

Post Title:	PhD Scholarship (Provost's PhD Project Awards)
Post Status:	4 years Fixed-term Contract – Full-time.
Research Group / Department / School:	School of Law, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Dr Maria Grazia Porcedda (Principal Investigator, P.I.)
Terms & Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD research stipend, €16,650 p/a stipend (to be raised by 4% to €17,316 from 1 October 2021) • EU/non-EU fees covered Details here: https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/phdawards/
Hours of Work:	Full time, flexible hours, including 24 hours per month of research assistance to Dr Maria Grazia Porcedda
Closing Date:	12 Noon (IST), 25 JUNE 2021 (Late applicants will not be accepted)

NOTE: Applicants must have been resident in an EU member state for 3 out of the last 5 years to be eligible for EU fees

Post Summary

Project

Dr Maria Grazia Porcedda at Trinity College Dublin has received funding for a PhD researcher to study the prevention and deterrence of cybercrime in Ireland through the law.

Ireland has been touted as the data capital of Europe, thanks to it hosting both the European headquarters and data centres of Big Tech companies. This data bonanza is inevitably attracting the attention of cybercriminals: according to reports released in 2020, Ireland is witnessing a steep increase in cybercrime, including data breaches. Retaining such data leadership requires investing in strategies, including laws and regulations, to secure both the infrastructure and the

data. As legislation designed explicitly to prevent or deter cybercrime is relatively recent, there is a shortage of statistics, case law and studies that provide a picture of the evolution of cybercrime in Ireland and the adequacy of legal responses. Both scholars and policy-makers alike have suggested there is a need to fill the gap through scholarly and policy research. This project, led by P.I. Dr Maria Grazia Porcedda, aims to fill the gap by studying the implementation of the applicable law to prevent cybercrime and deter cyber-offenders and chart the incidence of instances of cybercrime.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

The PhD project involves two major components. The first is a socio-legal research into cybercrime prevention and deterrence in Ireland carried out under the direction of the P.I.. The work includes the following: the creation of a database of cybercrime case law, support in conducting two rounds of interviews with decision-makers, coding and analysing the data, support in conducting two focus groups with decision-makers, coding and analysing the data, and support in organising a final conference. The outcome of the work will inform joint presentations at national and international conferences, two co-authored articles led by Dr Porcedda and potentially the co-authoring of other forms of written dissemination. To perform the duties, the candidate will learn and harness: qualitative research methods for the law; ethical empirical research, including how to maintain a data management plan; how to plan and organise small-sized events; and how to write peer-reviewed publications and other written forms of academic dissemination.

The second component is a doctoral thesis relating to the broad theme of the research project, namely “the prevention and deterrence of cybercrime in Ireland through the law.” The doctoral thesis will be the researcher’s own original piece of work, developed under the supervision of Dr Porcedda, and suitable for publication through a variety of avenues.

Activities performed as part of the project can be incorporated within the doctoral thesis. As per the Provost Project’s Award 2020-2021 rules (§18), “a student cannot work more than 24 hours per month on the project per se, save to the extent that this work also constitutes work towards their PhD.”

Funding Information

This role is funded through the Provost’s PhD Project Award. Details on this PhD studentship are available at: <https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/phdawards/>

Person Specification

Qualifications

Essential

LLB (or equivalent, minimum 2:1), and Master's degree (minimum 2:1/Merit) to be completed by the start of the PhD (either an LLM or MA in Social Sciences, e.g. Criminology, Law & another subject, International Relations, Political Science). Candidates holding a BA in Social Sciences (e.g. Criminology, Law as a minor, International Relations, Political Science, minimum 2:1), and an LLM, minimum 2:1/Merit, completed by the start of the PhD will also be considered.

Desirable

- A 1st class LLB/BA degree;
- A 1st class LLM/MA degree;
- LLB (or equivalent) earned in the Republic of Ireland;
- LL.M. in Information Technology Law or equivalent.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential

- Knowledge of EU and Common Law;
- Demonstrable interest in cybercrime.

