

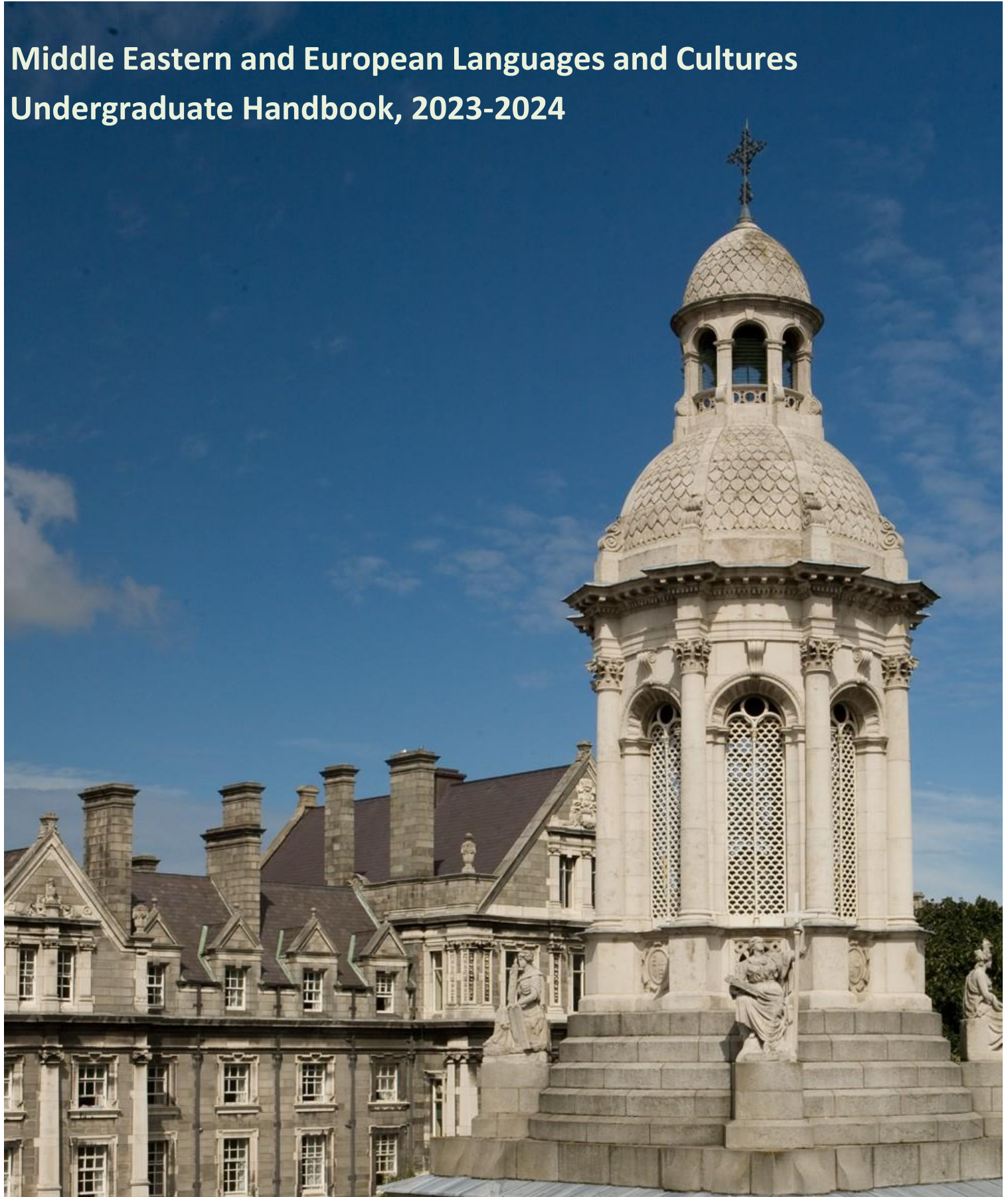


Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures Undergraduate Handbook, 2023-2024



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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

(i) Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures (MEELC)

The degree in *Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures* gives you a unique opportunity to study a language of the Middle East (Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish) combined with a European language (French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, or Polish). You further learn about the history, culture and literature of the two languages and their societies, developing a deeper understanding of both the Middle East and Europe.

