



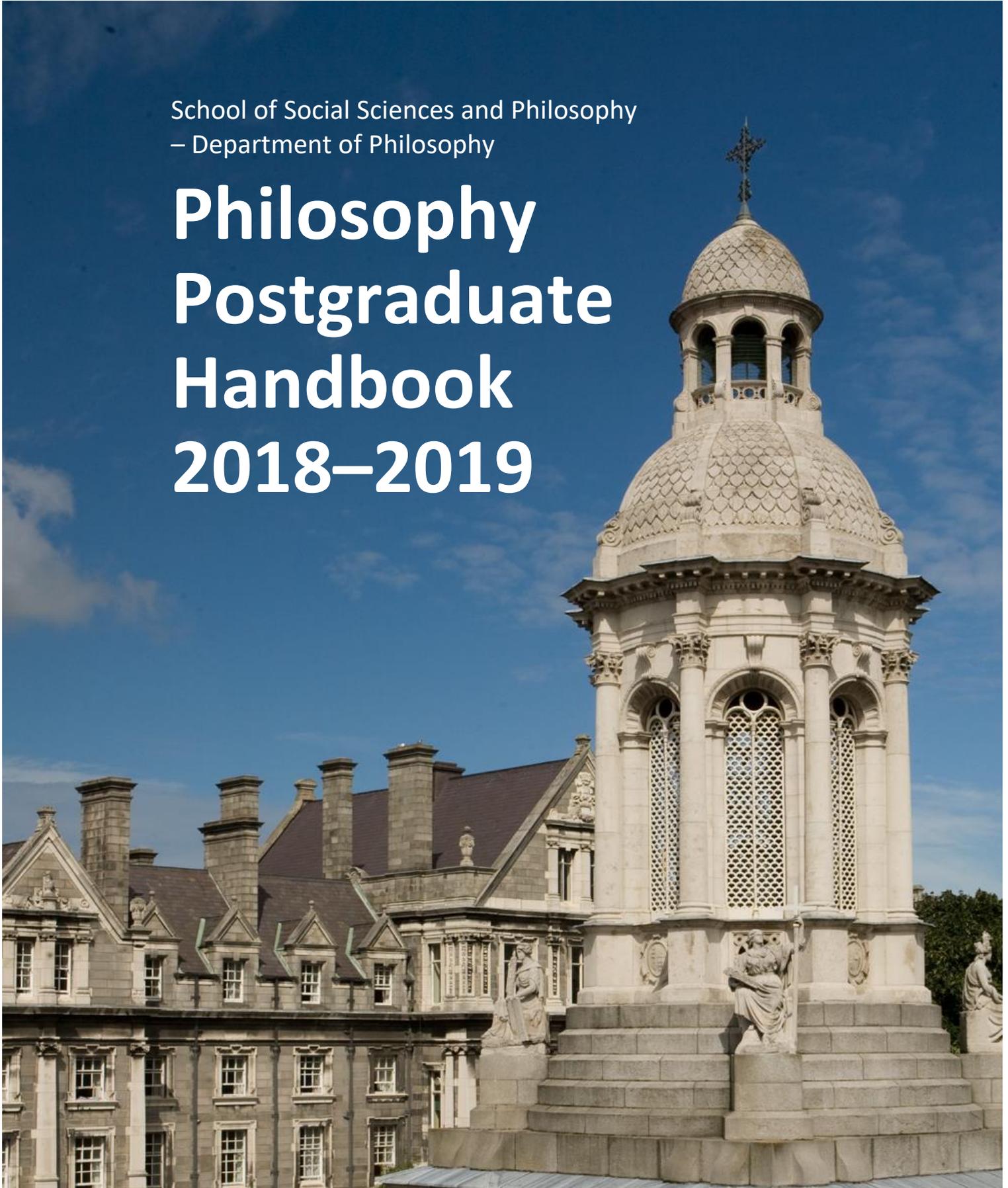
**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

School of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
– Department of Philosophy

# Philosophy Postgraduate Handbook 2018–2019



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## A Note on this Handbook

### Disclaimer

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 accurate and up-to-date information.

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the General Regulations published in the University Calendar and information contained in programme or local handbooks, the provisions of the General Regulations in the Calendar will prevail.

Alternative formats of the Handbook can be made available on request.

## Section 1 – General College Information

### Student Services and Support

The Programme Administrator is your first port of call of all general queries. College also provides a range of administrative, academic and wellbeing supports and services to help smooth your route through college, these include College Health, the Disability Service and a range of other activities. You can find further information at the links below:

- Careers Advisory Service - <http://www.tcd.ie/Careers/>
- Graduate Studies Office - <http://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/>
- Mature Student Office - <https://www.tcd.ie/maturestudents/>
- Student Services Website and Information booklet – [www.tcd.ie/student-services](http://www.tcd.ie/student-services), [http://www.tcd.ie/students/assets/pdf/Student Services Booklet \(web version\).pdf](http://www.tcd.ie/students/assets/pdf/Student_Services_Booklet_(web_version).pdf)
- Trinity Disability Service - <http://www.tcd.ie/disability/>

### Co-curricular Activities

#### TCD Sports Clubs

College has 50 sports clubs in a range of disciplines, from Basketball to Archery, you can find information on all of the clubs on the Trinity Sport website, here:

<https://www.tcd.ie/Sport/student-sport/clubs/>

#### TCD Societies

College offers over 100 societies across the University. From arts, culture, politics and debating to gaming, advocacy and music, you're sure to find your niche. You can find a list of all of the societies here: <http://trinitysocieties.ie/>

### Student Union

#### GSU

The Graduate Students Union represent the postgraduate student body at College level. You can find further information about the union, and how to get involved, on their website, here: <https://www.tcdgsu.ie/> and can find information on the student representation structures here: <https://www.tcdgsu.ie/becomearep>

### Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, dial Security Services on extension 1999 Security Services provide a 24-hour service to the college community, 365 days a year. They are the liaison to the Fire, Garda and Ambulance services and all staff and students are advised to always telephone extension 1999 (+353 1 896 1999) in case of an emergency. Should you require any emergency or rescue services on campus, you must contact Security Services. This includes chemical spills, personal injury or first aid assistance. It is recommended that all students save at least one emergency contact in their phone under ICE (In Case of Emergency).

