

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

MPhil in Christian Theology



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

The Loyola Institute
School of Religion
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

The Loyola Institute is part of the School of Religion in Trinity College Dublin. The School continues a tradition of scholarship that goes back to the very foundation of Trinity College Dublin.

The particular academic mission of the Loyola Institute is teaching and research in theology in the Catholic Christian tradition.

Since its establishment in 2012, the Loyola Institute has attracted expressions of interest in postgraduate study from a great variety of people, in Ireland and internationally. The Loyola Institute offers degrees in theology at postgraduate level, both taught and via research. Regular research seminars are part of our post-graduate offering.

The Institute is a vibrant centre for discussion of theology and its contribution to current debates. One of our particular areas of excellence is the creative intersection of theology, Church and society. We regularly organize and host international conferences.

Each year, to facilitate the dissemination of theological debate to a wider audience, we organize the interdisciplinary Loyola Lecture series.

In addition to our postgraduate degrees we also offer modules at undergraduate level in the School BA in Religion, as well as short courses for adult learners.

For more information on our activities see our website or our newsletter.



Dr Con Casey of the Loyola Institute with Fergus Higgins and Sophia White, both of whom were awarded distinctions in the MPhil in Christian Theology (18/19)



Emma Rothwell, recipient of the Loyola Trust Scholarship for Teachers, with Chris Curran, a representative of the Loyola Trust. For details of scholarships available see our website.

MPhil in Christian Theology

This Masters in Christian Theology will enable participants to gain an in-depth knowledge of core issues in contemporary Christian theology. Students are introduced to historical scholarship and to rigorous contemporary theological investigation.

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. In 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). Students are assessed via written contributions for each module.

Modules on offer may include:

Violence and Grace in the Human Narrative
The First Words: Theology/ies of the Bible
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
Method and Theory in the Study of Theology
Authority, Tradition and Experience:
Ecumenics as Intercultural Theology*
Nature, Grace and the Triune God*

** Modules shared with the MPhil in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies.
Note: Not all modules are offered each year.*

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 benefiting you and 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.

“With a professional background in Catholic education I was seeking a robust qualification to further enhance my understanding of a complex subject. I was hoping for an academically provocative environment that would bring to bear the stimulating challenges of the subject. A particularly impressive element is the attention paid to training us in first principles of ‘doing good theology.’ In what can be a highly theoretical subject, it is refreshing to be exposed to the more practical implications of faith and theology in the modern world. Without doubt, the course so far has equipped me to grapple with ideas of immense personal and public consequence with clarity of thought and expression.”

Paul Corcoran

MPhil in Christian Theology 2019/20



“This MPhil offers the opportunity to explore Christian thinking throughout the ages and the programme looks at both core theological disciplines and contemporary issues. The programme of lectures and seminars offers perspectives on a wide range of subjects of concern to society today. Our group’s composition was a real surprise as it includes a few whose primary degree is in Theology and then many from other disciplines. It includes at least six nationalities.”

Deirdre Soffe

MPhil in Christian Theology 2019/20



Introducing Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Christian Theology

Some people have expressed an interest in studying Christian theology at postgraduate level, while being unable to commit to the demands of the MPhil work load (six modules and a dissertation). Others, based outside of Dublin, have expressed that they would find it difficult to travel twice a week. In the light of this, we now offer a Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Christian Theology. The same modules are studied, for the Postgraduate Diploma the student studies six modules (four core and two elective); for the Postgraduate Certificate the student studies three modules (two core and one elective). It is possible to complete the Certificate by attending lectures one evening a week. Students are assessed via written contributions for each module. On successful completion of the Certificate it is possible to continue to the Diploma, similarly students who complete the Diploma may decide to continue to a Masters.

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 Fáinche Ryan, Director of the Loyola Institute is the course Director of the MPhil and leads the team of academics who deliver the MPhil.

Dr Ryan can be contacted by email at faryan@tcd.ie

MPhil students Fr. Emile Sambou from the Gambia and Fr Jonathan Sunday Nwankwo from Nigeria with Director Dr Fáinche Ryan at a Loyola Institute Wine and Pizza Evening.



How to Apply

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

Closing Date 31st July 2020.

For details of scholarships available see our website.

Email: Loyola@tcd.ie

Ph: +353 1 896 4790

W: www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute

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