The skills and in-depth knowledge acquired in this course prepare you to engage critically with, and contribute to, current discussions about the cultures, histories and religious affairs and of the Middle East and their relationship with European societies, as well as Europe's millennia-long history of engagement with this region.

(ii) This Handbook

This Handbook provides information about the MEELC teaching staff, assessment, and about the academic programme for the first (Junior Freshman), second (Senior Freshman) and fourth (Senior Sophister) years. The Year Abroad Handbook (available online separately) enables students to plan the third (Junior Sophister) year abroad.

The Handbook for the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies can be accessed at: <https://www.tcd.ie/langs-lits-cultures/index.php>

(iii) MEELC Staff

The MEELC degree comprises a wide range of modules drawn from departments across SLLCS, plus some created specially for MEELC (those whose code starts with MLU). The academic staff teaching on the programme are normally based in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies (SLLCS).

The Director of MEELC is Dr Martin Worthington (worthinm@tcd.ie).

Every SLLCS Dept involved in MEELC has a dedicated MEELC officer. In 2023-2024 these are:

French	Prof Edward Arnold
Italian	Prof. Clodagh Brook
German	Prof Mary Cosgrove MT Prof Clemens Ruthner HT
Spanish	Prof Catherine Barbour

NMES	Prof Maya Petrovich
Russian and Polish	Prof Balasz Apor

The first port of call for queries relating to specific modules are the module teachers and coordinators or undergraduate.slcs@tcd.ie. Queries about timetables should be sent to timetables.slcs@tcd.ie.

E-mail is a common method used for contact between MEELC staff and students. Please note that you should only use your Trinity e-mail address when contacting MEELC staff.

2. REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

It is the responsibility of students to read and take note of regulations about their programme. Alongside the information in this handbook, you should also read carefully information provided about individual modules. Information about MLU-coded modules will be available on Blackboard. You should further consult the handbooks and information provided by the relevant department for important information about other modules, including assessment deadlines, how to submit written work, marking criteria, and other regulations.

If you are in any doubt about how these regulations affect you, contact your module lecturer/coordinator, College tutor, School Undergraduate team, or the MEELC director for guidance.

The University Calendar (www.tcd.ie/calendar/) is the definitive authority on all matters of College/University regulations.

(i) Assessment and Examinations

There are varied modes of assessment in different modules in your programme. To understand precisely what is required of you in assessed exercises and in examinations, consult information provided by module coordinators.

It is the responsibility of each student to establish the time and date of examinations, and to be aware of examination regulations, through the College Examination Office website: www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/exams/.

In each year at Trinity you take modules to a total value of 60 credits (ECTS). To progress to the next year, you need to secure an overall mean mark of 40 and to obtain 60 credits (45 for the year abroad), either by passing all modules (and in some cases also by passing required elements within modules), or by compensation.

Passing the year 'by compensation' either means passing 55 credits and achieving a minimum of 30 in the failed module, or passing 50 credits and achieving a minimum mark of 35 in any failed module(s).

Students who do not pass (whether outright or by compensation) at the annual examination session must complete the specified supplemental assessments during the supplemental examination period. Students who still have one or more failed modules in the supplemental period will be required to go off books, or to repeat the year.

Failure to submit any outstanding work during the supplemental period thus has extremely severe consequences.

For those in their SS year, the final degree (Moderatorship) mark is decided solely by assessment and examination in the Senior Sophister year.