## Data Protection

Please note that due to data protection requirements Staff in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy cannot discuss individual students with parents/guardians or other family members.

As the University considers students, even if they are not yet 18, to have the maturity to give consent for the use of their data, in normal circumstances, the University will not disclose personal data to the parents, guardians or other representatives of a student without the student's consent. The University's preference is to receive written consent by way of email from the student where possible. Without such consent the University will not release any details regarding students including details of their registration, attendance, results, fee payments etc.

Trinity College Dublin uses personal data relating to students for a variety of purposes. We are careful to comply with our obligations under data protection laws, you can find further information on how we obtain, use and disclose student data here:

[https://www.tcd.ie/info\\_compliance/data-protection/student-data/](https://www.tcd.ie/info_compliance/data-protection/student-data/)

## Section 2 – General Programme Information

### Welcome from the Programme Director

Welcome to the Department of Philosophy at Trinity College Dublin. Based in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, we are a small and student-friendly Department which offers a world-class programme in philosophy. Philosophy is one of four departments in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. We are also a constituent department in the Trinity Long Room Hub, which is Trinity's Arts and Humanities Research Institute.

Philosophy has always been an important part of the College curriculum since Trinity was founded in 1592 and today the Department is a close-knit, lively intellectual community of researchers, teachers and students that combines high-quality teaching with expansive research activity.

Among its most distinguished contributors to philosophy are George Berkeley and Edmund Burke. The Chair of Moral Philosophy 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, William Lyons, and, most recently, Peter Simons.

Currently, the Department includes specialists in both analytic philosophy and in continental philosophy as well as in a range of areas within the history of philosophy. We have special strengths in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of religion and ethics, as well as expertise in ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, early modern philosophy, modern European philosophy and history of analytic philosophy.

Staff members publish internationally and have been invited to give lectures and seminars in Europe, the United States, Canada, and Australasia. There are also regular visiting speakers and lecturers, strengthening our connections with the international philosophical community.

Trinity College Dublin Philosophy Department has been consistently ranked as a premier philosophy department and is among the top 100 philosophy departments in the world (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018).

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

Your individual timetable will be available to you via your online student portal at my.tcd.ie when you complete your programme registration.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul O'Grady".

Professor Paul O'Grady

Head of the Department of Philosophy

## Welcome from the Programme Administrator

Welcome to the Department of Philosophy at Trinity College. I am the Executive Officer in the Department of Philosophy and I am here to answer any queries you may have in relation to your Philosophy programme.

The Department of Philosophy office is located in room 5009, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin. The opening hours of the Department during Teaching Term are Monday-Friday 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm.



Ms Sarah Smullen

Executive Officer

Department of Philosophy

## Contacts

### **Head of the Department of Philosophy**

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### **School Manager**

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Information on the PhD in Philosophy programme can be found at the following link:

<http://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/postgraduate/phd-programme/index.php>

Information on the M.Phil in Philosophy can be found at the following link:

<http://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/postgraduate/MPhil/index.php>

## Key Dates

PhD in Philosophy students in year one are required to submit their essays for each of their TCD modules at the end of the term which the modules take place in.

MPhil in Philosophy students are required to submit an assignments at the end of each term. The deadline for the MPhil dissertation is 3pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.

The MPhil in Philosophy results will be published through the my.tcd.ie portal in September 2019.

## Programme Governance

The PhD in Philosophy programme and the MPhil in Philosophy programme are governed by the Department of Philosophy Management Committee which is a sub-committee of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy Executive and Postgraduate Teaching and Learning Committees. Membership of the Department of Philosophy Programme Management Committee includes the Academic Director (Chair), Administrative Officer (Secretary), a student representative, etc.

## Academic Year Structure

Cal. Wk.	Dates 2018/19 (week beginning)	2018/19 Academic Year Calendar	Term / Semester
1	27-Aug-18	Marking/Results	←Michaelmas Term begins/Semester 1 begins
2	03-Sep-18	<b>Orientation (undergraduate)/Freshers' Week</b>	
3	10-Sep-18	Teaching and Learning	←Michaelmas teaching term begins
4	17-Sep-18	Teaching and Learning	
5	24-Sep-18	Teaching and Learning	
6	01-Oct-18	Teaching and Learning	
7	08-Oct-18	Teaching and Learning	
8	15-Oct-18	Teaching and Learning	
9	22-Oct-18	Study/Review	
10	29-Oct-18	Teaching and Learning	
11	05-Nov-18	Teaching and Learning	
12	12-Nov-18	Teaching and Learning	
13	19-Nov-18	Teaching and Learning	
14	26-Nov-18	Teaching and Learning	
15	03-Dec-18	<b>Revision</b>	
16	10-Dec-18	<b>Assessment</b>	←Michaelmas term ends Sunday 16 December 2018/ Semester 1 ends
17	17-Dec-18	Christmas Period - College closed 24 December 2018 to 1 January 2019 inclusive	
18	24-Dec-18		
19	31-Dec-18		
20	07-Jan-19	<b>Foundation Scholarship Examinations<sup>^</sup></b>	
21	14-Jan-19	Marking/Results	←Hilary Term begins/Semester 2 begins
22	21-Jan-19	Teaching and Learning	←Hilary teaching term begins
23	28-Jan-19	Teaching and Learning	
24	04-Feb-19	Teaching and Learning	
25	11-Feb-19	Teaching and Learning	
26	18-Feb-19	Teaching and Learning	
27	25-Feb-19	Teaching and Learning	
28	04-Mar-19	Study/Review	
29	11-Mar-19	Teaching and Learning	
30	18-Mar-19	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Public Holiday)	
31	25-Mar-19	Teaching and Learning	
32	01-Apr-19	Teaching and Learning	
33	08-Apr-19	Teaching and Learning	
34	15-Apr-19	<b>Revision (Friday, Good Friday)</b>	←Hilary Term ends Sunday 21 April 2019
35	22-Apr-19	<b>Assessment (Monday, Easter Monday)</b>	←Trinity Term begins
36	29-Apr-19	<b>Trinity Week</b>	
37	06-May-19	Marking/Results (Monday, Public Holiday)	
38	13-May-19	Marking/Results	
39	20-May-19	Marking/Results	
40	27-May-19	Summer Research	←Statutory (Trinity) Term ends Sunday 2 June 2019/ Semester 2 ends
41	03-Jun-19	Summer Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	
42	10-Jun-19	Summer Research	
43	17-Jun-19	Summer Research	
44	24-Jun-19	Summer Research	
45	01-Jul-19	Summer Research	
46	08-Jul-19	Summer Research	
47	15-Jul-19	Summer Research	
48	22-Jul-19	Summer Research	
49	29-Jul-19	Summer Research	
50	05-Aug-19	Summer Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	
51	12-Aug-19	Summer Research	