Desirable

- Knowledge of Irish Law;
- Basic knowledge of research methods;
- Prior experience of research assistance;
- Prior experience of data gathering and analysis;
- Prior experience of organising events.

Skills & Competencies

Essential

- High standard of written and spoken English (see 'the selection process' below);
- Critical thinking;
- Attention to detail;

- A willingness to learn how to organise and manage events.

Desirable

- A proven interest in socio-legal research;
- Qualitative analysis skills.

Application Procedure

Applicants must submit:

- A full Curriculum Vitae, including the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses).
- A covering letter detailing your motivation and why you meet the criteria listed in the person specification (max 1 A4 page).
- A research proposal on the topic of prevention and deterrence of cybercrime in Ireland through the law. The proposal should outline the project that you wish to pursue in your PhD dissertation. The proposal should: (i) formulate a research question; (ii) show command of the state of the art in the field (with references to the literature); (iii) show an understanding of research methodology within the law; (iv) feature a short bibliography. If appropriate, the proposal could also include the theory or hypothesis to be examined. The proposal must be written in English and must be no longer than 2500 words (including footnotes, references and bibliography). The proposal can approach the subject from different legal angles, including but not limited to administrative, criminal, EU, International and private law. Where justified and as long as Ireland is one of the jurisdictions to be analysed, comparative law analyses are also welcome.

Please send these to Dr Maria Grazia Porcedda: maria-grazia.porcedda@tcd.ie

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Informal queries may be directed to Dr Porcedda at the same email address as above.

N.B. Pursuant to the Provost Project's Award 2020-2021 rules (§14), "the decision as to the identity of the PhD student who is selected to work on a particular project is at the sole discretion of the PI on the project (subject to the fact that discretion as to whether to admit any student to the PhD register rests with the relevant department/school and ultimately with the Dean of Graduate Studies)".

Further Information for Applicants

School of Law

The School of Law in Trinity College Dublin, established in 1740, is Ireland's oldest and most internationally renowned law school. Graduates and former members of staff include former Presidents of Ireland, Mary McAleese and Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the former Chief Justice of Ireland, the Hon. Ms Susan Denham, and Kader Asmal, former Minister in South Africa's first post-Apartheid government. The School of Law is ideally located in the College's historical campus in the city centre, close to Dublin's technological hub, the courts and the Oireachtas.

We are a scholarly community of staff, students and alumni, dedicated to the pursuit of legal knowledge and critical engagement with the legal challenges that confront modern communities. Our Faculty members are thought-leaders in their fields, all grappling with contemporary legal challenges. Through a number of research groups, staff and postgraduate researchers collaborate in research projects, the organisation of conferences and the publication of academic papers. Staff are currently engaged in many national and international collaborations and research projects funded by the European Research Council, the Irish Research Council and Horizons 2020. Each year, we welcome a number of visiting academics to conduct research in Trinity. The School publishes one of Ireland's leading peer-reviewed journals, the Dublin University Law Journal, and it engages in interdisciplinary scholarship through its membership of the Trinity Long Room Hub and Trinity Research in Social Sciences. The School is home to the Irish Centre for European Law and the Irish Jurisprudence Society.

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie/law
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Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.

With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world on 6 subjects and in the top 100 in 20 subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019). Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 5 working days of submitting your application online, please contact Dr Porcedda immediately and prior to the closing date/time. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter, CV and application) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Dr Porcedda may invite selected candidates to a telephone or video conferencing interview. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to interviewed candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

The successful applicant must meet the general admission requirements with regards to English and any other requirements that may apply, as detailed at: <https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply/requirements/international.php>.

The successful applicant will also have to submit an official online application to Trinity College, which typically involves a processing fee of €55.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment 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 community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

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Please send these to:

Dr Maria Grazia Porcedda

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