Note from the academic year 2024-2025 onwards, the final degree class will be based on grades achieved in the JS and SS years (30% on year three and 70% on year four) –in other courses this started sooner, but MEELC has a derogation (https://www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning/academic-affairs/ug-prog-award-regs/assets/2021-22/Derogations_by_Prog_MEELC_2021-22.pdf).

In order to pass the final degree examinations (Moderatorship), candidates must satisfy the examiners in the major language component. In calculating the moderatorship result, all modules are weighted according to their credit values.

(ii) Classing Scheme and Marking Criteria

The classing scheme includes the following bands:

First (I) = 70 -100

Upper second (II.1) = 60-69

Lower second (II.2) = 50-59

Third (III) = 40-49 marks

Fail.1 = 30–39

Fail.2 = 0-29

Work not submitted receives a mark of 'zero'.

For mark schemes pertaining to individual pieces of work, students should consult the module coordinator.

(iii) Academic integrity

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the work, words or ideas of others as one's own, i.e. without due acknowledgement. It is considered academically fraudulent, and subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University. The consequences of plagiarism can be extremely serious.

You should closely familiarise themselves with the information about plagiarism provided in the College Calendar and in the School Handbook.

In the event of any uncertainty about plagiarism, you should seek advice *ahead* of submitting work for assessment.

The use of AI by the School is permitted in assessed coursework in 2023-2024, but if you do this you should carefully read the information in the School Handbook (pp. 26-31), and note that markers only give credit for work done by you (not AI).

(iv) Submissions of coursework

Every piece of assessed coursework for an MLU-coded module must be accompanied by the appropriate coversheet which can be downloaded from Blackboard. All MLU-coded work should be submitted through Blackboard, which automatically runs the work through the plagiarism-detecting software *Turnitin*.

Essays for EU-coded modules are submitted as directed by the relevant module instructor(s).

Essays for NMU-coded modules are submitted through Blackboard, and should likewise be accompanied by a downloaded coversheet.

(v) Essay-writing guidelines

MEEELC students have to adapt their writing skills to different disciplines. These guidelines on essay-writing should be read in conjunction with specific advice offered by module tutors in different disciplines.

An essay should provide a structured analysis of evidence in order to answer a specific question or set of interlocking questions. Essays should not merely provide information about a topic. You should therefore prepare to write by reading books and articles from reading lists provided by your module tutor. You are not reading merely to accumulate information, but to understand arguments about how to interpret processes, ideas, texts and events. Before writing, you should read carefully through your notes and devise a structure for your writing around relevant arguments. Essays should be structured around themes and/or points of analysis, not around blocks of information. An essay which simply narrates or describes will never receive high marks, no matter how well written and presented.

In assessing essays, markers take account of attributes such as quality of analysis, depth and range of understanding of relevant issues, accuracy, structure, expression, presentation and originality of thought. The mark represents a composite evaluation of these factors. An interesting, provocative, but poorly-informed piece of writing might then receive the same grade as one which is clearly presented but reliant on repetition of basic narrative information.

The introduction is a vital element of a successful essay. It should define how the author intends to treat and analyse the question asked. Any terms or concepts in the title requiring definition should be explained in the introduction. The main part of an essay should consist of a sequence of paragraphs, each of which makes one point / tackles one theme. The first sentence of the paragraph should state the theme, and subsequent ones should provide supporting evidence. The process of identifying what one's points/themes actually are, and how to state them, is where you can really add craftsmanship to the essay. The conclusion should summarise the argument and supply an answer to the exact question posed in the introduction. The conclusion should not normally include material which did not already feature in the main text.

Think carefully about your style of writing to deliver clear, accurate and sophisticated ideas. The first person should be sparingly used. Elisions, contractions, as well as slang, jargon, colloquial expressions, and an excessive use of metaphors should be avoided.

You are taking a programme of study involving language learning, so please take care to spell accurately (including place names and personal names). A frequent error is around the use of *its* (possessive pronoun, like *my*) vs *it's* (contraction of *it is*). On dates, you should write the 1850s (as a plural) not the 1850's. When you use 'twentieth century' as a noun no hyphen is needed, but as an adjective a hyphen is required ('twentieth-century Ireland').