52	19-Aug-19	Summer Research	
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^ Note: it may be necessary to hold some exams in the preceding week.

## Module Registration and Timetable

### Module Registration

In the first year of the PhD programme, students are required to take four modules, at least one but no more than two at UCD (with reciprocal rules applying to UCD students). Students are free to audit classes at either institution. Students' choice should be in accordance with their research interests in consultation with their supervisor and are meant to provide a solid grounding in research methods at the postgraduate level in various areas of philosophy. Courses offered will be listed at the start of each academic year. The courses are each worth 10 ECTS units; they are meant to supplement independent work with the supervisor.

MPhil in Philosophy students take six taught modules, worth 60 ECTS, which work together to form an integrated foundation for cutting-edge contemporary philosophical research. MPhil students also take a research dissertation worth 30 ECTS.

### Lecture Timetable

Lecture Timetables are published to student portals [my.tcd.ie](http://my.tcd.ie) at least one week before the beginning of the academic year. Once a student is registered, they can view their timetable on their student portal. The onus is on students to check their timetable at regular intervals to identify any changes to venues or lecture times.

## Key Locations

### Department of Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy office (Room 5009) is located on the fifth floor of the Arts Building in Trinity College Dublin.

### The Library

The College's research facilities include a book stack of more than 4 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 can apply for a library carrel, which guarantees them study space within the library.

### Special Facilities for Graduate Research Students

Trinity College has a Graduate Common Room located in house 7 in Front Square. There is also a Graduate Students Union Officer. Graduate students are also represented on College committees and at Departmental Staff meetings.

### 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 24-hour swipe card access, seven days a week for postgraduate students. The

1937 Reading Room is fully equipped with computers on the ground floor, a basement computer room and lockers. The lockers are run by the Graduate Students' Union and Research Students can sign up to get one for the coming year in the Graduate Students' Union office (second floor, House 6, Front Square).

### **Trinity Long Room Hub**

The Trinity Long Room Hub is an Arts and Humanities Research Institute. They put on regular talks, and well as having various resources to support funding applications, host conferences, and collaborate across disciplines. The TLRH also houses some study space, which will be allocated by the department to particular students at the beginning of each year. To apply for a desk please contact the department Director of Postgraduate Learning and Teaching before the start of the academic year.

### **Blackboard**

Blackboard is the College online learning environment, where lecturers will give access to material like lecture notes and discussion forums. The use of Blackboard varies from module to module and individual lecturers will speak to you about the requirements for their module.

In order to access a module on Blackboard you should be registered to the module by your programme administrator.

Blackboard can be accessed via <https://tcd.blackboard.com/webapps/login/>

### **Email**

All official email correspondence will be sent to TCD email addresses only. You should check your email on a regular basis. When emailing the Administration students should include their TCD Student ID Number at all times.

### **Student Portal**

My.tcd.ie allows students to view their own central student record containing all relevant information related to the course for which you are registered. To access the system you will need your College username and network password.

If your personal student information is incorrect you should contact the Academic Registry (via email – [academic.registry@tcd.ie](mailto:academic.registry@tcd.ie)) stating your full name and student ID number. If your timetable module list is incorrect then you should notify the Programme Administrator.

### **Health and Safety Statements**

The College Safety Statement can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.tcd.ie/estatesandfacilities/health-and-safety/>

## Section 3 – Teaching and Learning

### Programme Architecture

#### **Research Degrees in Philosophy**

The Department offers two research graduate degrees in philosophy, the MLitt in Philosophy and the PhD 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 two possible degrees:

- An MLitt thesis, which usually takes 2 years to complete with a maximum length of 60,000 words.
- A PhD thesis which demands more originality and higher standards; its maximum length is 100,000 words.

#### **MPhil in Philosophy**

The Department offers one taught graduate degree in philosophy, the MPhil in Philosophy. To qualify for the award of the Masters degree, students must:

- i. Achieve an overall pass mark which is the credit-weighted average mark for all taught modules taken, and
- ii. Achieve a pass mark in all modules, and
- iii. Achieve a pass mark in the research dissertation, and
- iv. Pass taught modules amounting to 60 credits.

Students failing to pass taught modules may re-submit required work within the duration of the course as provided for in the course regulations. Students who, following the re-assessment, have failed to pass taught modules will be deemed to have failed overall, and may apply to repeat the course. Students who have passed taught modules, but who do not achieve a pass mark in the research dissertation, will be deemed to have failed overall. Such students may apply to repeat the year or may be awarded the associated Postgraduate Diploma.

Students who have passed taught modules according to the above, but who do not choose to complete the dissertation, may be awarded the associated Postgraduate Diploma.

Students can qualify for the award of Masters with Distinction in line with Calendar part 3 regulations. A distinction shall require at least 70% in the research dissertation and at least 70% in the final aggregated mark of the taught modules.

The final mark is based on a credit-weighted average of the mark awarded in each module.

## Plagiarism and Referencing Guide

It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work and ideas of others. It is commonly accepted also, however, that we build on the work and ideas of others in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the work or ideas of others as one's own, without due acknowledgement. Plagiarism can arise from deliberate actions and also through careless thinking and/or methodology. The offence lies not in the attitude or intention of the perpetrator, but in the action and in its consequences. It is the responsibility of the author of any work to ensure that he/she does not commit plagiarism. Plagiarism is considered to be academically fraudulent, and an offence against academic integrity that is subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University.

