PhD Studentship in Twentieth-Century Irish History

Applications are invited for a fully-funded PhD studentship in twentieth-century Irish history to commence in September 2024.

The studentship will be based in the Department of History, School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin. The successful applicant will work on an Irish Research Council-funded collaborative research project entitled ‘Witnessing war, making peace: testimonies of revolution and restraint in inter-war Ireland’ led by Dr Anne Dolan.

The PhD studentship will consist of EU fees and a stipend of €22,000 p.a. for four years. There is an additional budget for research expenses connected to the project.

The Project:
Despite a war of independence (1919-21) and civil war (1922-23), Ireland’s experience of violence was relatively restrained compared to much of inter-war Europe; it returned to stability remarkably quickly. This project asks why, and in doing so, it will establish new paradigms for exploring the history of violence and pioneer the history of a much less considered phenomenon – restraint. Scholarship on conflict has traditionally privileged the experiences of victims and combatants, this project will instead draw on the testimony of those who have been largely overlooked: the ordinary men and women who lived through Ireland’s wars, and the project will explore how they negotiated their ways from conflict to peace.

The Studentship:
The PhD studentship will undertake a key strand of the project, exploring how and why peaceful conditions were established so relatively quickly in an Irish context during the inter-war period. To achieve this the PhD will explore how men and women navigated their move from a period of conflict to peace.
This might be achieved by exploring the interactions of Irish people with key institutions across the island in the inter-war period. For example, the PhD might engage with archives such as the Military Service Pension Collection to investigate the process and mechanisms by which veterans and their families negotiated their relationship with the new Irish state, but there is scope to develop various approaches to the project using a wide range of sources.

The deadline for applications is 5.00pm on 16 August 2024. Applications should be emailed to pghishum@tcd.ie

Applications should consist of the following:

- A brief cover letter
- A personal statement outlining approaches you might take to the PhD (max. 2 pages)
- A brief curriculum vitae, with educational history, and transcripts of degree results
- The names and contact details of two academic referees.
The successful candidate will make a formal application to TCD via the my.tcd.ie portal and will be issued with a formal offer in the same manner as other incoming PhD student.

Trinity College Dublin is committed to policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff and student body. Trinity’s Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement.

For further details of the project or any inquiries contact Dr Anne Dolan at adolan@tcd.ie