording
- Preservation
- Dissemination



Programme design

The **Oral History Made Easy** programme comprises six modules which, when viewed as a whole, give learners the essential knowledge, skills and attributes (KSAs) required today to practice oral history. Using our proprietary DRAGON framework, **Oral History Made Easy** was devised following a comprehensive mapping exercise drawing on a variety of sources including:

- » Guidelines produced by oral history membership organisations including the British Oral History Society, The Oral History Network Of Ireland, the Oral History Association and the East Midlands Sound Archive at Leicester University.
- » Job descriptions and personal specifications for the role of oral historian produced by statutory and not for profit groups.
- » Strategic planning documents produced by organisations nationally and internationally involved with heritage management in its diverse forms.
- » On-going student and peer feedback using key performance indicators drawing on data from oral history training events lead by Dr Angela Maye-Banbury and others.
- » Continuous professional development in the field of oral history practice acquired through critical reading, engagement with professional events and direct experience as an oral history practitioner.

**Consistent professional standards
for the practice of oral history**



Learning outcomes

The **Oral History Made Easy 'Six Steps To Success'** programme has three key learning outcomes. By the end of the course, participants will have:

Developed the capability and confidence needed to practice oral history and lead others in oral history work in a range of contexts

Acquired essential knowledge, skills and attributes relevant to oral history practice including research ethics and integrity, namely the importance of informed consent, data protection, copyright; interviewing skills; recording and curation of an archive.

Engaged in deeper learning by applying the principles of reflective practice and experiential learning fostered by one to one mentorship and peer support.



"I think it (Oral History Made Easy Spring 2024) was fantastic and pitched at exactly the right level for me. It gave me confidence in my own ability. It provided a simple legal framework to get necessary approvals. It allowed a connection to others that had similar goals in oral history. Great course materials. This course was perfect for me, I couldn't fault it."

Liam, student of Oral History Made Easy Spring 2024

Unique programme features

Oral History Made Easy's Six Steps To Success programme provides an integrated and cohesive learning experience programme designed to give all participants the necessary knowledge skills and attributes needed to practice as a proficient oral historian.

Unlike existing oral history training, The Oral History Made Easy 'Six Steps To Success' programme is designed with the long term preservation and promotion of oral history in mind and works with participants accordingly. It therefore contains ten unique features which do not feature in other oral history training programmes.

	UNIQUE FEATURES
1	Personalised training and professional development analysis
2	The opportunity to attend live, online or hybrid delivery of modules
3	Weekly release of all course materials for learner review
4	Comprehensive follow up guidance notes from the course leader
5	Rapid email response from the course leader in max 24hrs
6	Access to quality learning resources on dedicated VLE 24/7
7	Invitation to attend our special 'Student Motivation Hubs'
8	Opportunity to participate in two specialist one to one mentoring sessions
9	Attendance at celebration event awarding of certificate
10	Opportunity for alumni to attend special training & networking events

Transformation from novice to proficient oral historian

Oral History Made Easy transforms participants from novice to proficient oral historian using easy to follow actionable steps throughout. Using a unique blend of group and peer supported learning strategies, individualised training needs analyses, mentorship and the provision of quality learning resources, we enable all course participants to acquire & develop the necessary knowledge, skills & attributes to practice oral history. In around just 27 hours, you will be able to record a lifetime of memories.

**27 hours
to complete**



Here's how...



ORAL HISTORY MADE EASY

Be transformed from novice to proficient oral historian in less than 30 hours. Here's how.

Attend six x 1.5 hr live sessions in person or hybrid = 9 hrs



Tutor guided & self directed learning = 9 hrs



Preparing, recording & transcription of one 60 min oral history interview = 4 hrs



Two x 30 mins mentorship sessions with Dr Maye-Banbury = 1 hr



'Light touch' assignment = 2 hrs



TOTAL = 27 hrs



"The course delivered on the advertising: a fast track approach to learning the basics of oral history."

Heather, student of Oral History Made Easy Spring 2024.



Flexible delivery

We understand that you lead a very busy life. So Oral History Made Easy's flexible design ensures your needs are met. has been designed to meet your needs.

All live sessions are recorded so you can learn at your own pace. Our VLE is accessible 24/7 so you can choose when to access materials with learning resources made available in advance for you to review.

Percentage of students who rated 'Oral History Made Easy' excellent in 2024



95%

DRAGON framework

Using our proprietary DRAGON framework, Oral History Made Easy 'Six Steps To Success' programme comprises six core modules represented below. Indicative content for each module is available on request. Participants conduct a pilot oral history interview during a two week recess between weeks 4 & 5.

