



Application Guidelines M.Phil. in Chinese Studies

Why choose Trinity's M.Phil. in Chinese Studies?

The M.Phil. in Chinese Studies at Trinity College focuses on China today and China over the last century. This interdisciplinary taught Master's offers you the opportunity to gain expertise in key aspects of contemporary Chinese society, history, politics and governance, as well as a strong foundation in Mandarin for those who wish to pursue language study. The M.Phil. in Chinese Studies offers a unique and vibrant educational experience which equips its students to be career-ready global citizens. You will learn about key aspects of contemporary China, including its political and economic landscape, modern history, society, culture and language. Given China's economic impact and international reach, this course equips our graduates to engage deeply with contemporary China. The multidisciplinary nature of the course can accommodate students from a wide range of backgrounds.

Courses content

The course structure reflects our concern to ensure the programme's theoretical, analytical, and methodological rigour. Core lectures will provide perspectives on Chinese Studies from various branches of the disciplinary approaches (History, Political Science, Language & Culture) represented in the course, and help students conceptualise and interpret the content. Regular small group work and continuous assessment provide a framework for students to explore topics in further detail. The range of optional modules will allow students to engage further and more deeply with selected aspects of the course. Elective Mandarin language learning is supported through small classes and active learning based on authentic resources, with emphasis on conversation, discussion and the development of autonomous language learning practices. The Experience China module consolidates students' language learning as well as provide a first-hand experience of the continuity and change of contemporary China. Students taking "Experience China" will spend approximately four weeks on an internship in an approved organisation in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore or other location in which the China- or Chinese-related organisation is based. The dissertation allows students to develop their knowledge within a specific research area within Chinese History, Political Science or Linguistics, or other areas where research supervision is available.

The programme involves six taught modules (three core, three elective) and a dissertation project. Full-time students take three modules over two terms, the research project is prepared during the third term. Students must select at least two modules selected from Group A and three or four elective modules selected from Group B. A full-time student takes a total of three modules in each of the two terms. In each term, at least one of the three modules must be from Group A while at least two modules must be selected from Group B. A part-time student must take two core modules from Group A and one elective module from Group B during their first year and, in their second year of study, they must take three elective modules from Group B. Below is an overview of the list of modules:

Group A modules:

- LI7001 Modern Chinese history (10 credits)
- LI7002 Contemporary Chinese society and politics (10 credits)
- LI7003 Chinese language and writing system (10 credits)

Group B modules:

- LI7005 Mandarin 1 (10 credits)
- LI7006 Mandarin 2 (10 credits)
- LI7007 Mandarin Reading and Discussion Group on contemporary China (10 credits)
- LI7886 Governance and politics of the PRC (10 credits)
- LI7887 Business and economy of contemporary China (10 credits)
- LI7888 Religion and Thought (10 credits)
- LI7889 Chinese diaspora and language in a global context (10 credits)
- LI7890 Mandarin 3 (10 credits)
- LI7891 Mandarin 4 (10 credits)
- LI7892 Early twentieth century Chinese history (10 credits)
- LI7893 Chinese translation in practical contexts (10 credits)
- LI8001 China in comparative perspective (10 credits)
- LI7898 Experience China (10 credits)

LI8004 Dissertation (30 credits)

Application process

You apply for the degree through TCD's online applications portal. For further information on how to apply, go to the Graduate Studies Office website:

www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply

Direct access to the online portal for the M.Phil. in Chinese Studies is here:

<http://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/az/course.php?id=DPTLS-CHST-2F09>

Applications are evaluated in the first place by a panel comprising professors teaching on the M.Phil. in Chinese Studies. Applications are evaluated within two weeks of receipt of completed applications. The panel may, at its discretion, invite applicants to attend a brief, informal interview. Then, the panel's recommendation is forwarded to the university's Dean

of Graduate Studies, who has makes the final decision regarding whether an offer should be made to each applicant.

There are three possible outcomes of this application process:

- 1) Unconditional offer. You may accept this firmly by paying a deposit.
- 2) Conditional offer, i.e., an offer which will be upgraded to a 'firm offer' upon presentation of some outstanding prerequisite (this could be your undergraduate degree transcript, a certificate of proficiency in English, etc.). You may accept this conditional offer by paying a deposit. In the event that you cannot meet the condition, your deposit will be refunded. If you meet the condition but decide not to take the course in the coming year, you may request a deferral, but the deposit will not be refunded.
- 3) Application unsuccessful, because the applicant does not meet the application criteria.