Read your work carefully before submitting it. Some people find it helpful to read their work aloud to themselves to check whether sentences make sense or are too long and confusing.

(vi) Bibliography and references

Every essay must contain a bibliography, placed at the end of the essay, listing (by the authors' last name in alphabetical order) the works referred to. Only works actually referred to should be listed. There are different formats for entries within the bibliography – the crucial thing is a) ensure that sufficient information is supplied to allow the reader to trace the publication used; b) to be consistent.

You are strongly encouraged to use reference-inserting software such as *Endnote* (which you can download for free from the University website) or *Zotero* (which is freeware). Once you become familiar with these, they will save you a lot of effort (and mistakes).

References should be inserted as consecutively numbered footnotes or endnotes after the relevant sentence. Readers will normally assume that a footnote or endnote applies to the sentence it follows (not to a group of sentences, or to a whole

paragraph). If you want a reference to cover more than one sentence, you should make this clear – for example, putting it after something like *O'Mahony suggests the following four reasons why both Genesis and Gilgamesh contain a story about the Flood*: after this, it is obvious that the sentences which explain the four reasons deliver content which is taken from O'Mahony.

References should be consistent in style and contain precise page references. The latter is essential to make your work verifiable (and therefore more persuasive).

All direct quotations, as well as the ideas or opinions of others, must be referenced. Indirect quotations must be extensively reworded, reordered and their contents analysed. This is important not only to demonstrate quality of analysis but in order to avoid plagiarism.

As a general rule, any information which you came across while researching your work (whether from a book, article or website) must be referenced. However, it is not necessary to source general information which is common knowledge (e.g. that Paris is the capital of France).

(vii) Attendance and Non-satisfactory Performance

In some modules and departments, students must satisfy an attendance requirement. In some modules and departments students must complete non-examined written work. Students are responsible for ensuring that they understand and meet the criteria required in all modules they study. Please consult your module tutor if you are uncertain about what is expected.

(viii) Late Submission of Coursework Policy

All students must fulfil the course requirements of the school or department, as appropriate, with regard to attendance and course work. You may be required to submit coursework according to agreed submission dates. If you have a problem keeping up with coursework or have an issue submitting coursework on time please contact your tutor (on whom see the School Handbook) or the course director.

There are penalties for late submission of written coursework without an approved extension or acceptable explanation (e.g. Medical certificate). These are specified in the School Handbook.

(ix) COURSE STRUCTURE

(i) Junior Freshman Year (60 ECTS)

In the Junior Freshman year, you take:

- (i) One language from French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish (10 ECTS)
- (ii) Students take the area studies module which corresponds to the language they have chosen (10 ECTS)
- (iii) *Introduction to the History of Ideas* (5 ECTS)
- (iv) *Cultural Encounters between the Middle East and Europe 1 and 2* (10 ECTS)
- (v) *Introduction to the History of the Ancient Near East* (5 ECTS)
- (vi) *History and Culture of Ancient Egypt: World of the Pharaohs* (5 ECTS)
- (vii) *Introduction to Jewish History and Culture* (5 ECTS)
- (viii) *Introduction to the Modern Middle East* (5 ECTS)
- (ix) *Literary Cultures of the Middle East* (5 ECTS)

(ii) Senior Freshman Year (60 ECTS)

In the Senior Freshman year, you take:

- (i) The European language studied in the Junior Freshman year is continued in the Senior Freshman year (10 ECTS)
- (ii) The area studies module which corresponds to the European language they have chosen (10 ECTS)
- (iii) **One** Middle Eastern language from Arabic, Modern Hebrew and Turkish (10 ECTS)
- (iv) *The Making of Modernity* (5 ECTS)
- (v) A Trinity Elective module (5 ECTS) – NB MEELC students are not eligible to take the Elective offered by the Dept of NMES
- (vi) *Historical and Contemporary Perspectives: the Middle East and Europe 1 and 2* (10 ECTS)
- (vii) **Two** modules, one in each semester, from the non-language SF modules offered by NMES in any year (5 ECTS each for a total of 10 ECTS)

