The Oscar Wilde Centre (1998) provides academic platforms for the intellectual and practitioner development of Master of Philosophy students in the School of English programmes in Irish literature and creative writing. In the increasingly challenging context of similar university centres based in Dublin – UCD ‘Ulysses’ Centre, Boston College, Notre Dame, NYU - and other creative arts hubs such as the Irish Writers’ Centre, among many others, the Oscar Wilde Centre attracts an international cohort of students of all ages and cultural and educational backgrounds and aspirations.

The Evening Lecture series (Michaelmas Term and Hilary Term) is hugely popular as the enclosed report shows while the numerous outreach events are also drawing good audiences and very positive and encouraging responses from both the university and wider community.

The Centre has been well maintained and is used by the Masters students as both a research centre and as an important base and point of contact throughout their time at Trinity College. As the following report points out the Centre is a key focus for the intellectual and cultural life and leadership of the College and the interface with Dublin and its environs.

At the end of the academic year (2015) Ms Lilian Foley, the administrator of the Centre, will be retiring from College and Professor Gerald Dawe, who established the Centre, will be stepping down as Director. To ensure continuity and the development of the Centre for the future the School of English is committed to securing suitably qualified replacements. In the interim Professor Eve Patten will be Acting-Director of the Oscar Wilde Centre 2015-16 (epatten@tcd.ie).
Centre Name: Oscar Wilde Centre Centre / Director: Prof Gerald Dawe
Contact: 21 Westland Row, College/ Name of School with primary responsibility: English
Head of School: Prof Nicholas Grene (Acting Head)/ Administrator OWC: Ms Lilian Foley

The Centre has currently 32 Masters Students ranging from Belgium (1), China (1), Ireland (13), Northern Ireland (1), Scotland (1), Spain (2), Singapore (1), UK (3) and USA (9). The Centre is an integral part of the School of English; its director and administrator are fulltime members of the academic and administrative staff of the School of English. The Centre, through its director, reports weekly to the Head of School on all activities and developments, plans and projects – academic and public - organised by the Centre for the School of English.

The Oscar Wilde Centre is the internationally recognised base at Trinity College for two long established Masters Programmes offered by the School of English (Irish Writing and Creative Writing) and collaborates with other Schools, for example, Languages and Drama and with the Trinity Long Room Hub. The Centre plays a leading role in literary outreach programmes in Ireland and has well-established partnerships with The Arts Council, UNESCO City of Literature, RTE and other national and international cultural institutions. The Centre also maintains a vibrant alumni community via its website.

Developments include the Robert Greacen Library that has been catalogued and will shortly be housed along with the McFadden Collection in the Centre in a dedicated room to be named The Greacen-McFadden Library. These collections will be available to graduate students specialising in the post WW2 area in Irish literary studies. The McFadden collection was housed in the Centre in MT 2014.

1. Activities

Richard Ford gave three Master Classes to the M.Phil in Creative Writing students 6th – 10th October 2014.


Evening Lectures Public Series, Hilary Term 2015: Engaging Poems (Convener: Nicholas Grene and Stephen Matterson) Attendance: [959]

The Practice of Writing 2015: January 20th Julian Gough Irish Writer Fellow, January 27th Oona Frawley, February 5th Hugo Hamilton, February 10th Paula Meehan February 17th Mary Costello, March 3rd Michael Hofmann March 10th Eileen Casey March 17th No seminar (St. Patrick’s Day) and March 24th Eoin McNamee.
Readings/Speakers/Masterclasses/Publications

Reading: Julian Gough, Irish Writer Fellow, Monday, 30th March (Mháirtin Uí Chadhain Theatre) 7.30. A wine reception in Room 4017 preceded the Reading.

Tramp Press
Lisa Coen, co-founder of Tramp Press spoke at a seminar for the M.Phil in Creative writing students on Tuesday, 31 March 2015.

The Achievement of Derek Mahon 1965-2015
10th April 2015 in the TLRH: The Achievement of Derek Mahon, a special event with guest lecturer Professor Hugh Haughton (University of York) and a reading by the world renowned Irish actor Stephen Rea.

The Briena Staunton Master Class 2015
There were three Master Classes for the M.Phil in Creative Writing students with the leading poet and translator Professor Michael Hofmann (University of Florida) held during the week of 2nd March. The time of the classes follow: Monday, 2nd March (2-4), Thursday, 5th March (10-12) and Friday, 6th March (10-12). This class is funded by a private donor.

MPCW Visit to the Printing Firms
24th November 2014 Jonathan Williams took the M.Phil in Creative Writing students on their annual outing visiting various printing firms.

Current Students/ Alumni/ Staff publications:

Sara Baume: Spill Simmer Falter Wither (Winner of the Davy Byrnes Award 2014)
Lean Cullinan: The Living
Andrew Fox: Over our Heads
Keith Payne Broken Hill
Phyl Herbert: After Desire
Liz McManus: A Shadow in the Yard
Mary Turley-McGrath: Forget the Lake and New Grass under Snow
John Holten: Oslo, Norway
Gerald Dawe: The Stoic Man, Mickey Finn’s Air, Collected Early Poems
Deirdre Madden (ed.): All over Ireland

Global Office/ Student Fees/ Graduate Studies
We constantly liaise with the above offices. This is to provide accurate information where necessary to incoming students. Many international students are seeking reassurance as well as guidance before beginning their course of students at the OWC.

The Rooney Award for Irish Literature (1976)
The Rooney Award is administered in the Oscar Wilde Centre since 2007. The selection board is: Gerald Dawe (Chair, TCD), Carlo Gebler (Co-Chair, QUB), Eilis Ni Dhuibhne (UCD), Eilean Ni Chuilleanain (Fellow Emeritus TCD), Riana O’Dwyer (NUIG), Jonathan Williams (TCD) Colin Barrett was the recipient of the Award in 2014.
The Award was presented by Dr Daniel Rooney, the former US Ambassador to Ireland, at the Provost’s House on 1st September 2014.

**Visiting Writer for Michaelmas term – Dr Siobhán Parkinson**
The Visiting Writer Fellow October-December 2014 was Siobhán Parkinson. A twelve-week series of workshops was moderated by Dr Parkinson in MT 2014.

**Writer Fellow January-June 2015**
The Arts Council/School of English Writer Fellow January – June 2015 was Julian Gough. A twelve-week series of specialist workshop was offered to the graduate students in HT, 2015.

**Ireland Chair of Poetry: Paula Meehan**
The current Ireland Chair of Poetry, Prof Paula Meehan held a series of two-hour workshops *The Mask* during HT 2015.

**The Oscar Wilde Centre**
Monies were awarded under the Minor Works Scheme in July 2014 for shelving with security doors to store three valuable rare book collections to the Centre.

### 2. Monies generated and grants in aid

Irish Times Studentships for the M.Phil in Creative Writing: €5,000 over 4 years 1997/8 to 2000/01
UNESCO €4,000: Thomas Kilroy *Across the Boundaries*
Abbey Theatre: Stage rehearsal in the Samuel Beckett Theatre of the play *Blake* by Thomas Kilroy (part of *Across the Boundaries*)
Briena Staunton Masterclasses: €10,000 over 5 years sponsored by Dr Jim Meaney
Minor Works Scheme: €8,672.00 McFadden/Greacen Rooms 1st Floor OWC

**Income from the two series of Evening Lectures**

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**Free Admission**

Professor Gerald Dawe, Director, OWC, School of English
Professor Nicholas Grene, Acting Head, School of English

8 June 2015