Plagiarism can arise from actions such as:

- a) copying another student's work;
- b) enlisting another person or persons to complete an assignment on the student's behalf;
- c) procuring, whether with payment or otherwise, the work or ideas of another;
- d) quoting directly, without acknowledgement, from books, articles or other sources, either in printed, recorded or electronic format, including websites and social media;
- e) paraphrasing, without acknowledgement, the writings of other authors.

Examples (d) and (e) in particular can arise through careless thinking and/or methodology where students:

- (i) fail to distinguish between their own ideas and those of others;
- (ii) fail to take proper notes during preliminary research and therefore lose track of the sources from which the notes were drawn;
- (iii) fail to distinguish between information which needs no acknowledgement because it is firmly in the public domain, and information which might be widely known, but which nevertheless requires some sort of acknowledgement;
- (iv) come across a distinctive methodology or idea and fail to record its source. All the above serve only as examples and are not exhaustive.

### **Plagiarism in the context of group work**

Students should normally submit work done in co-operation with other students only when it is done with the full knowledge and permission of the lecturer concerned. Without this, submitting work which is the product of collusion with other students may be considered to be plagiarism. When work is submitted as

the result of a Group Project, it is the responsibility of all students in the Group to ensure, so far as is possible, that no work submitted by the group is plagiarised.

### **Self-Plagiarism**

No work can normally be submitted for more than one assessment for credit. Resubmitting the same work for more than one assessment for credit is normally considered selfplagiarism.

### **Avoiding Plagiarism**

Students should ensure the integrity of their work by seeking advice from their lecturers, tutor or supervisor on avoiding plagiarism. All schools and departments must include, in their handbooks or other literature given to students, guidelines on the appropriate methodology for the kind of work that students will be expected to undertake. In addition, a general set of guidelines for students on avoiding plagiarism is available at <http://tcdie.libguides.com/plagiarism>

If plagiarism as referred to in paragraph (1) above is suspected, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) or his/her designate will arrange an informal meeting with the student, the student's Supervisor and/or the academic staff member concerned, to put their suspicions to the student and give the student the opportunity to respond. Students may nominate a Graduate Students' Union representative or PG advisor to accompany them to the meeting. The student will be requested to respond in writing stating his/her agreement to attend such a meeting and confirming on which of the suggested dates and times it will be possible for them to attend. If the student does not in this manner agree to attend such a meeting, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), or designate, may refer the case directly to the Junior Dean, who will interview the student and may implement the procedures as referred to in Section 5 (Other General Regulations).

If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) forms the view that plagiarism has taken place, he/she must decide if the offence can be dealt with under the summary procedure set out below. In order for this summary procedure to be followed, all parties noted above must be in agreement and must state their agreement in writing to the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) or designate. If one of the parties to the informal meeting withholds his/her written agreement to the application of the summary procedure, or if the facts of the case are in dispute, or if the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) feels that the penalties provided for under the summary procedure below are inappropriate given the circumstances of the case, he/she will refer the case directly to the Junior Dean.

If the offence can be dealt with under the summary procedure, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will recommend one of the following penalties:

**Level 1:** Student receives an informal verbal warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. The student is required to rephrase and correctly reference all plagiarised elements. Other content should not be altered. The resubmitted work will be assessed and marked without penalty;

**Level 2:** Student receives a formal written warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. The student is required to rephrase and correctly reference all plagiarised elements. Other content should not be altered. The resubmitted work will receive a reduced or capped mark depending on the seriousness/extent of plagiarism;

**Level 3:** Student receives a formal written warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. There is no opportunity for resubmission.

Provided that the appropriate procedure has been followed and all parties in (6) above are in agreement with the proposed penalty, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) should in the case of a Level 1 offence, inform the Course Director and, where appropriate, the Course Office. In the case of a Level 2 or Level 3 offence, the Dean of Graduate Studies must be notified and requested to approve the recommended penalty. The Dean of Graduate Studies may approve or reject the recommended penalty, or seek further information before making a decision. If he/she considers that the penalties provided for under the summary procedure are inappropriate given the circumstances of the case, he/she may also refer the matter directly to the Junior Dean who will interview the student and may implement the procedures as referred to under conduct and college. Notwithstanding his/her decision, the Dean of Graduate Studies will inform the Junior Dean of all notified cases of Level 2 and Level 3 offences accordingly. The Junior Dean may nevertheless implement the procedures as set out in Section 5 (Other General Regulations).

If the case cannot normally be dealt with under summary procedures, it is deemed to be a Level 4 offence and will be referred directly to the Junior Dean. Nothing provided for under the summary procedure diminishes or prejudices the disciplinary powers of the Junior Dean under the 2010 Consolidated Statutes.

#### Plagiarism Declaration

Each coversheet that is attached to submitted work should contain the following completed declaration:

"I have read and I understand the plagiarism provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for the current year, found at <http://www.tcd.ie/calendar>.

I have also completed the Online Tutorial on avoiding plagiarism 'Ready Steady Write', located at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write>."

Please refer to your relevant School/ Department for the format of essay submission coversheets.

The College plagiarism policy can be downloaded here: <http://www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning/assets/pdf/PlagPolicy02-06-2016.pdf> and the College Calendar here: <https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/graduate-studies-higher-degrees/introduction-and-general-regulations.pdf>

## ECTS

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is an academic credit system based on the estimated student workload required to achieve the objectives of a module or programme of study. It is designed to enable academic recognition for periods of study, to facilitate student mobility and credit accumulation and transfer. The ECTS is the recommended credit system for higher education in Ireland and across the European Higher Education Area. The ECTS weighting for a module is a measure of the student input or workload required for that module, based on factors such as the number of contact hours, the number and length of written or verbally presented assessment exercises, class preparation and private study time, laboratory classes, examinations, clinical attendance, professional training placements, and so on as appropriate. There is no intrinsic relationship between the credit volume of a module and its level of difficulty. The European norm for fulltime study over one academic year is 60 credits. 1 credit represents 20-25 hours estimated student input, so a 10-credit module will be designed to require 200-250 hours of student input including class contact time, assessments and examinations. ECTS credits are awarded to a student only upon successful completion of the programme year. Progression from one year to the next is determined by the programme regulations. Students who fail a year of their programme will not obtain credit for that year even if they have passed certain component. Exceptions to this rule are one-year and part-year visiting students, who are awarded credit for individual modules successfully completed.

