The Grattan Scholars

Trinity is at the forefront of research and teaching in Ireland and internationally across the disciplines of economics, political science, philosophy and sociology. A flagship Graduate Scholarship Programme – The Grattan Scholars – was established in 2012 with the aim of advancing high-quality social science research and teaching in these disciplines and ensuring that Trinity College can continue to play a leading role in the field.

The Grattan Scholars are a cohort of exceptional Trinity College Ph.D. students from around the world who have the potential to become future academic leaders and influential voices for social and economic development.

These scholars not only help to enrich Trinity research and teaching, but their work has a real impact on understanding the critical issues and evolving challenges facing society in Ireland and across the world.

Current Grattan Scholars come to Trinity from Germany, India, Ireland, Poland, the Ukraine and the USA. Their research spans a wide range of topics aligning with Trinity’s areas of strength and expertise, including The Global Financial System, Migration, Cultural Economics, Political Careers, Development Aid and others. As the cohort of Grattan Scholars grows, the programme is providing opportunities for interdisciplinary work – opening up exciting new areas of exploration and knowledge.
The Irish statesman Henry Grattan (1746-1820) is a celebrated graduate of Trinity College Dublin. He entered parliament at a time when Ireland was facing great challenges. Grattan was a strenuous and determined campaigner for constitutional and political rights whose last words to the Irish House of Commons in 1800 continue to resonate:

“The constitution may for a time seem lost. The character of the country cannot be lost. While a plank of the vessel holds together I will not leave her. I will remain anchored here; with fidelity to the fortunes of my country, faithful to her freedom, faithful to her fall.”

The Grattan Scholarship programme helps us achieve this by building a cohort of exceptional PhD students who will be the academic leaders of the future.”

Provost of Trinity College Dublin
Dr. Patrick Prendergast

“Trinity is one of Europe’s leading universities. Our aspiration is to continue to build on our reputation, so that our name is known not just in Ireland, Europe, and America, but all around the world as one synonymous with excellence in our core mission of education and research, and committed to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

To do this, we need to attract students who will benefit from the kind of education we offer, an education that promotes critical enquiry through engaging with research and scholarship, and an education that promotes independence of mind – and one that draws professors from all around the world to come and teach here.

Grattan Scholars Margaryta Klymak, Yannick Timmer and Purnima Kanther with the Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast and Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer, Prof Linda Hogan
The programme was launched in 2012, thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, and there are now eleven Grattan Scholars in College. Trinity is committed to continuing to grow and develop The Grattan Scholars and we are keen to present the opportunity for supporters to play a pivotal role in this exciting initiative.

The cost of supporting one Grattan Scholar through the programme is €100,000 - €25,000 a year over four years - and we would be delighted to advise of opportunities to contribute to the programme, either individually, as part of a group or through corporate partnerships.

“Ireland’s future depends to no small extent on having an excellent University recognised on the world stage. For Trinity, this will require a continued investment in research and students – an investment that the Irish government can no longer cover entirely. The Grattan Scholars programme contributes greatly to the research output of the Economics Department, often in areas of cutting-edge research and helps sustain the top class undergraduate teaching programme of which we can all be very proud.”

Prof John O’Hagan, Department of Economics, Trinity College

The Grattan Scholars initiative is a vital cornerstone of academic advancement in Trinity and is developing as a prestigious, international scholarship initiative which serves as a beacon for intellectual talent from Ireland and overseas.
We are delighted to acknowledge the valuable role of supporters in contributing to the evolution of this flagship initiative. Our supporters are acknowledged by name in a prominent location in Trinity and their names featured in publicity and publications associated with the Grattan Scholars Programme. Supporters are also invited to special briefings and events in the School, including opportunities to engage with the Scholars on their research findings.

Trinity is greatly indebted to our generous supporters who are enabling us to sustain our tradition of excellence in research and teaching. We look forward to continuing to grow the programme in partnership with alumni, friends and partner organisations. A list of current Grattan supporters is available on our website www.tcd.ie/ssp/grattan-scholars and on the Grattan Scholars Donor Board in Trinity College.

“A thriving PhD programme has long been a core ingredient of the department’s intellectual and professional environment. High quality, PhD students actively contribute to the research activities of staff, offer highly qualified teaching assistants, and generally raise the level of engagement and enthusiasm for political science research among staff and students. The generous funding of Grattan scholarships is one key element in maintaining this tradition of excellence.”

Prof Gail McElroy, Head of Department of Political Science, Trinity College
If you are interested in finding out more about The Grattan Scholars programme or if you would like information on how to get involved as a supporter, please contact:

John O’Hagan  
Alumni Coordinator,  
Department of Economics  
School of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
Phone: +353 1 896 1065  
Email: johagan@tcd.ie

Eileen Punch  
Associate Director  
Trinity Foundation  
Phone: +353 1 896 1714  
Email: eileen.punch@tcd.ie

“In the last decade, the Department of Sociology in Trinity College has developed an international reputation as a leading centre of migration research. The department focuses on both inward and outward migration to Ireland and migration to and within Europe and our research is helping to generate evidence relevant for policy makers at national and international level. The generous investment by supporters of The Grattan Scholars programme allows us to build on our existing strengths in this research area and will help train the next generation of migration scholars.”

Prof Daniel Faas, Head of Department of Sociology, Trinity College

Further information on the current Grattan Scholars and their fields of research as well as news and programme highlights can be found on our website at:

www.tcd.ie/ssp/grattan-scholars

Grattan Scholars Lisa Keenan, Alan Walsh, Kasia Kozien, Sara Mitchell and Christina Kinghan