



TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN  
COLÁISTE NA TRÍONÓIDE, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF DUBLIN

M.Phil. in  
**Chinese Studies**





## Why Trinity College Dublin?

Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's top ranked university, and the only Irish university in the world top 100 universities (QS World University Rankings 2013).

Trinity is recognised internationally for the quality of its education and research. A community of staff and students, Trinity brings together world-class experts across all disciplines, and teaching and research become part of the same collaborative experience.

Over the past four centuries Trinity graduates have played a leading role on the world stage, and Trinity continues to educate innovative thinkers with the independent and critical-thinking skills that are so valued by employers.



Trinity offers an exceptional educational experience centred on a research-inspired curriculum, where students are encouraged to reach their full potential and develop the essential skills necessary for life-long learning. Trinity is situated in the heart of Dublin's city centre, at the centre of the country's transport hub, in a beautiful campus which contains a wonderful mix of modern and historic facilities (including the country's largest research library). Students are the highest priority at Trinity. Trinity offers a wide range of learning and pastoral supports, an excellent Careers Advisory Service to help students find employment, and an Alumni Career Network for support after graduation. Trinity students come from all over the world, and there are currently 118 different nationalities represented on campus.

### Trinity Centre for Asian Studies

The Trinity Centre for Asian Studies acts as a focal point for Asian Studies in the university, and brings together teaching and research in Chinese, Korean and Japanese Studies as well as other regionally-based scholarship and pan-Asian research. Our activities focus on contemporary society and culture, language learning, diaspora studies, and comparative studies including Asian-European studies. The centre's aim is to promote Asian Studies nationally and internationally, and in so doing, to be the leading knowledge centre in Ireland for policy-makers, business leaders and scholars in the field.

### Why Chinese Studies?

The term 'Asian century' is used regularly in the media to describe the flow of ideas, capital and popular culture from East Asia to the rest of the world. Whilst China is not the only sphere of influence in this region, it is certainly the most prominent in terms of its rapid transformation into a country of economic might and international reach. Working with contemporary China is an unavoidable reality in a globalised world. Fostering informed engagement with China, particularly in terms of understanding flows of capital, influence and ideas, is vital for graduates. Engaging seriously with Chinese Studies as an academic subject means learning about China's remarkable civilisation, its role as an economic and political powerhouse, and its trade, investment and diplomacy. Chinese Studies is a multidisciplinary field of study, integrating disciplines such as History, Linguistics, Politics, Social Policy and Cultural Studies. Given China's economic impact and international reach, the M.Phil. in Chinese Studies equips its graduates to engage deeply with contemporary China.

## M.Phil. in Chinese Studies

The M.Phil. in Chinese Studies at Trinity offers a unique and vibrant educational experience which will equip its graduates to be global citizens. The M.Phil. programme offers the opportunity to learn about key aspects of contemporary China, including its political and economic landscape, modern history, society, popular culture and language, as well as a strong foundation in Mandarin for students without prior language proficiency. The degree focuses on China today and China over the last century.



### What will I be studying?

The M.Phil. in Chinese Studies seeks to develop students' in-depth knowledge and understanding of China in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries within a comparative, global context. It approaches the study of China from a range of disciplinary perspectives, including modern Chinese history and thought, politics and governance, language, society and culture. It is principally aimed at students with a first degree in humanities or social science subjects, and does not require any prior language or country knowledge. It will produce graduates equipped with the intellectual and transferable skills for future careers requiring a strong knowledge of contemporary China and provide a foundation for life-long learning. It provides a unique opportunity for graduate students to undertake subject-specific study, language study and research training in the context of contemporary China. The degree course has two strands. Strand 1 is designed for students with no prior knowledge of Mandarin, whilst Strand 2 is designed for students with prior knowledge of Mandarin.

The programme is taken over two years on a full-time basis and requires students to accumulate 120 credits. In the two terms of the first year, students take 60 credits based on a combination of compulsory and elective modules, including language study. In the first term of the second year, students will participate in a Study Abroad programme in one of Trinity's partner universities in China, Hong Kong or Taiwan, and submit

a Study Abroad report worth 10 credits. Students take 20 further credits in the final term of the programme and preparing a dissertation worth 30 credits. The programme will use a range of assessment methods including group presentations, student portfolios and assignments. 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 (Applied Linguistics, Political Science, Philosophy, Literature, Religions) 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. Independent reading is widely encouraged to provide a depth of understanding. 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. Self-access language learning opportunities are also provided. The compulsory Study Abroad component of the degree course will consolidate students' language learning as well as provide a first-hand experience of the continuity and change of contemporary China.