## Programme Structure and Workload

### **PhD in Philosophy**

**All research postgraduates are required to participate in the weekly Postgraduate Work-in-Progress Seminars, in which each student presents at least one paper over the course of the year, and the weekly Departmental Colloquiums which host visiting speakers.**

#### **The First Year**

In the first year of the PhD programme, students are required to take four modules, at least one but no more than two at UCD (with reciprocal rules applying to UCD students). To achieve the expansion of resources, rather than duplication, both institutions will endeavour to provide modules that do not significantly overlap in content. Students are free to audit classes at either institution. Students' choice should be in accordance with their research interests in consultation with their supervisor and are meant to provide a solid grounding in research methods at the postgraduate level in various areas of philosophy. Courses offered will be listed at the start of each academic year. The courses are each worth 10 ECTS units; they are meant to supplement independent work with the supervisor.

Students who perform well subject to the discretion of the departmental Graduate Committee achieving a sufficient average mark in their course work (on average 65% or above), are invited to stay on the PhD programme; those who do not wish to stay on the PhD programme along with those who have not met the criteria may leave the programme with an MLitt degree by thesis. Both institutions operate their own grading systems but will put in place a table of equivalences between the two.

Students will be required to write one substantial essay (3,000-4,000 words) or the equivalent, in each of the four modules. Taught course modules will be delivered in first two semesters and consist of a two-hourly seminar per week. The year will be divided into two 11-week semesters. It is recognized that both institutions cooperate under different academic calendars: there is no requirement of harmonization.

The number of staff participating in the programme will be determined each year in advance by the head of programme, drawing on both departments.

## The Second Year

The second year for students staying on the PhD programme is designed to prepare them for writing the PhD thesis. In this year, each student works closely with his or her supervisor. Each student is required to: (1) write a detailed thesis proposal (approximately 3,000 words) and bibliography; (2) write a sample chapter or extended piece of work connected to their research (approximately 10,000 words); (3) and prepare for the PhD confirmation interview which will take place in the spring based on his/her dissertation proposal, bibliography and sample chapter. (See “Confirmation of the Continuation on the PhD register” below).

Students passing the PhD confirmation interview will have only the PhD thesis to complete in order to earn the PhD. Students deemed unsuccessful on the PhD confirmation interview or who may wish to exit the programme at this stage may be awarded an **MLitt** degree based on their first-year results and the successful completion of a sample chapter (10,000 words or higher). Alternatively, students deemed unsuccessful in the PhD confirmation interview may choose to revise the work for (2) and (3) above and retake the PhD confirmation interview at the end of the summer of the second year.

It is expected that students will be in a position to submit the PhD thesis (maximum 100,000 words) within two years after successful completion of the PhD confirmation interview. Specific guidelines for submission procedure of the thesis can be found in the Calendar and below.

Students passing the PhD confirmation interview will have only the PhD thesis to complete in order to earn the PhD. Students deemed unsuccessful on the PhD confirmation interview or who may wish to exit the programme at this stage may be awarded an **MLitt** degree based on their first-year results and the successful completion of a sample chapter (10,000 words or higher). Alternatively, students deemed unsuccessful in the PhD confirmation interview may choose to revise the work for (2) and (3) above and retake the PhD confirmation interview at the end of the summer of the second year.

It is expected that students will be in a position to submit the PhD thesis (maximum 100,000 words) within two years after successful completion of the PhD confirmation interview. Specific guidelines for submission procedure of the thesis can be found in the Calendar and below.

## **Confirmation on the PhD Register**

It is recommended that students confirm the continuation on the PhD register in their second year. This process of academic assessment represents an important step in a student's postgraduate education involving a serious commitment by both the department and the student.

In order to begin the process of being confirmed on the PhD Register, students must ensure that they have fulfilled all course work requirements. These requirements relate to the aspects of the PhD Program as laid out in the previous section on the 'Structure of the Course'. Students who have not received an average 65% marks on their course work, or who have course work outstanding, will not be considered for progression onto the PhD Register.

Components of the confirmation process

Students should submit:

- 1) A written chapter-length document (approximately 10,000 words) on a theme or topic agreed with their supervisor
- 2) A one page synopsis stating how this chapter fits into the overall thesis
- 3) A detailed thesis proposal (3,000 words) and bibliography

Students should submit three copies to the Executive Officer Sarah Smullen, and submit the materials electronically to both the Executive Office and the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). Candidates will be interviewed by the confirmation committee. Candidates who were unsuccessful, may be permitted to submit a revised research proposal for consideration by the confirmation panel the following September.

The deadlines for submissions will be announced at the beginning of the academic year by the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). Interviews will take place around a month after submission.

### **The PhD confirmation panel**

The work will be considered by a PhD Confirmation Panel. The confirmation panel shall consist of at least the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), as required in Calendar Part 2 Section 2.13, as well as a second member appointed by the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) on the basis of his or her acknowledged expertise in the subject area of the student's research (or in a cognate field). Members of the confirmation panel may be drawn only from academic staff eligible to supervise (see Calendar Part. 2, Section 2.9).

In the case where the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) is also the student's supervisor, the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) may appoint a nominee to chair the panel,

subject to confirmation and approval by the School Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate).

The supervisor shall not be a member of the confirmation panel but will attend the interview. He/she withdraws at the same time as the student.

### **The PhD Confirmation Interview**

The PhD confirmation interview shall consist of a *viva voce* type examination of the student in front of the PhD confirmation panel. In addition, it is expected that the supervisor (and co-supervisors) should be present at the PhD confirmation interview. The supervisor's attendance at the PhD confirmation interview ensures that he or she is aware of the confirmation panel's critique of the student's work.

The decision as to when and where to hold confirmation interviews will be determined by each department and organized by the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate).

