

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

Postgraduate Studies in Christian Theology

MPhil in Christian Theology
Diploma in Christian Theology
Certificate in Christian Theology



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

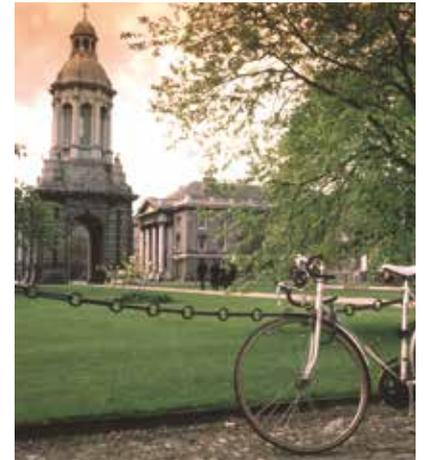
The Loyola Institute

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Trinity College, The University of Dublin

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's leading university and as one of the leading universities in the world. Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a cosmopolitan community of students from around the world. Its bustling 47 acre campus, in the heart of Dublin, is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

Trinity's main campus of cobbled squares, historic buildings and green playing fields also includes state-of-the-art modern facilities for teaching and research, and a Sports Centre with a climbing wall and swimming pool. The Trinity Library is one of the world's great research libraries. Community is a key element in the Trinity education and every student can benefit from a wide variety of extra-curricular activities which broaden and reinforce the experience of a Trinity graduate.



Loyola Institute

Established in 2012, the Loyola Institute is part of the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies in Trinity College Dublin. The School continues a tradition of scholarship dating back to the foundation of Trinity College. The mission of the Institute consists of teaching and research in theology in the Catholic Christian tradition. regular Research seminars, lectures, and other events, including international conferences, make Loyola a vibrant centre of theological reflection and discussion. The Institute situates itself creatively

at the intersection of the academy, the church, and the wider society, making a substantial contribution to debates about the role of faith in the contemporary world. At the same time, Loyola offers a unique focus upon the treasures of the Christian past, notably Celtic Christianity, with special attention to the theology of the Book of Kells. For more information on our activities, please look at our website or subscribe to our newsletter.



Some of the post-graduate class of 23/24 with Dr Michael Kirwan and Dr Fáinche Ryan.



Some of our 2019/20 and 20/21 graduates:
Front row L to R: Dr Michael Kirwan, Deirdre Soffe, Dr Fainche Ryan, Emmet O'Regan, Dr Con Casey.
Back row L to R: Ursula Halligan, Marian White and Seamus Crimmins

MPhil in Christian Theology

This Masters in Christian Theology gives students a rigorous knowledge of core themes and issues in historical and contemporary Christian theological scholarship. They engage with the main figures and debates of the tradition, and reflect upon their continued relevance to contemporary discussion.

A high point of their study is the written dissertation, which enables students to engage in the advanced study of their chosen topic of interest. The research proficiency which the student acquires can make the MPhil an ideal stepping-stone to more advanced theological study.

Course Structure and Assessment

The course incorporates both taught and research components. Students must take six taught modules (10 ECTS each) comprising three core and three elective modules, and write a 15,000 word dissertation (30 ECTS). Students are assessed via written contributions for each module.

Modules on offer include the following:

CORE

Violence and Grace in the Human Narrative
The First Words: Theology/ies of the Bible
Readings in Classical Theological Texts

ELECTIVE

Jesus of Nazareth: Son, Christ, Word
Ministry & Church in a Challenging Era
Theology and the Arts

Who is this course for?

For graduates in theology (or other related disciplines), the MPhil offers a structured programme of study at an advanced level.

- For those who have an interest in theological questions, this degree will help them become better informed and more articulate in Christian theology;
- For chaplains, pastoral workers, and others engaged in Church ministry, the MPhil will serve as an ideal opportunity for further in-depth reading, writing and study of the core disciplines of theology, in a way that furthers professional development;
- For teachers of religious education, this degree provides an excellent opportunity to explore theological issues at a deeper level, so benefitting you and your students,
- For students looking to do advanced research, the MPhil can provide a suitable route into higher study in theology.

“For me, the most enjoyable aspect of the MPhil so far has been the diversity of topics covered in the course. I have been able to engage with theology from a philosophical, historical, and even a literary perspective, and the assigned readings have covered everything from medieval scholasticism to contemporary feminist thinkers. This has consolidated some of the knowledge I already had, but it has also exposed me to topics I wouldn’t otherwise have encountered.”

Luke Duggan



“It was a surprise to me to discover that the class group is so diverse. We are from different nationalities, ages, beliefs and yet the depth of cooperation and unity among classmates is amazing. The lecturers are well informed and passionate about their subjects. Writing the essays for each module is an engaging and enjoyable task, and at once challenging. I have learnt to analyze and be critical in my thinking when approaching theological questions; and the lecturers are always willing to help students improve their work. The seminars/workshops organised by the Institute are very productive and many things about God are becoming clearer.”

Solange Uzoigwe



Sr Solange Uzoigwe, Dr Fainche Ryan and MPhil student Colette Varley enjoy the sunshine outside Loyola Institute.

Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Christian Theology

The MPhil programme requires the completion of six modules and a dissertation within one year (full-time), or two years (part-time). For those unable to take on this commitment because of time or other constraints, the two alternatives, Diploma and Certificate, may be more attractive. The modules are the same in all three programmes, and have the same assessment patterns. The Diploma requires completion of six modules (four core, two elective), but not a dissertation. The Certificate involves three modules (two core, one elective).

On successful completion of the Certificate, a student may wish to continue onto the Diploma, and from Diploma to MPhil.

Admission Requirements

Admission to these courses is at graduate level. Applicants will normally hold a good honours degree in theology from a recognized university. Applicants who have a primary degree in other disciplines will be considered.

Exceptional cases, where applicants do not fully meet the above criteria, but make a reasonable case for admissions otherwise, will be considered by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Course Times

The MPhil is delivered full-time over one year (12 months) or part-time over two years. The Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate are delivered over 8 months (September – April). Lectures are normally held on Monday and Thursday evenings. Some elective modules may be held during the day.

Course Director

Dr Michael Kirwan SJ is the Director of the Loyola Institute, and Course Director of the three Christian Theology programmes.

He can be contacted at loyola@tcd.ie

MPhil Course Director Dr Michael Kirwan chatting with MPhil student Kate Clancy. Kate is the 2021/22 recipient of the Loyola Trust Scholarship for Religious Education Teachers.



How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for this programme please apply online at: www.tcd.ie/courses. The closing date is 31st July 2024.

For details of scholarships available for the various programmes, see our website. Please note that the closing date for scholarship applications is 30th June 2024.

The Loyola Institute is grateful for the generous support of the Loyola Trust [Augustinians, Carmelites (O.Carm.), Columbans, Jesuits, Loreto Sisters, Marists, Oblates, Society of African Missions]