## Study Abroad Semester

The M.Phil. in Chinese Studies includes an integrated Study Abroad module at one of Trinity's partner universities in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong or Taipei. This part of the degree occurs in the first term of Year 2, and lasts approximately three or four months, depending on the term dates of the host university. Possible destinations will include Beihang University, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University, the University of Nottingham Ningbo, Hong Kong University and Taiwan National University\*. We try to accommodate your first choice of university. During the Study Abroad module, you will participate

in the host university's Chinese language programme for international students (Strand 1 students) as well as classes delivered through English and Mandarin (Strand 2 students). The Study Abroad module aims to provide you with first-hand experience and understanding of Chinese society through the direct exposure to contemporary life. Ten credits are awarded for completion of a Study Abroad report, a reflective research document which is designed to capture your experiences when abroad and to relate these to your reading and classwork both in Trinity and your host university.

## Strand 1: For students without prior Chinese language experience

This entrance route caters for students who apply for the course without prior experience of learning Chinese. In addition to the core modules on contemporary China, it aims to bring learners to an intermediate proficiency level in spoken and written (simplified) Mandarin through three compulsory language modules.

<b>MT 1</b> <b>2015/16</b>	<b>3 compulsory modules:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chinese language and writing systems</li> <li>■ Modern Chinese history</li> <li>■ Mandarin 1</li> </ul>	<b>10 credits each,  total 30 credits.</b>
<b>HT 1</b> <b>2015/16</b>	<b>2 compulsory modules &amp; 1 elective module.</b> <b>Compulsory modules:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Contemporary Chinese society and politics</li> <li>■ Mandarin 2</li> </ul> <b>Choose 1 elective from:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Governance and politics of the PRC</li> <li>■ Business and economy of contemporary China</li> <li>■ Religion and thought</li> <li>■ Chinese diaspora and language in a global context</li> </ul>	<b>10 credits each,  total 30 credits.</b>
<b>MT 2</b> <b>2016/17</b>	<b>Study Abroad module (&amp; Study Abroad report)</b>	<b>10 credits.</b>
<b>HT 2</b> <b>2016/17</b>	<b>1 compulsory module &amp; 1 elective module &amp; 15,000-word dissertation.</b> <b>Compulsory module:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ China in comparative perspective</li> </ul> <b>Choose 1 elective from:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Governance and politics of the PRC</li> <li>■ Business and economy of contemporary China</li> <li>■ Religion and thought</li> <li>■ Chinese diaspora and language in a global context</li> <li>■ Mandarin 3</li> <li>■ Mandarin 4</li> </ul>	<b>10 credits each,  30 credit dissertation,  total 50 credits.</b>
<b>Total 120 credits*</b>		

## Strand 2: For students with prior Chinese language learning experience

This strand provides an entry route for students who have prior Chinese language learning experience, through their undergraduate programme, other study or work experience. Students in Strand 2 at a B1/B2 language proficiency level may choose to polish their Chinese language proficiency through taking either Mandarin 3 or Mandarin 4 as an elective module. For students in Strand 2 with fluency in Mandarin, at a C1/C2 language proficiency level (near- or native-speaker), the strand will only converge with Strand 1 in terms of the content (non-language) modules.

<b>MT 1</b> <b>2015/16</b>	<b>3 compulsory modules.</b> <b>Compulsory modules:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chinese language and writing systems</li> <li>■ Modern Chinese history</li> <li>■ Mandarin reading and discussion group on contemporary China</li> </ul>	<b>10 credits each,</b> <b>total 30 credits</b>
<b>HT 1</b> <b>2015/16</b>	<b>1 compulsory module, 2 electives.</b> <b>Compulsory modules:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Contemporary Chinese society and politics</li> </ul> <b>Choose 2 electives from:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Governance and politics of the PRC</li> <li>■ Business and economy of contemporary China</li> <li>■ Religion and thought</li> <li>■ Chinese diaspora and language in a global context</li> <li>■ Mandarin 3</li> <li>■ Mandarin 4</li> </ul>	<b>10 credits each,</b> <b>total 30 credits</b>
<b>MT 2</b> <b>2016/17</b>	<b>Study Abroad module (&amp; Study Abroad report)</b>	<b>10 credits</b>
<b>HT 2</b> <b>2016/17</b>	<b>1 compulsory module, 1 elective module, 15,000-word dissertation.</b> <b>Compulsory module:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ China in comparative perspective</li> </ul> <b>Choose 1 elective from:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Governance and politics of the PRC</li> <li>■ Business and economy of contemporary China</li> <li>■ Religion and thought</li> <li>■ Chinese diaspora and language in a global context</li> <li>■ Mandarin 3</li> <li>■ Mandarin 4</li> </ul>	<b>10 credits each,</b> <b>30 credit dissertation,</b> <b>total 50 credits</b>
<b>Total 120 credits*</b>		

\*Prospective students should note that both the elective and compulsory modules offered may change from one academic year to the next, as well as the partner universities for the Study Abroad semester. Tuition fees may be subject to change.