DRAGON COMPONENT	MODULE THEME	LEARNING OUTCOMES	
D Deciding to be an oral historian	Component 1 Deciding what sort of oral historian you want to be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Critically explore the power of stories, why we need to preserve oral histories.Examine how we conceptualise oral history alongside other ways of recounting life experiences.Reflect on positionality as an oral historian: importance of beliefs and values on your practice as 'habitus.'	
R Researching oral history	Component 2 Researching definitions of oral history and their application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate oral history as a people's history: hidden voices.Learn about the emergence of modern day oral history practice: narratives typesExplore memory as a process: the 'unreliable' witness; evoking our memories; the subjectivity of oral history; individual/collective memory.	
A Applying ethics	Component 3 Applying an ethical approach throughout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The principles of beneficence and malfeasance. applying informed consent; assignment of copyright; the participant information sheet; gatekeeper protocol; interviewee summary sheet; consent to use images or other materials;Become aware of vulnerable participants and research sensitivities;Health and wellbeing as an oral historian; risk assessment.	
G Getting ready for interview	Component 4 Preparing for your first oral history interview.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Researching your oral history theme using robust sources; triangulating data points.Discovering the golden rules for conducting the first oral history interview: question types and the art of listening.Learn about what is needed after the interview: transcription and storage of digital materials.	
O Organising your collection	Component 5 Organising, cataloguing and curating your oral history collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Apply a framework to support reflection after each oral history interview.Find out about transcription including verification, timecoding and cataloguing and reviewing for sensitivities.Acquire knowledge on using sound editing and other software to manage and curate an oral history archive.	
N Negotiating the next steps	Component 6 Negotiating the next stages of your oral history journey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Learn how to evaluate the impact of an oral history project.Determine the next stage of each learner's strategic development journey.Determine how to plan effectively for future proofing a collection and succession planning.	

Training needs analyses

At Oral history Made Easy, we support learners goals at every stage of their personal and professional development journey.

The TNA has three key aims:

To enable participants to comment on their preferred learning styles and information presentation formats.

To advise their course tutor confidentially on any disability which may impact on course engagement.

To articulate their strategic professional and personal development goals.

We warmly welcome the opportunity to meet any mentors or development coaches you may have during your one to one mentorship sessions with Dr Angela Maye-Banbury. So do have a think about who might best support you in this role.



The oral history journey



- Method
- Mentorship
- Mindset



“My journey through the course (Oral History Made Easy Spring 2024) has been both enlightening and transformative. From grappling with the complexities of ethical practice to immersing myself in the art of storytelling, each experience has deepened my appreciation for preserving our collective memory.

While challenges were present, they served as opportunities for growth and reflection, ultimately reaffirming my commitment to becoming a thoughtful and conscientious oral historian and filmmaker. I am excited to continue applying the skills and insights gained from this course to contribute meaningfully to preserving and interpreting diverse voices and narratives within our shared history of humanity.”

Majella, student of Oral History Made Easy Spring 2024



End point assignment

All course participants are required to complete an end point assignment which enables them to critically reflect on their oral history development journey. This light touch assessment (1,000 words or equivalent) is developed during the course of the programme. It is designed to promote deeper learning by enabling learners to consider the extent to which the course has impacted on their practice.

Participants can choose from a variety of formats when producing their assignment. The full assignment brief is contained in Appendix A and may be modified to suit the needs of course participants.



Course cost

COURSE FEE 2026

£168 ;€189; \$219 (USA); Can\$307

Per student for the 6 week programme.

DISCOUNTS 2026

Students /unwaged £128 /€145/\$168

Not for profit £137/€155/\$180


Webinar attendee £137/€155/\$180

You course registration includes: your personalised training needs analysis; 6 lives sessions on Zoom with all sessions recorded; 2 one to one mentorship sessions; 24/7 access to high quality learning materials; on-going support for your course leader; invitations to our student community meetings 2026 and alumnae events.

You can also book an additional one to one if you want to discuss any aspect of the course at no extra cost. All Oral History Made Easy alumni are invited, free of charge, to join future cohorts if they would like have a booster on a specific module



Full fee €189



**Discounted
fee either
€145 or €155**

Schedule at a glance 2026

W/C 2026	ACTIVITY
9 th Feb	Bookings for spring 2026 intake go live on St Valentine's Day.
16 th March	Completion of individual training needs analysis. Week 1: Decide what sort of oral historian you want to be.
23 rd March	Week 2: Researching definitions of oral history.
30 th March	Week 3: Applying an ethical approach throughout.
6 th April	Week 4: Getting ready for your first oral history interview.
	Recess for completion of oral history pilot interview.
	Recess for completion of oral history pilot interview.
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26 th April	Organising your oral history collection in the digital age. Assignment submission.
3 rd May	Negotiating your next steps of personal and professional development. Celebration event.
	Student and course leader evaluation.

