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

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on MS Teams
at 10am on Thursday 17 September 2026

XX = Council relevance

Present	Professor David Hevey, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*) Professor Aisling Dunne, School of Biochemistry & Immunology Professor Xiaoning Liang, Trinity Business School Professor Iouri Gounko, School of Chemistry Professor Gavin Doherty, School of Computer Science and Statistics Professor Evangelia Rigaki, School of Creative Arts Professor Keith Johnston, School of Education Professor Breiffni Fitzgerald, School of Engineering Professor Patrick Walsh, School of Histories & Humanities Professor James Hadley, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies Professor Colin Flynn, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences Professor Andreea Nicoara, School of Mathematics Professor Eimear Guinan, School of Medicine Professor Micha Ruhl, School of Natural Sciences Professor Melissa Corbally, School of Nursing & Midwifery Professor Eduardo Ruiz-Hernandez, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor Graham Cross, School of Physics Professor Olive Healy, School of Psychology Professor Jude Lal Fernando, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies Professor Noah Buckley, School of Social Sciences & Philosophy Professor Eavan Brady, School of Social Work & Social Policy
Apologies	Professor Russell McLaughlin, School of Genetics & Microbiology Professor Sinéad Ryan, Dean of Research Ms Siobhan Dunne, Sub Librarian for Teaching, Research and User Experience
In attendance	Prof. Wladislaw Rivkin, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Patricia Maguire, Academic Secretary (TT&L), Dr Cormac Doran, Assistant Academic Secretary, Graduate Education (TT&L), Ms. Leona Coady, Director of Graduate Studies, Dr Geoffrey Bradley, Information Technology Services, Mr Martin McAndrew, Postgraduate Student Support Officer, Senior Tutor's Office, Dr Ríonnagh Sheridan, Secretary to Graduate Studies Committee (Academic Affairs, TT&L), Dr Pauline Rooney, Head of the Centre for Academic Practice, Professor Joseph Roche, Associate Dean of Research, on behalf of Prof. Sinéad Ryan, Dean of Research, Professor Barra Roantree, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy for item GSC/26-27/005, Mr. Mark Sheridan, Senior Project Manager (PG Renewal) for item GSC/26-27/006

The Dean welcomed members and attendees to the first GSC of the academic year. He extended a warm welcome to new Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) and to the new Secretary to Graduate Studies Committee.

Section A

XX **GS/26-27/001 Minutes of GSC of 14 May 2026**
The minutes were approved as circulated.

GS/26-27/002 Matters Arising
The Dean advised that all Actions arising from the May meeting had been completed or attended to. He noted that all Decisions on Agenda A and B from the May meeting were approved at the last meeting of University Council.

The Dean noted that feedback was received by Prof. Jake Byrne regarding the proposed joint doctoral programme with four CHARM-EU partners, and that a subsequent meeting was held to discuss the matter. A revised proposal will come before Graduate Studies Committee in December 2026.

XX **GS/26-27/003 Major Change to the Postgraduate Graduate Diploma in French for Teachers**

The School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures sought to add a taught module to the existing postgraduate diploma in French for Teachers, following a decision by The Teaching Council not to recognise select ECTS within two existing modules for accreditation purposes. Raising the overall ECTS value of the programme from 60 ECTS to 70 ECTS via the addition of a 10 ECTS language module was acknowledged to be exceptional, but was deemed the most feasible option to ensure accreditation requirements were met and any impact on the rising cohort of students was minimal.

Decision GS/26-27/003i: Major Change to the Postgraduate Graduate Diploma in French for Teachers was approved with immediate effect (from 2026/27), adding a 10 ECTS language module to the existing 60 ECTS.

Action GS/26-27/003ii: A future review of the programme will assess the potential for restructuring the curriculum to achieve a standard 60 ECTS total credit load.

XX **GS/26-27/004 Major Change to the MSc in Economic Policy**

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy proposed the introduction of a full time study route and annualised intake for the previously biennial part time route. The proposed changes aim to broaden the appeal of the programme to those who wish to avail of a full time study option and to facilitate applications from students domiciled outside the EU.

Decision GS/26-27/004: The proposed Major Changes to the MSc in Economic Policy adding a full time study route and annualised intake to the part time route were approved with effect from 2027/28 academic year.

GS/26-27/005 Update to thesis examination functionality and PGR assessment and progression

Mark Sheridan, Senior Project Manager, thanked Schools for their support in rolling out progression functionality via MyTCD.ie. The new progression process has significantly improved the rate of student progression, while the phased rollout of thesis examination functionality is progressing well. Early results indicate earlier examiner nominations and faster transmission of theses to examiners, with further functionality and enhanced Power BI reporting to follow.

Section B

No items

Section C (For noting)

GS/26-27/006 GSC Terms of Reference for 2026/27

The Dean of Graduate Studies asked the Committee to review the Terms of Reference for consideration at the next meeting on 01 October 2026.

GS/26-27/007 Results of the GSC Survey 2025/26

The Graduate Studies Committee noted the GSC Survey 2025/26.