MPhil in Christian Theology
Loyola Institute, Trinity College 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.

The central concern of the Loyola Institute, Trinity College is the creative intersection of theology, Church and society.

The Loyola Institute is establishing itself as a vibrant centre for discussion of theological studies, with frequent contributions from world leaders in their fields. Speakers at recent events hosted by the Loyola Institute have included Professor Terry Eagleton (Lancaster University), Professor John O’Callaghan (Notre Dame University), Professor William T. Cavanaugh (De Paul University), Professor Hans Joas (Humboldt-Universität), Professor Massimo Faggioli (Villanova University) and Cardinal Marx, Archbishop of Munich and Freising. Martha Serpas (University of Houston) joined us as our first Loyola Institute Artist in Residence.

The Loyola Institute is a part of the Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology in Trinity College.

MPhil in Christian Theology

Religious issues are an important part of public debate in contemporary pluralist societies. Many crucial social and political matters are affected by religious concerns. Key policy debates require expertise and literacy in religious and theological concepts, their traditions and practices.

This MPhil in Christian Theology will enable participants to gain an in-depth knowledge of core issues in contemporary Christian theology — issues such as Church and Ministry, Theology of the Bible, Rights and Responsibilities. Students are introduced to historical scholarship and to rigorous contemporary theological investigation. Seminar-style learning is an important pedagogy in the programme.

A written dissertation is a key part of the MPhil. This enables participants to engage in advanced study of a particular topic of interest in the field. Throughout the process of writing, participants are offered one-to-one academic supervision.

Participants in this MPhil will learn research skills, as well as analytic, written and verbal communication skills. These are highly valued and effective in a great variety of careers.
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 optional modules, and write a 15,000 word dissertation (30 ECTS).

Modules at a Glance

Three core modules are:
- Method and Theory in the Study of Theology
- Violence and Grace in the Human Narrative
- The First Words: Theology/ies of the Bible

The elective modules are:
- Rights and Responsibilities: A Theological Engagement
- Readings in Classical Theological Texts
- Theology and the Arts
- Christianity of the Celtic World (600-1000 AD)
- The Role of Church in a Pluralist Society
- Ministry and Church in a Challenging Era
- Authority, Tradition and Experience: Ecumenics as Intercultural Theology*
- Nature, Grace and the Triune God*
- Developing Dogma: Identity and Change in Christian Tradition*

The elective modules offered each year will vary.

*Modules are shared with the MPhil in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies, Irish School of Ecumenics.

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 a curiosity about theology and want to learn more
- 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 thoroughly areas which interest you. It will both widen and deepen your knowledge of theology, so benefiting your students.
- While the MPhil is designed to be complete in itself, it can serve as preparation for those wishing to proceed to further research in the field.
Admission Requirements

Admission to this course 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 course is delivered full-time over one year or part-time over two years. Lectures will be held on Monday and Thursday evenings* and will commence in September 2017.

* A few elective modules may be held during the day.

Staff

The team of academics delivering the MPhil will include:

Dr Fáinne Ryan  
MPhil Course Director  
Director Loyola Institute  
e: faryan@tcd.ie

Professor Siobhán Garrigan  
Loyola Chair of Catholic Theology  
Head of Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology  
e: garrigs@tcd.ie

Dr Cornelius J Casey  
Associate Director  
e: cocasey@tcd.ie

Dr Katie Dunne  
Assistant Professor in Theology in the Catholic Tradition  
e: kdunne5@tcd.ie

Jacob Erickson  
Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics  
e: ericksoj@tcd.ie

Dr David Shepherd  
Assistant Professor in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament  
e: shepherd@tcd.ie

For details of the expertise and interests of each please see www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute/staff

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for this programme please apply online at: www.tcd.ie/courses

The closing date for applications is 30th June 2017.

Loyola@tcd.ie Ph: +353 1 896 4790 W: www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute

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