About the trainer



- **Founder Oral History Made Easy**
- **Academic leader**
- **Researcher & writer**

Dr Angela Maye-Banbury BA MSc PhD SFHEA is an award winning oral historian and academic mentor. She has practiced and promoted oral history for over thirty years. Over the course of her career, she has taught and mentored hundreds of people in the practice of oral history in Ireland, the UK and internationally.

A former executive director of the Oral History Network Of Ireland, Dr Maye-Banbury had led over thirty oral history projects in different countries. Since the late 1980s, she has worked as a senior then principal lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University specialising in oral history, qualitative research methods and ethics. She had published widely in high ranking peer reviewed journals using data gathered from her oral history work and has most recently provided oral history consultancy to diverse range of organisations including the National Trust (Enniskillen), Bere Island Heritage Group (Cork) and the Emerald Centre (Leicester) and the New York Irish Centre. Dr Maye-Banbury is a Senior Fellow Of The Higher Education Academy, an appointment based on her impact on the staff and student experience as an academic leader.

In September 2023 following her retirement from her full time academic position, Dr Maye-Banbury was appointed to the distinguished role of Emeritus Fellow Of Oral History at Sheffield Hallam University in recognition of her life long contribution to teaching and research. She lives on Achill Island and is the founder of Achill Oral Histories, a not for profit organisation dedicated to the recording and preservation of the lives of the Achill people past and present.

Contact us



For further information on our oral history training and mentorship programmes, contact:

Dr Angela Maye-Banbury

Tel: 00 353 087 4636275

Tel: 00 44 7947 507480

oralhistorymadeeasy@gmail.com

www.oralhistorymadeeasy.com



Appendix 1: Assignment brief: part 1

The brief for light touch assignment students of Oral History Made Easy are required to complete is below. It takes approximately 2 - 2.5 hours to complete this task

1. Rationale The end point assignment is designed to enable you to engage on deeper learning by reflecting on your oral history development journey to date. It also allows you to write a personal, professional action plan to support you in further developing your oral history knowledge, skills and attributes. Please use the first personal narrative form i.e. 'I'.

2. Learning outcomes

2.1 This assignment has the following three learning outcomes:

- (i) To apply the principles of experiential learning to the practice of oral history.
- (ii) To allow for reflection on the knowledge, skills and attributes needed in oral history.
- (iii) To inform a professional and personal action plan as part of ongoing self development.

3. Format

3.1 Choose one only of the following formats for your assignment:

- (i) A 1,000 word written report with 750 words on your development journey and the remaining 250 on your future development action plan.
- (ii) Poster series using four Power Point slides which show your oral history development journey (three slides) and your future development action plan (one slide). You can add a narration here if you want (optional).
- (iii) A short film lasting around 6 – 8 minutes where you talk about your oral history development journey (4 – 5 mins) and your professional development plan (2 – 3 mins).
- (iv) An audio file or short podcast lasting around 6 – 8 minutes where you talk about your oral history development journey (4 – 5 mins) and your professional development plan (2 – 3 mins).
- (v) Other format e.g. collage; web based resource; other. Please check the suitability of your format with Angela before proceeding.

Appendix 1: Assignment brief part 2

The brief for light touch assignment students of Oral History Made Easy are required to complete is below. It takes approximately 2 - 2.5 hours to complete this task

4. Suggested structure

4.1 For your reflections on your development journey section 1, please describe what: your hopes and fears were before you started the course (revisit your notes on this from week.

(i) Discuss how your knowledge and understanding of oral history has developed throughout the course. Be specific here - what have you learnt? What did you enjoy most and why? Was there anything you did not enjoy and why? Did anything surprise you as you progressed through the course? e.g. about the nature of oral history or how you felt about the prospect of doing your first interview? Did you encounter any particular challenges along the way?

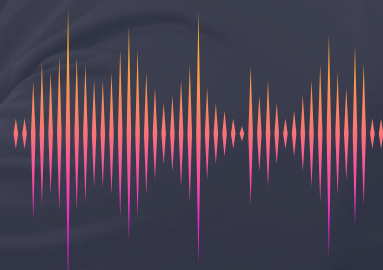
4.2 For your reflections on your development section 2, please outline what three things went well during your oral history interview and why. Also, talk about what three things you would improve next time and why.

4.3 For the final part of the assignment, outline a brief action plan to further support your oral history development journey. For example, do you intend to do any further training? How about putting together a project management plan for your oral history project? Might you seek to advice of a mentor? Would you like to remain connected with the people in your cohort and/or join one of the professional oral history associations?

5. Suggested time for completion

5.1 It is anticipated that this task should not take any longer than 2.5 - 3 hours to complete. If anyone needs further guidance on the assignment, is having any problems with the assignment or needs an extension, please let Angela know.





ORAL HISTORY MADE EASY

The 'Six Steps To Success' programme gives you the full toolkit you need to conduct oral history. It is an investment in skills that will last a lifetime.

