

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Trinity College Dublin

<http://www.tcd.ie/philosophy>

PROSPECTIVE POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Handbook 2012-2013

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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this booklet, it is issued for guidance only, and may be updated at any time.

Please consult the Graduate Studies Office, the University Calendar, and the external agencies listed below, for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

DUBLIN GRADUATE PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new Dublin Graduate Philosophy Programme which is jointly taught by Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin. The synergy between both institutions allows for the formation of a highly prestigious and internationally notable graduate school. From 2009 students who register for a Ph. D. in philosophy will automatically join the Dublin Graduate Philosophy Programme.

Preference will be given to students whose proposed projects fall into one of the following areas of specialisation (listed below along with the corresponding member of department).

- **Dr. Lilian Alweiss:** Kant and post-kantian philosophy, in particular phenomenology. Self-knowledge and self-reference
- **Professor David Berman:** psychological philosophy; Berkeley, mental imaging; the senses; Irish philosophy; history of atheism
- **Dr. Antti Kauppinen:** metaethics, moral psychology, normative ethics, well-being and happiness, human rights, theories of justice
- **Dr. James Levine:** history of analytic philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophical logic
- **Dr. Paul O'Grady:** epistemology, philosophy of religion, Aquinas
- **Dr. Vasilis Politis:** ancient philosophy, especially Plato and Aristotle
- **Professor Peter Simons:** metaphysics and ontology; philosophy of language and logic; philosophy of mathematics; history of analytic philosophy; history of philosophy and logic in Central Europe

The Department of Philosophy

Philosophy is one of the four constituent departments in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy (<http://www.social-phil.tcd.ie>).

Philosophy has always been an important part of the College curriculum since Trinity was founded in 1592. Among its most distinguished contributors to philosophy are George Berkeley and Edmund Burke. The Chair of Moral Philosophy (currently held by Professor Peter Simons) was established at Trinity College in 1837, the (former) School of Mental and Moral Science in 1904 and the Department of Philosophy in 1964. Past holders of the Chair have included such eminent scholars as T.K. Abbott, Henry S. Macran, A.A. Luce, and, most recently, William Lyons.

Currently the department includes specialists in both the analytic and continental philosophical traditions, as well as in a range of areas within the history of philosophy. At present there are seven full-time lecturers, four part-time lecturers and a number of postgraduate teaching assistants. Faculty members publish internationally and have been invited to give lectures and seminars in Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia. There are also regular visiting speakers and lecturers which strengthen the department's connections with the international philosophical community.

A list of current staff and their research interests is available from <http://www.tcd.ie/philosophy/people.php>.

How to Apply

All students must formally apply for admission online through the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. To apply please visit:

<http://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/research/schools/social-science-philosophy.php>.

In addition to the application form, a CV, a transcript of academic results to date, copies of degree certificates, two academic references, and the application fee, the Department of Philosophy also requires a typed research proposal of approximately 1500 words and a sample work, of chapter length, from students who intend to do a degree by research alone (i.e. an M.Litt. or a Ph.D.). The initial deadline for applications is 15 March. Applicants who apply after the deadline will be considered, but they will miss the Trinity College deadlines for postgraduate scholarships. Late applications also run the risk that available places for supervision with particular members of the Department will have been filled.

Entry Requirements

Acceptance to do postgraduate work in philosophy at Trinity depends on a number of factors:

- The quality of an applicant's undergraduate degree. In practice, this means obtaining at least a very good 2.1 or a first class honours degree (or equivalent) in philosophy or in the philosophy segment of his or her first degree
- The viability and originality of the research proposal

- The strength of the applicant's academic references
- The quality of the sample of recent written work, of chapter length, accompanying the application.
- The ability of the department to supervise the intended research.

Graduate Studies in Philosophy

Postgraduate Programme

The Department offers two graduate degrees in philosophy, the **M.Litt. in Philosophy** and the **Ph.D. in Philosophy**.

Structure of the Graduate Degrees in Philosophy

The department wishes to attract potential postgraduate students who intend to focus on producing a major piece of research.

There are two types of dissertation leading to the two possible degrees.

An M.Litt. thesis usually takes two years to complete with a maximum length of 60,000 words.

A Ph.D. dissertation demands more originality and higher standards; it usually takes at least four years to complete, and its maximum length is 100,000 words.

The first year of the Ph.D. is taught jointly by UCD and TCD. Students who are registered with TCD are required to take four courses in their first year, at least two courses at TCD and at least one course at UCD (reciprocal rules apply to UCD students). The choice of courses should be in accordance with the student's research interests. Given adequate progress, the student can then begin writing his or her Ph.D. dissertation. Applicants should note that the norm for completion of Ph.D.s is four years of full-time study. The progress of those who exceed this completion norm will be reviewed very carefully. For further details see the *Handbook for Current Postgraduate Students* (http://www.tcd.ie/philosophy/files/TCD_handbook_current_graduate_students.pdf).

Financing your postgraduate studies in philosophy

Details of the current registration fees are available from http://www.tcd.ie/Treasurers_Office/fees/fees_coursefees.php.

A range of funding opportunities is available to postgraduate students, and the Department makes every effort to secure funding for students accepted into the programme. Some of these opportunities are identified below, and further details are available from the websites listed.

Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)

The closing date for the receipt of applications for postgraduate funding through the IRCHSS is typically February or March. Students must have been offered a place by the Department before they can apply for funding. Further details, including the most recent application deadlines, can be found on <http://www.irchss.ie>.

Trinity College Postgraduate Awards and Scholarships

The University offers two classes of postgraduate awards to research students.

1. *Postgraduate Ussher Fellowships*

These fellowships are only available to new entrants on the research register, and applicants must enter the full-time research register in October or the following April of the same academic year (e.g. October 2012 or April 2013). The fellowships aim to support and develop gifted research students. They are competitive and are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Further guidelines can be found on the application form itself.

The fellowship fully covers EU and non-EU fees and provides an annual maintenance of €16,000 for three years.

An application for a College research award **must be submitted together** with your complete application form for admission to Trinity College Dublin. Further details can be found at

http://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies/prospectivestudents/awards/ussheffellowships/index.php.

2. *Postgraduate Research Studentships*

Studentships are available only to new entrants to the full-time research register for entry in October or the following April of the same academic year (e.g. October 2012 or April 2013). The Studentships aim to support and develop gifted research students. They are competitive and are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Further guidelines on Postgraduate Research Studentships can be found on the application form itself.

The studentship fully covers EU or non-EU fees and an annual maintenance of €8,000 for three years.

An application for a College research award **must be submitted together** with your complete application form for admission to Trinity College Dublin. Further details can be found at

http://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies/prospectivestudents/awards/studentships/index.php.

Departmental awards

The Department is currently offering up to four departmental awards to new or continuing students. These studentships are for four years and fund EU tuition fees

(should sufficient funds be available, non-EU tuition fees will also be covered). In order to be put forward for a studentship, applicants must also apply for college grants (if eligible). Information about research awards at Trinity can be found at http://www.tcd.ie/graduate_studies. For more information please contact the Department Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Lilian Alweiss (alweissl@tcd.ie).

Additional Funding Opportunities

Each year the Department offers a number of teaching assistantships to postgraduate students. These entail marking essays arising out of a particular course and offering tutorials. Rates of payment are set by the Head of Department.

Students can apply to become teaching assistants by approaching the head of Department. The Head of Department may also directly request postgraduate students to serve as teaching assistants, especially if such duties are required as a condition of a financial award.

Funding for Conference Travel

The Department offers €300 per year for conference travel or books. Additionally, the Graduate Studies Office offers a Trinity Trust Travel Grant, more details can be found at

http://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies/currentstudents/funding/travelgrants/index.php

Extraordinary Funding requests

Under extraordinary circumstances, students may make a written appeal to Departmental Postgraduate coordinators outlining their need and request for tuition or some portion of tuition. These requests will then be considered by the Head of Department.

External Funding Opportunities

An excellent list is available from the Graduate Studies Office Website, http://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies

Facilities for Postgraduate Research Students

The Library

The college's research facilities include a book stack of more than four million volumes, one of the largest in Europe. As the only copyright library in Ireland it enjoys the privilege of receiving, automatically and by right, all Irish and UK copyright material. Postgraduate students may apply for a library carrel which guarantees them study space within the library.

The 1937 Reading Room

The 1937 Reading Room is a designated postgraduate library and study area for research students. It is located in the Front Square beside the Exam Hall. There is a swipe card access for postgraduate students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The

1937 Reading Room is fully equipped with computers on the ground floor, a basement computer room and lockers.

Philosophical Events in Dublin

The Dublin Postgraduate Research Seminar

The Dublin Postgraduate Research Seminar is an initiative of the Dublin Graduate Philosophy Programme. It is a forum for postgraduate students to discuss their most recent research. The meetings typically take place on Tuesdays at 6:00pm. More information can be found at <http://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/events/grs.php>.

The Monday Colloquium

On most Mondays during the academic year the Philosophy Department holds a Visiting Speaker Research Colloquium in which postgraduate students are expected to participate. Its main purpose is to provide a forum for academic interaction and discussion in the department as a whole, and, in particular, for interaction between staff and graduate students. More information can be found at <http://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/events/colloquium/colloquium.php>.

The Donnellan Lectures

The Department of Philosophy at Trinity is host to a triennial series of endowed lectures, the Donnellan Lectures in Philosophy. Recent Donnellan Lecturers have been Jerry Fodor, Martha Nussbaum, Richard Sorabji, Richard Rorty, Stanley Cavell, Jonathan Lear and Robert Pippin.

Royal Irish Academy

The Committee for Philosophy of the Royal Irish Academy brings together representatives from all the philosophy departments in Ireland and hosts conferences. Keynote speakers in recent years have included Alasdair MacIntyre, Hilary Putnam, Stephen Stich, Jonathan Glover and Donald Davidson.

Irish Philosophical Club

The Irish Philosophical Club meets once a year, and brings together Irish philosophers from north and south of the border with guests from overseas. Recent guest speakers have included Crispin Wright, Ernest Sosa, Ernie Lepore, Jack Copeland, Frazer MacBride, Alex Miller and Robert Stern. The Department of Philosophy offers financial assistance to graduate students wishing to attend meetings of the club.

Aporo – The Irish Philosophical Research Network

Aporo is a research group dedicated to the core problems within the areas of epistemology, metaphysics and the philosophies of language, logic and mind. It is based in Dublin through a co-operation between the philosophy departments of

Queens University Belfast, Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin.
More information can be found on their website, <http://www.aporo.org>.