The Department of Irish and Celtic Languages is located on campus in the Arts Building (rooms 4055-4063). Its library holds microfilm copies of the Irish Folklore Commission’s Collection of Irish Folklore manuscripts. The College’s important collections of Irish books and manuscripts are accessible to students, while the National Library of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy, both housing extensive collections of Irish books and manuscripts, are a short walk away, as is the School of Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, which regularly runs seminars on Early and Classical Irish texts.

For further information contact the Course Director, Damian McManus, at pmcmanus@tcd.ie or the Executive Officer, Caoimhe ní Bhraonáin, at nibhraoc@tcd.ie or visit our website at www.tcd.ie/Irish/ or the website of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies at www.tcd.ie/langs-lits-cultures/
The ‘Postgraduate Diploma in Old Irish’ and the ‘MPhil in Early Irish’ have been running now for over ten years in the Department of Irish and Celtic Languages, Trinity College, Dublin, and have proved very successful. The Postgraduate Diploma is an intensive ab initio course in Old Irish designed for students with a degree in a cognate subject (modern or medieval language, linguistics, archaeology etc.). Its aim is to impart to participants a high level of understanding of the grammatical structures of Old Irish and to bring them to an advanced stage of competence in reading the language. It involves six hours per week of instruction in beginners’ Old Irish using both handbooks designed for beginners and original material from the Old Irish glosses and sagas. The course extends over the two semesters (total of 22 weeks instruction) and performance is assessed by formal written examination in May.

The Postgraduate Diploma is designed to prepare beginners in Old Irish for the MPhil in Early Irish.

The opening lines of Táin Bó Cúailnge from the twelfth-century Book of Leinster (facsimile).

The MPhil in Early Irish is designed to prepare students to take on full-time research in the area of Early Irish language and literature. Building on the Postgraduate Diploma in Old Irish it tackles more advanced Old Irish texts, both prose and poetry, and expands the students’ horizons back into Primitive Irish, Ogam, Latin loanwords and Continental Celtic as well as forward into Middle Irish linguistic and textual analysis.

Students with a grade of II.2 (i.e. 50% +) in the Postgraduate Diploma in Old Irish, or with an equivalent qualification in Old Irish, are eligible to apply for the M. Phil. The course extends over the two semesters (total of 22 weeks instruction) and performance is assessed by a combination of examination (50%) and thesis (50%).

The courses run consecutively in alternate years.

Academic year 2015-16: Postgraduate Diploma in Old Irish

Academic year 2014-15: MPhil in Early Irish