School of Social Science and Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY
Postgraduate Handbook
2017–2018
Contents

About the Department ............................................................................................................. 3
Contacts ................................................................................................................................... 4
Research Degrees ................................................................................................................... 5
   Applications .......................................................................................................................... 5
   Structure of the Course ......................................................................................................... 7
   Confirmation on the PhD Register ......................................................................................... 9
   Progress Reports, Extensions, and Withdrawals .............................................................. 13
   Submitting and Defending the Thesis .................................................................................. 15
   Funding ............................................................................................................................... 17
   General Responsibilities ..................................................................................................... 20
Taught Degrees ...................................................................................................................... 22
Philosophical Events in Dublin ............................................................................................. 25
Facilities for Postgraduate Students ..................................................................................... 26

Disclaimer
Please note that the General Regulations have primacy over departmental handbook information. Always consult the College Calendar for accuracy.

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.
The Department of 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 2016).

A list of current staff and their research interests is available from http://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/people/
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Graduate Studies in Philosophy (Research)

The Department offers two research graduate degrees in philosophy, the M.Litt in Philosophy and the PhD in Philosophy.

Applications

All students must formally apply online through the links on this page:

http://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/postgraduate/phd-programme/apply/

Applicants to the PhD programme must submit the following materials:

- Application form
- Curriculum Vitae
- Transcripts of all academic results to date
- Copies of degree certificates
- Two academic references
- Typed research proposal (of approximately 1,500 words)
- A writing sample of chapter length (approximately 10,000 words)
- A recognised certificate of English Language Competency if English is not your first language
- Application fee

The initial deadline for applications is normally in 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 staff will have been filled. Please check the website for precise information about deadlines relevant to the year of application.

You are strongly advised to contact a potential supervisor prior to applying for a research degree course. Successful application will be dependent on the agreement of a supervisor to supervise on an agreed topic.

Please consult the departmental website to see a list of research areas for our staff members.

What are the Entry Requirements?

Acceptance to do postgraduate work in philosophy at Trinity depends upon a number of factors:
(a) The quality of an applicant’s undergraduate degree. In practice this means obtaining a very good 2.1 or first class honours degree (or equivalent) in philosophy, or in the philosophy segment of the applicant’s first degree

(b) The viability and originality of the research proposal

(c) The strength of the applicant’s academic references

(d) The quality of the applicant’s writing sample

(e) The ability of the department of supervise the intended research
Structure of the Course

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 M.Litt 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.

All research postgraduates are required to participate in regular PG Workshops, in which each PG 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 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 7.5 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 M.Litt 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 normally take place in December 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 M.Litt 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 requirement 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 on 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, 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 later in the academic year.

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 M.Litt register to submit a M.Litt 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/Graduate_Studies/education-policy/academic-standing/progress-reports/

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 4 for the PhD must be requested in writing by the Departmental 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 is automatically applied at the end of year 4 of the PhD programme. Any extensions beyond this point must be applied for via the procedure above.
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/Graduate_Studies/education-policy/academic-standing/thesis-submission-regulations/

Students submit both M.Litt 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.

In the case of a Ph.D. thesis the examiners may propose that (i) the degree be awarded for the thesis as it stands, (ii) the degree be awarded for the thesis subject to minor corrections, for which two months are allowed from the time
of notification, (iii) the thesis be referred for major revision and subsequent re-
examination, for which six months are normally allowed from the time of 
notification, (iv) a lower degree be awarded, if necessary following minor 
corrections to the thesis or (v) the thesis be failed. A thesis may only be 
referred for major revision once: in other words, option (iii) above is not 
available to examiners on re-submission. 
Please see the College Calendar for information about appealing the decision 
of a viva voce exam. Appeals will be entertained only in cases amounting to a 
reasonable claim that the examination was unfair.
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/Graduate_Studies/students/prospective/awards/ 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://www.research.ie/funding-opportunities 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 2017 and/or March 2018). 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

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

**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 (see https://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies/students/funding/travel-grants).

**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.
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 Colloquia 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 M.Litt, 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.
Graduate Studies in Philosophy (Taught)

The Department offers one taught graduate degrees in philosophy, the M.Phil 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 M.Phil 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.

Applications

An undergraduate degree at 2.1 or above (or equivalent) in philosophy is the normal requirement, but applicants who can demonstrate a strong philosophy component in their degree in a different discipline will be considered on a case by case basis.

To apply, applicants must provide:

- Two academic references (or where appropriate clinical referees)
- A sample of work in support of your application
- Academic transcript(s) which must be certified by the issuing body:
  - Certified copy of degree certificate(s)
  - A recognised certificate of English Language Competency if English is not your first language

Full details can be found here:

http://www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/postgraduate/MPhil/

Course Structure

The M.Phil in Philosophy incorporates both taught and research components. 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 31 August. The research dissertation, which counts for 30 ECTS, is the crux of the M.Phil 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 2017/18:

- Introduction to Philosophical Research
- Contemporary Analytical Philosophy
- Modern European Philosophy
- Metaphysics
- Ancient Philosophy
- 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.

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.
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.
Facilities for Postgraduate Students

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.