### PhD Confirmation Interview Outcomes

Following the confirmation interview, the confirmation panel will deliberate without the student or the supervisor present, and will decide on one of the following outcomes:

- (a) Continuation on the PhD register
- (b) Continuation on the PhD register after some minor changes have been made to the PhD confirmation report
- (c) Continuation on the PhD register not recommended at this time: a new report to be written and a new PhD confirmation interview to be held, as soon as possible thereafter
- (d) A recommendation to change to the MLitt register to submit a MLitt thesis, or
- (e) Not to continue as a postgraduate research student.

Written feedback will be provided as soon as possible following the PhD confirmation interview in all cases.

In the case of (a) the supervisor and the student will be notified that a continuation on the PhD register has been approved as soon as possible following the PhD continuation interview. The departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) and the student will then complete the transfer form and return it to the School Director.

In the case of any outcome other than (a), the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will prepare a written report providing feedback to the student from the PhD confirmation interview. In the case of (b) or (c), this report shall consist of changes required or suggested for the student to address

in revising the PhD continuation report. In the case of (d) or (e), the report shall briefly outline the reasons why the student's PhD continuation's application was rejected by the panel. In the case where external examiners participate in the PhD confirmation panel, the chair of the PhD confirmation panel may request that the external examiner prepare these reports. These reports shall be returned to the student and his or her supervisor within two days following the viva, unless extraordinary circumstances prohibit the completion of the report within this deadline.

### **Appeals**

Students have the right to appeal the decision of the PhD confirmation or of decisions made to deny their confirmation on the basis of criteria other than the PhD confirmation. Appeals shall be requested in writing to the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). The departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), following consultation with the Dean of Graduate Studies, will appoint an appeals committee consisting of him/herself, a member of the student's department with some knowledge of the research area, and a member from another department. Members of the appeal committee will not have served on the confirmation panel. The appeals committee will be supplied with the student's original PhD confirmation or transfer report, the panel chair's report explaining the decision being appealed, and the student's written appeal request.

Appeals will be considered only if regulations covering the PhD confirmation process were applied unfairly or improperly to the student.

It shall not be within the remit of the appeals committees to reconsider the academic basis for the decisions made by the PhD confirmation or transfer panels.

Appeals committees will either reject the student's appeal or may recommend a different outcome (such as option (c)). Following the appeal panel, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will prepare a written report which will be forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies and communicated as well directly to the student and his or her supervisor.

### **Progress Reports, Extensions, and Withdrawals**

#### **Progress Reports**

Separate to the processing for confirmation on the PhD register, the department reviews the work of each postgraduate student from the third year onward. The content of the progress reports will have a particular bearing upon the department's attitude to any request for an extension of the deadline for submission of the thesis and continuation beyond year four.

All registered postgraduate students are required by the Graduate Studies Office

to fill out this form at the end of each academic year; i.e. the end of October for students who registered in October and the end of April for those who registered in April.

Forms may be found from the Graduate Studies website at:

<https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/assets/pdf/progress-report-2018.pdf>

Copies of this form should be returned to the Head of Department, and, in instances where the Head of Department is the student's supervisor, to the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). Forms should be submitted by the end of December each year at the latest.

At the end of each academic year students will briefly discuss their progress with an interview panel delegated by the department. Any advice and recommendations of the supervisor, the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), and/or other staff will be communicated directly to each student concerned.

### **Request for extension**

Request for continuation on the research register beyond year 3 for the M.Litt and beyond year 5 for the PhD must be requested in writing by the Departmental Postgraduate coordinator to the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), who will forward the request to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

### **Withdrawing from the Programme**

If for some reason a student opts to withdraw from the M.Litt/PhD programme at any stage they must immediately inform in writing a) their supervisor b) the director of graduate studies and c) the Graduate Studies Office.

Request for the "Dean's Grace" extension

A "Dean's Grace" extension for one month (free of fees) to submit a thesis or dissertation may be requested from the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Requests for the Dean's Grace should be made by the student's supervisor to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Requests for the Dean's Grace should be made prior to the deadline of the student's annual registration.

Submitting and Defending the Thesis

When the thesis is complete it is submitted to the College (Graduate Studies) for examination. Regulations governing the formatting and submission of research theses may be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at:

<https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/graduate-studies-higher-degrees/2016-17/complete-part-III.pdf#page=58>

Students submit both MLitt and PhD theses directly to the Graduate Studies Office.

The thesis is read by an internal examiner who will be a member of the department other than the supervisor, whose job will be to evaluate the thesis in the context of its contribution to the profession as a whole, and by an external examiner from another institution, who has detailed professional knowledge of the thesis topic and whose job will be to provide an expert assessment of this.

It is the full responsibility of the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), who will consult with the candidate's supervisor, to choose the external examiner of the thesis in order to maintain the objectivity of the examination process. Clearly, students may have views on who is best to serve as external examiner and they are thus encouraged to discuss this with their supervisors well in advance of the date of final submission; their supervisors will then discuss the matter with the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) who will make the final decision. In no circumstances are any students to approach and ask potential external examiners of their willingness to serve on the examination committee.

Once both the internal and external examiners have read the thesis, an oral (or *viva voce*) examination will be held generally around 12 weeks after the thesis has been submitted to Graduate Studies. The examination should last about two hours and the internal and external examiners may ask questions on any aspect of the thesis and the theme(s) with which it deals. The role of a supervisor in the oral examination, if present, is to act as an observer and not to act as an examiner. The *viva voce* is chaired by the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) or his/her nominee.

Examination of the thesis examiners will result in one of the following:

- The thesis passes as it stands;
- The thesis passes after minor corrections have been made (the internal examiner must certify that these corrections have been made before the final thesis is submitted and the degree awarded);
- The thesis must be revised in a more major way, and then be submitted for re-examination; (in this event the examination procedures outlined above will be repeated);
- A lesser degree (such as a Master's) should be awarded;
- The thesis should fail outright.

## **General Responsibilities**

### **Responsibilities of supervisors**

A supervisor must be accessible to the student for academic help and advice during the progress of the research and the final preparation of the thesis. The supervisor will negotiate and monitor a timetable for the submission of work. Supervisors will do everything they can to provide careful analysis and constructive criticism of all work submitted to them within an agreed period of

time, and to make themselves available, when feasible, for discussions with students.

