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Prof Vinny Cahill,
Dean of Research.
Trinity College Dublin.

20th October 2011

Dear Dean,

I am enclosing an application for a new Research Centre for Early Modern History. This has been approved by both the Research and Executive Committees of the School of Histories and Humanities.

The application identifies a real research strong-point in Trinity with a high number of leading international scholars associated with the proposed Centre. This development is fully in accord with our strategic plan and will strengthen the newly constituted M.Phil in Early Modern History. At the moment we have a CARA Postdoctoral Fellow being mentored by Dr Joseph Clarke and we have over thirty postgraduate students in the School working in relevant areas.

The Director understands that he will need to submit a report to the Dean of Research in July each year and that the Centre must be active, visible and viable. The proposed governance structure follows College recommendations. As Head of School I willingly take on final responsibility for financial and administrative matters of the Centre and warmly support the application.

Yours,

Brian McGing
School of Histories and Humanities

Application to become a Trinity Research Centre

I. Identification Information

- Name of Proposed Centre: Centre for Early Modern History
- Contact name: Graeme Murdock
- Email: murdocg@tcd.ie
- Extension: 1826
- Name of the School which will take primary administrative and financial responsibility: Histories and Humanities
- Name of the Head of School: Brian McGing

II. Staff

- Director (must be a full time staff member on a contract of more than 3 years): Graeme Murdock
- Principal researchers (must be members of TCD staff, on at least a 3 year contract or contract of indefinite duration): Prof. Jane Ohlmeyer, Prof. Ciaran Brady, Prof. Poul Holm, Prof. David Dickson, Dr Crawford Gribben, Dr Robert Armstrong, Dr Micheal O'Siochru, Dr Patrick Geoghegan, Dr Christine Casey, Dr Philip McEvansoneya, Dr Joseph Clarke, Dr Jason McElligott, Dr Graeme Murdock.
- Other associated researchers (internal): Relevant postdoctoral and other researchers will be invited when the Centre is approved.
- Other associated researchers (external): Will be invited once the Centre is approved
- Emeritus staff: Will be invited once the Centre is approved.

III. Information about the Proposed Centre

1. Please submit a mission statement on the aims and objectives of the Centre. What will be the measurable added value for College? Provide information regarding the different kinds of activity the Centre will be involved in, as well as any non-research activities, such as teaching, consultancy, service provision, etc.
2. Include a letter of support from the head of the School which will be taking primary financial and administrative support for the Centre, confirming that the Centre will be integrated within the research strategy of the School and will be supported in its activity.
3. Confirm that the Director will submit an annual one to two page report to the Dean of Research before 12 July each year. This report should provide information on its activity for the academic year that has just passed, as well as the proposed activity for the new academic year. There should also be information on the visibility of the Centre (confirming that the webpage is active and is updated regularly) and viability (how the Centre intends to finance the proposed activity for the new academic year). There should also be a brief statement on the relationship between the Centre and the primary School to which it is connected.

IV. Criteria for a Trinity Research Centre

To be granted the status of a Trinity Research Centre, a research grouping must be **active**, **visible**, and **viable**. It must also have a clearly defined **governance structure**. Each Centre is subordinate to its primary School and, while a number of Schools may be involved with running of the Centre, one School will take primary administrative and financial responsibility for its operation.

Trinity College Dublin. Centre for Early Modern History (CEMH)

Mission statement
Trinity's Centre for Early Modern History exists to advance understanding of the politics, society and economy of early modern states; of warfare and diplomacy during the early modern period; and of the religious, intellectual, visual and material cultures of the early modern world. (The early modern period is understood to be the period c. 1500-1800. The principal areas of focus are Ireland, Britain and continental Europe, as well as relations between European and non-European states and cultures.)

Aims and Objectives
Trinity College is the key centre in Ireland for research and teaching of early modern history. Early modern historians at Trinity play a leading international role in this field. The creation of a Centre for Early Modern History aims to add value by enhancing Trinity's profile in this area and by fostering collaboration among Trinity's critical mass of early modern historians. Many equivalent institutions with competing postgraduate programmes have already developed research centres in this field. Taking the UK by way of example, centres for early modern history exist at Oxford, St Andrews, York, Warwick, Durham, and UCL. Institutions with fewer relevant staff and less impressive research resources also have early modern history centres, including Birmingham, Exeter, Sussex, Kent, Reading, Hull and Swansea.