Admission requirements

Admission to this course is at graduate level, and applicants will hold a good honours degree (minimum II.1, or a GPA of approximately 3.5) from a recognized university. The course is designed for students from a wide range of backgrounds. A background in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is helpful but not a requirement. The M.Phil. in Chinese Studies is designed to provide a multidisciplinary introduction to the discipline of Chinese Studies without requiring any specific prior knowledge of China or language proficiency. Applicants must satisfy the University's English language requirements (see below). If you have doubts about whether your application will meet the normal requirements, please contact the course director, who will be happy to discuss matters with you informally.

If you don't have all your documents before the application deadline, you can still apply. Students planning to take the M.Phil. directly after their undergraduate degree will not normally have their degree results before the application deadline. Likewise, sometimes a referee is slow to produce a reference, or the results of an English test might not be available before the deadline. In such cases, the rest of the application will be evaluated, and if it is otherwise deemed to meet the requirements, a conditional offer will be made. This will be upgraded to a firm offer provided that the required documents are received with enough time to complete the process, and that they meet the expected standard.

Our application procedures ask for two academic references. Sometimes it can be hard for applicants to obtain these because they have been working for a number of years. We stress that academic departments can usually supply a reference even a considerable time after the student's graduation, on the basis of their file. However, work references will also be considered if necessary.

International applicants

As far as admission requirements are concerned, the potential issues for applicants from outside Ireland relate to English language proficiency, and recognition of qualifications:

(1) English language proficiency and opportunities for pre-sessional English for Academic Purposes courses. Trinity requires that all postgraduate students have a fluent command of English. If (a) your first language is not English, AND (b) you cannot certify that you were educated through the medium of English, then you must present one of the English-language qualifications recognised by the university. Details are available from Trinity's Graduate Studies Office website:

www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply/requirements/international.php

Regardless of their certified proficiency in English, all successful applicants who do not speak English as a first language may attend a summer pre-sessional English for Academic Purposes course available at Trinity College for incoming international students. www.tcd.ie/slscs/english/

(2) Recognition of qualifications. All postgraduate applicants to Trinity are normally expected to have at least a 2.1 honors degree from an Irish or British university or equivalent result from a university in another country (e.g. a GPA of approximately 3.5). Trinity's Graduate Studies Office is responsible for ascertaining whether an applicant's non-Irish degree is equivalent to an Irish 2.1 honors degree. If you are not sure whether your degree will meet the minimum requirement, please contact the course director.

Applicants who have accepted an offer of a place on an M.Phil. programme are responsible for dealing with visa and immigration matters themselves. The course director will be very happy to assist with letters of clarification for the visa and immigration authorities, for instance regarding course acceptance, duration, timetable commitments, etc. Please see: www.tcd.ie/study/.

Course fees

Fees are set by Trinity centrally; please see the [Fees and Payments section](#) of Academic Registry. Non-EU fee levels are different from EU fee levels. There is a residency requirement for status as an EU applicant.

- 2018/19 EU full-time fees: €8,838 (one year); EU part-time fees: €5,873 per annum (two years)
- 2018/19 non-EU full-time fees: €18,563 (one year); EU part-time fees: €10,673 per annum (two years)

Support when studying at Trinity College

Trinity College's academic and administrative staff are experienced, friendly and approachable, and always willing to give whatever assistance they can to individual students. The course director, who is also a member of the academic staff, is your main point of contact for issues – academic or personal – that can't be resolved by an individual

lecturer or by your supervisor. There are many things, foreseeable and otherwise, that may affect a student over two years. Part of the course director's role is to talk through any problems that may arise, to help students with difficulties to find the support they need, and to see that the School, colleagues, and the university make appropriate allowances.

For your research dissertation, you will be under the supervision of one professor who will help you to identify a researchable and worthwhile topic, decide on research methodology, plan the course of your research and writing, and who will give you feedback on your draft chapters. You will benefit from one-to-one meetings with your supervisor, as well as e-mail correspondence. You will have a main point of contact for the Study Abroad component, one of the professors who teaches on the M.Phil. in Chinese Studies is responsible for all aspects of this component of the degree course before, during and after this exciting experience.

Outside the School, College has an excellent on-site Health Service; a Student Counselling Service; learning development and support; and a dedicated Disability Service. Students with a disability register with the Disability Service, which provides information, support and advice to students, and liaises with academic departments in ensuring that reasonable accommodations are put in place to facilitate disabled students' study and everyday College life. There is a designated Academic Liaison Officer responsible for linking up with the Disability Service and ensuring that the recommended supports are put in place for students with disabilities within the school. While students' primary point of contact is with the Disability Service itself, the Academic Liaison Officer is also available as a local contact for students with disabilities.

Contact

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