### **Responsibilities of the research student**

The research student must keep in contact with his or her supervisor and inform him or her on the progress of the research. The student should meet the supervisors for discussions, submit written work and perform other academic exercises (for example, attending and contributing to the Departmental Colloquiums on Monday evenings) according to the timetable negotiated with the supervisors.

Students should also present their work at least once per year at the Graduate Work-in-Progress Seminars.

Students should inform their supervisors as early as possible of anything that might affect their ability to complete an agreed programme of work on schedule, rather than bringing problems to the department at only a late stage. The essential point to remember is that the department is on the side of its postgraduate students in relation to almost any problem that might arise, and will do everything possible to help, given good notice and the information necessary to do so.

During your time as PhD, or MLitt, student it is strongly advised that, in consultation with your supervisor, you attend and present at conferences, look towards publishing papers, and otherwise engage with the philosophical community in Trinity, Ireland, and further afield. The level of this involvement will depend on many factors, and no general level can be advised. For this reason, your supervisor will advise on your progress both in writing the PhD thesis and your development of a portfolio of work that will improve post-graduation career prospects.

### **Resolving problems**

Although rare, problems may arise between adviser, supervisor and student. In these cases it is important for students to know what to do. In the first instance, of course, student and adviser or supervisor should meet informally to discuss the problem and attempt to resolve it in a balanced manner.

If an informal discussion of problems fails to find a solution, then the student should write a letter to the adviser or supervisor setting out the problem in more formal terms, and send a copy of this letter to the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). In exceptional circumstances, a student may be unwilling to commit such problems to paper, in which case a meeting should be sought with the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). If the adviser or supervisor is still unable to offer a resolution of the problems set out in the letter from the student, then the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will meet both individually and attempt to

negotiate a solution. If the student is unwilling to accept the solution offered by the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), then there is no alternative but to take the matter up with the Dean of Graduate Studies and implement the procedures set out in Part 2 of the University *Calendar*.

### **The MPhil in Philosophy**

This is a one-year full-time, or two-year part-time, course, incorporating both taught and research components, providing the foundation for advanced research in philosophy.

The Trinity MPhil in Philosophy offers the foundation for advanced research in philosophy. Students are given in-depth courses in philosophical methodology, core areas of contemporary philosophy, the Anglo-American and Modern European traditions and the application of contemporary scholarship to key historical figures. Students will also write a dissertation on a topic of their choice in consultation with the course director and their supervisor.

MPhil in Philosophy students take six taught modules, worth 60 ECTS, which work together to form an integrated foundation for cutting-edge contemporary philosophical research.

In addition, students write a dissertation, not exceeding 15,000 words, which should be submitted no later than 23 August. The research dissertation, which counts for 30 ECTS, is the crux of the MPhil programme with students receiving one-to-one supervisory support from an academic supervisor in the student's chosen field. Supervision will normally be given by full-time staff of the Department of Philosophy.

Taught modules may change from one year to the next depending on staff availability. The following modules will be offered in 2018/19:

- Introduction to Philosophical Research
- Contemporary Analytical Philosophy
- Modern European Philosophy
- Metaphysics
- Berkeley and Idealism
- Ethics
- Dissertation

### **Assessment**

The pass mark for all submitted and examined work is 40%. There is no compensation between modules and within modules where there is more than one assignment component. A failed essay can be re-submitted once within a

month after the date of result publication. Further information on assessment can be found at the following link:

<https://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/postgraduate/MPhil/assessment/>

### Coursework Requirements

PhD students in first year will be required to write one substantial essay (3,000-4,000 words). Students should confirm the essay title with their lecturer.

MPhil students will be required to submit an assignment for each of the taught modules at the end of each term. The MPhil dissertation is due by 3pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.

### Assessment Guidelines

Information on assessment guidelines can be found at the following link:

<https://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/postgraduate/MPhil/assessment/>

### Progression Regulations

For College progression regulations please reference the College Calendar at: <http://www.tcd.ie/calendar/graduate-studies-higher-degrees/introduction-and-general-regulations.pdf>

### Publication of Results

Publication of results take place on dates as specified and agreed by the Programme Committee and are advised under 'Key Dates' of the Handbook and on the programme name website. Results are published to your Student Portal my.tcd.ie.

### Transcripts

Transcript requests may be made by emailing [philosophy@tcd.ie](mailto:philosophy@tcd.ie). Please mention your student number and course when requesting a transcript.

Transcripts are never issued to a third party, such as a parent or prospective employer without the consent of the person named on the transcript.

### Awards

The Department offers two research graduate degrees in philosophy, the MLitt in Philosophy and the PhD in Philosophy. The Department offers one taught graduate degree in philosophy, the MPhil in Philosophy. Students are awarded a Masters degree or a Postgraduate Diploma. Please see Programme Architecture (page 15) and Programme Structure and Workload (page 20) for further information.

### Careers Information

Information on careers in Philosophy can be found at the following link:

[https://www.tcd.ie/Careers/students/advice/postgraduate\\_study.php](https://www.tcd.ie/Careers/students/advice/postgraduate_study.php)

### External Examiners

For the PhD in Philosophy, it is the full responsibility of the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), who will consult with the candidate's supervisor, to choose the external examiner of the thesis in order to maintain the objectivity of the examination process.

Professor Robin Le Poidevin (University of Leeds) is the External Examiner for the MPhil in Philosophy.