Guided by the role set out for research centres in the College's research strategy and by the research strategies of the Schools involved, the key objectives of CEMH will be (i) to deliver the MPhil in Early Modern History; (ii) to promote an active research culture through regular seminars and research events; (iii) to promote applications for major research grants; (iv) to seek strategic international partners among comparable research centres. This will be a cross-disciplinary Centre. The lead role will be played by the School of Histories and Humanities, with involvement from the School of English.

To be granted and maintain the status of a Trinity College research centre, a research grouping must be active, visible, and viable, and have a defined governance structure. This proposal therefore considers these key areas in turn.

Activity
1. The Centre will manage the delivery of the MPhil programme in Early Modern History. www.tcd.ie/history/postgraduate/earlymodern/index.php. An attractive suite of dedicated modules has been developed for this degree programme. These modules are taught by staff in the School of Histories and Humanities and by staff in the School of English. Concerted efforts at recruitment to this programme have seen a very welcome rise in applications. Successful applicants (11 students in 2010/2011, including 4 non-EU students) have been drawn from among Trinity graduates, graduates of universities in Ireland, the UK, continental Europe, north America, and east Asia. These are all key recruitment areas to establish this degree as an international leader in its field. The success of the MPhil will also aid recruitment of PhD students in early modern history.
2. The Centre will support projected recruitment to this MPhil programme at between 8 and 12 students per year by running competitions for small entrance

bursaries and competitions for small grants to support the research of MPhil students.

3. The Centre will provide a clear and identifiable research home for the community of master's and doctoral students, as well as postdoctoral researchers in early modern history. The Centre will support this community by running a series of regular research seminars in early modern history from 2011-2012. In following years, the Centre aims to host at least one workshop per year, as well as other international conferences and research events.
4. The Centre will support and promote collaborative research grant applications. It will provide a credible and vibrant research environment for funded projects in early modern history to present to external funding bodies. The Centre will aim to submit at least one major grant application in the first two years of its existence.
5. The Centre will establish international partnerships with equivalent research centres. (contact has already been made with key partners in the UK, USA, Europe and Japan). We aim to establish at least one strategic partnership per year for the first five years. These partnerships can provide the basis for the further development of the Centre through international grant applications, as well as teaching and student exchanges.
6. The Centre will work closely with the Library (in particular with Sean Hughes, the History subject librarian), to promote use of the Library's world-class resources in early modern history (Manuscript collections (MARL), Early Printed Books and Special collections and Digital and electronic resources).
7. The Centre will work closely with the Long Room Hub to support its seminar series and engage with Long Room Hub research fellows.
8. The Centre will also seek to coordinate with individual scholars in other Irish universities, collaborate with partners in cultural institutions in Dublin.
9. The Centre will seek partners from international scholarly societies to promote the Centre and its work. The Centre will for example sponsor sessions at research conferences and events, providing a further opportunity to promote the MPhil.
10. The Centre will promote early modern history to the wider community in Ireland through a public lecture each term given by a prominent external speaker. The Centre will also advance engagement with the community through other extra-mural events, and open its MPhil to part-time students.
11. The Centre will develop relations with its alumni and work with relevant College authorities to seek private support for its activities. For example, to gain financial support for a PhD studentship in early modern history (current value 8k plus fees)
12. As the Centre develops, it will aim to gain administrative support to support its activities.

Visibility

1. A dedicated web-site will be established within a year of the foundation of the Centre. This will be used to provide information about key areas of current activity in the Centre. It will be based on the College's web server and confirm to College guidelines.
2. A physical location will be sought over time for the Centre, although this is not essential for the establishment of the Centre.

Viability

1. The Centre derives its resources from the School of Histories and Humanities and/ or overheads from any external funding of members of the Centre, with the

agreement of grant-holders. The Centre makes no claim for sustainability on other College resources.

Governance

1. Approval is sought from the Head of the School of Histories and Humanities and from the Dean of Research for the following structure of governance. A director will be appointed for a limited time-period from among full-time staff members on the board of the Centre. The director will normally also act as Director of the MPhil programme in Early Modern History. The Director will submit an annual report to the Dean of Research before the end of June each year detailing the Centre's current and proposed activity and how the Centre will fund planned activity for the following academic year.
2. The Director will be assisted by a management board of full-time staff members from the School of Histories and Humanities and the School of English. Meetings of this board will take decisions on key issues relating to the work of the Centre and hold collective responsibility for the Centre.
3. An external advisory board (of 10 members) will be appointed to promote the Centre and its activities. Members will be drawn from key areas of recruitment for MPhil students and of leading scholars in the field. This board should be appointed within one year of the Centre's existence.
4. Emeritus/a colleagues, colleagues in other Irish universities, libraries and other institutions will be offered associate researcher status in the Centre.