## Am I eligible to apply?

The multidisciplinary nature of the course can accommodate students from a wide range of backgrounds. Admission to this course is at graduate level, and applicants will hold a good honours degree (minimum II.1, or a GPA of 3.5, or equivalent from another country) from a recognised university. The course is designed for students from a wide range of backgrounds. Whilst a background in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences will be helpful, it is 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. The course has two different strands for students with no prior knowledge of Mandarin and students with intermediate or advanced Mandarin. For students with no prior knowledge of Mandarin, proven language learning ability will be useful, although not necessarily in an Asian language.

Language entry criteria, Strand 1: There are no specific Chinese language entry criteria for Strand 1, this strand is designed for students without any prior Mandarin language learning experience. Applicants must satisfy the University's English language requirements.

Language entry criteria, Strand 2: Students who wish to apply to Strand 2 (prior Mandarin learning experience) must submit transcripts or equivalent certification of their language learning experience/ accomplishments at the time of application as a supplementary document. These will be considered on a case by case basis. Strand 2 applicants must already have basic reading skills in modern Chinese as well as proof of language proficiency at the B1 proficiency level (or equivalent). This strand also caters to native speakers of Mandarin. Applicants must also satisfy the University's English language requirements.

English language entry criteria: For applicants from outside Ireland, Trinity requires all postgraduate students to have a fluent command of English. If your first language is not English and you cannot certify that you were educated through the medium of English, then you must present one of the following English-language qualifications recognised by the university. Please note that test scores are only valid for 2 years.

- IELTS: Grade 6.5
- TOEFL: 88 - iBT, 230 - Computer based, 570 - paper based
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English: Grade C
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English: Grade C
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) - PTE Academic: a minimum score of 63 (with no section score below 59)

## How much are the fees for the M.Phil. in Chinese Studies?

Fees are set by Trinity centrally; see the Fees and Payments section of Academic Registry. Please note also that non-EU fee levels are different from EU fee levels, and that there is a residency requirement for status as an EU applicant. For 2015/16 entry, the EU fee is €8296 per annum, or €16,591 for the two-year degree. The non-EU fee is €16,776 per annum, or €33,551 for the two-year degree\*. These fees include tuition at Trinity and during the Study Abroad semester, return flights for the Study Abroad semester and the graduation fee. Fees are paid annually, and may be paid in instalments according to the Fee Regulations section of Academic Registry. Unfortunately, there is no funding for postgraduate students on taught courses within Trinity College Dublin, but please see our External Funding section for information regarding funding available from other sources. Relevant external scholarships or stipends will be advertised on the TCAS website.

## What's the difference between an M.Phil. and an M.A.?

In Trinity, many taught Masters degrees in the arts, humanities and social sciences areas are called M.Phil. degrees (Master of Philosophy). In some other universities, a taught Masters degree is called a Master of Arts: an M.A. The difference is only one of different terminological traditions. In European terms, the M.Phil. in Chinese Studies carries 120 credits.

## Academic staff

Our staff are a vibrant and dynamic academic community who strive for excellence in teaching and research. A dedicated team of professors at the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies is responsible for the M.Phil. in Chinese Studies, representing the academic disciplines of Political Science, History, Linguistics and Religions. We have a team of native-speaker instructors who are responsible for our language learning modules. Our staff are recognised nationally and internationally for their research activity and publications, their consultancy work and outreach. We are passionate about sharing this expertise in our teaching. For us, research is not just about understanding the world, it should also impact on life outside the university. All our academic staff apply their research to key areas of contemporary life in the greater China region. Our research strengths focus on established and emerging themes within Chinese Studies, including the history and historiography of China in the twentieth century, sociocultural approaches to Chinese language varieties, semantics, pragmatics and written culture, and contemporary Chinese governance and politics.

## How to apply

You can apply through the university's online portal where you will be directed to our application form. You should first locate the M.Phil. in Chinese Studies using Trinity's course finder: [www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/faculty](http://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/faculty). Information about fees can be found here: [www.tcd.ie/academicregistry](http://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry). Detailed information about the application process is available here: [www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply](http://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply). You can address your queries to the course director, **Professor Lorna Carson**, using the contact details on the final page.





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Contact details

[www.tcd.ie/Asian](http://www.tcd.ie/Asian)

[tcas@tcd.ie](mailto:tcas@tcd.ie)

+ 353 (0) 1 896 1560

[www.facebook.com/TCD.Asian](https://www.facebook.com/TCD.Asian)

[@TCDAsianStudies](https://www.instagram.com/TCDAsianStudies)