Your module choice works like this: over the summer after your first year, the School will email you a form which you complete to indicate the **NMES options** you are choosing. The **Trinity Elective** works differently: this you do through the College's Online Module Enrolment (OME), which works on a first-come, first-served basis. To stand the best chance of getting the Elective you want, therefore, you are advised to complete the process as soon as possible after it opens.

(iii) Scholarship Examination

Outline:

The objective of the Scholarship examination which is held in January, is to identify outstanding academic potential in the complementary disciplines that make up the Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures programme. The Scholarship examination in Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures includes material covered during the two semesters of the Junior Freshman year and the first semester of the Senior Freshman year.

Papers:

Candidates are examined in:

1. European Language Competence paper: This paper tests your competence in your European language (French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish). It included a written paper (1 hour 30 mins) and an oral exam (30 mins). Together they constitute 25% of your overall Schols mark.
2. Language Area Studies Paper for MEELC students: This paper examines material covered in the area studies modules related to the student's European language (French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish) (2-hour exam, 2 questions, 25% of overall mark).
3. MEELC Paper Two: This paper includes material from MLU11001 and MLU 11002 *Cultural Encounters*, EEU11001 *Introduction to the History of Ideas*, and MLU22001 *Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (3 questions, 3-hour exam, 25% of overall mark).
4. MEELC Paper Three: This paper examines students on the material covered in the NMES modules in the JF year and requires that students demonstrate a profound knowledge of each subject and be able to assess critically the primary and secondary material. The paper differs significantly from the annual examinations since students need to demonstrate an ability to synthesise material when answering questions that cover a number of related topics from across the JF modules. (2 questions, 2-hour exam, 25% of overall mark).

(iii) Junior Sophister Year

You spend your third year abroad: either one semester in the Middle East and one semester in the country of their European language, or a full year in the country of their European language.

See the *MEELC Study Abroad Handbook*.

(iv) Senior Sophister Year (60 ECTS)

For the SS year, you must choose **one** of the following three pathways:

1. Continue with the European language chosen in the JF, SF and JS years **and** the Middle Eastern language chosen in the SF year.
2. Continue with the European language chosen in the JF, SF and JS years but **not** the Middle Eastern language.
3. Continue with the Middle Eastern language chosen in the SF and JS years but **not** the European language.

For pathway 1 (both languages)

- i. You continue with the European language chosen in the JF, SF and JS years (10 ECTS).
- ii. You take an area studies module which corresponds to your European language (10 ECTS). [In the event that the European Language Department does not have the relevant number of area studies credits available, the shortfall will be made up in European language modules].
- iii. You complete a dissertation/capstone project (20 ECTS).
- iv. You take two SS modules offered by the Dept of Near and Middle Eastern Studies (10 ECTS each) .
- v. You continue the Middle Eastern Language chosen in the SF year (10 ECTS).

For pathway 2: (European language only)

- i. You continue with the European language chosen in the JF, SF and JS years (10 ECTS).
- ii. You take an area studies module which corresponds to your European language (10 ECTS). [In the event that the European Language Department does not have the relevant number of area studies credits available, the shortfall will be made up in European language modules].
- iii. You complete a dissertation/capstone project (20 ECTS).
- iv. Two SS modules offered by the Dept of Near and Middle Eastern Studies (10 ECTS each).

For pathway 3: (Middle Eastern language only)

- i. Three SS modules offered by the Dept of Near and Middle Eastern Studies (30 ECTS each).

- ii. You complete a dissertation/capstone project (20 ECTS).
- iii. You continue the Middle Eastern Language chosen in the SF year (10 ECTS).