## Module Descriptors & Compulsory Reading List

### PhD in Philosophy First Year TCD Modules:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Optional/ Approved Modules (10 ECTS)</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
PI8002	<a href="#">Ancient Philosophy</a>	10
PI8003	<a href="#">Philosophy of Language</a>	10
PI8004	<a href="#">Post Kantian Philosophy</a>	10
PI8005	<a href="#">Metaphysics</a>	10
PI8006	<a href="#">Neurophilosophy</a>	10
PI8007	<a href="#">Political Philosophy</a>	10
PI8008	<a href="#">Early Modern Philosophy of Language</a>	10
PI8009	<a href="#">Ethics, The Limits of Morality</a>	10
PI8010	<a href="#">Philosophy of Mind</a>	10

### MPhil in Philosophy Modules:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Mandatory Modules (10 ECTS)</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
PI7101	<a href="#">Introduction to Philosophical Research</a>	10
PI7102	<a href="#">Contemporary Analytical Philosophy</a>	10
PI7103	<a href="#">Modern European Philosophy</a>	10
PI7104	<a href="#">Metaphysics</a>	10
PI7105	<a href="#">Berkeley and Idealism</a>	10
PI7106	<a href="#">Ethics</a>	10
<b>Code</b>	<b>Mandatory Modules (30 ECTS)</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
PI8100	<a href="#">Dissertation</a>	30

## University Regulations

Please reference the links below for College regulations, policies and procedures:

- Academic Policies - <http://www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning/academic-policies/>
- Student Complaints Procedure - [https://www.tcd.ie/about/policies/160722\\_Student%20Complaints%20Procedure\\_PUB.pdf](https://www.tcd.ie/about/policies/160722_Student%20Complaints%20Procedure_PUB.pdf)
- Dignity and Respect Policy- <https://www.tcd.ie/equality/policy/dignity-respect-policy/>

## Feedback and Evaluation

### School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Evaluation of courses and their constituent modules is an important component of College's commitment towards improving the quality of teaching and the support of learning. To this end, all postgraduate programmes that are taught by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy are evaluated on a yearly basis using an online survey. The survey is anonymous and the results are used in reviewing and improving aspects of each programme and its delivery.

## Section 4 –Prizes

### Prizes, medals and other scholarships and funding

A range of funding opportunities are open to postgraduate students, and the department makes every effort to secure funding for students accepted on to the programme. Some of these opportunities are identified below and further details are available from the websites listed. This is only a partial list; further funding opportunities may arise (such as funding for PhD students associated with particular research projects), or be available from sources not listed here.

See <https://www.tcd.ie/study/postgraduate/scholarships-funding/> for more general information on internal funding available through Trinity.

#### **Irish Research Council**

The Research Council invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for Postgraduate Scholarships in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Law and Business Studies. They should already be, or about to become, registered in a recognised third-level institution as full-time postgraduate research students pursuing a research master's or PhD.

Please see <http://research.ie/funding-category/postgraduate/> for more details and the full eligibility criteria.

#### **Ussher Fellowships**

Ussher Fellowships are available to new entrants to the full-time PhD course for entry in September and/or the following March of the same academic year (e.g. September 2017 and/or March 2018). The Fellowships aim to support and develop gifted research students. They are awarded competitively on academic merit. The fellowship is unrelated to teaching.

The Fellowship fully covers EU and non-EU fees and provides an annual maintenance of €13,000 for three years.

Applications for Ussher Fellowships are made in conjunction with your PhD application.

#### **Postgraduate Research Studentships**

Postgraduate studentships are available to new entrants as well as continuing students on the full-time PhD register for entry in September and/or the following March of the same academic year (e.g. September 2018 and/or March 2019). The postgraduate Studentships aim to support and develop gifted research students. They are awarded competitively on academic merit.

The postgraduate studentship fully covers EU or non-EU fee and an annual maintenance of €6,500 for three years. The holder of a postgraduate studentship is required to engage in teaching-related activities, as advised by the appropriate Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) or his/her nominee, to a

maximum of 6 hours per week in teaching term. Postgraduate studentships cannot continue beyond the fourth year on the PhD register.

Incoming students should apply for this funding in conjunction with their PhD application, online through [www.tcd.ie/courses](http://www.tcd.ie/courses)

Continuing students: Should additional funding be available the School will advertise these awards. Students would be required to submit a sample work, curriculum vitae, research outline, two references and statement of when they intend to submit their thesis.

### **Additional Funding Opportunities**

Each year 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 a teaching assistant by approaching the Head of Department. Heads of Department may also request directly postgraduate students to serve as teaching assistants, especially if such duties are required as a condition of a financial award.

The Trinity Career Advisory service also maintains a list of additional potential postgraduate funding. Please see:

[http://www.tcd.ie/Careers/resources/postgraduate\\_funding.php](http://www.tcd.ie/Careers/resources/postgraduate_funding.php)

### **Funding for conference travel**

The Department will consider requests for funding for conferences on a case-by-case basis. Requests should be made in writing to the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) stating the name, date, and location of the conference, and whether a paper is to be presented at the conference. Decisions on funding will be made in consultation with the Head of Department.

Additionally, the Graduate Studies Office offers a [Trinity Trust Travel Grant](https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/students/research/) (see <https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/students/research/>).

### **Extraordinary funding requests**

Under extraordinary circumstances, students may make a written appeal to the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) outlining their need and request for tuition or some portion of tuition. These requests will be considered by the Head of Department.

## Section 5 –Philosophical Events in Dublin

### **Postgraduate Work-in-Progress Seminars**

The Postgraduate Work-in-Progress Seminars occur weekly. It is a forum for postgraduate students to discuss philosophical topics or work in progress.

The meetings take place Tuesdays and alternate between locations at TCD and UCD. All research students are required to present at least once per academic year at these work-in-progress seminars.

### **Trinity College Philosophy Colloquiums**

Most Mondays in term the Philosophy Department hosts a Visiting Speaker [Research Colloquium](#) in which postgraduate students are required 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 postgraduate students.

### **Donnellan Lectures**

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

### **The Plato Centre**

The Plato Centre organises and directs a variety of activities in the area of the history of Platonism and contemporary philosophy in the Platonist tradition. Please see <https://www.tcd.ie/plato/> for more details on their events.

### **Royal Irish Academy**

The Committee for Philosophy of the [Royal Irish Academy](#) brings together representatives from all the philosophy departments in Ireland and hosts a number of conferences. Keynote speakers have been Alasdair MacIntyre, Hilary Putnam, Stephen Stich, and Jonathan Glover.

### **Irish Philosophical Club**

[The Irish Philosophical Club](#) meets once a year at Ballymascanlon near Dundalk, 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, Fraser MacBride, Alex Miller and Robert Stern.