



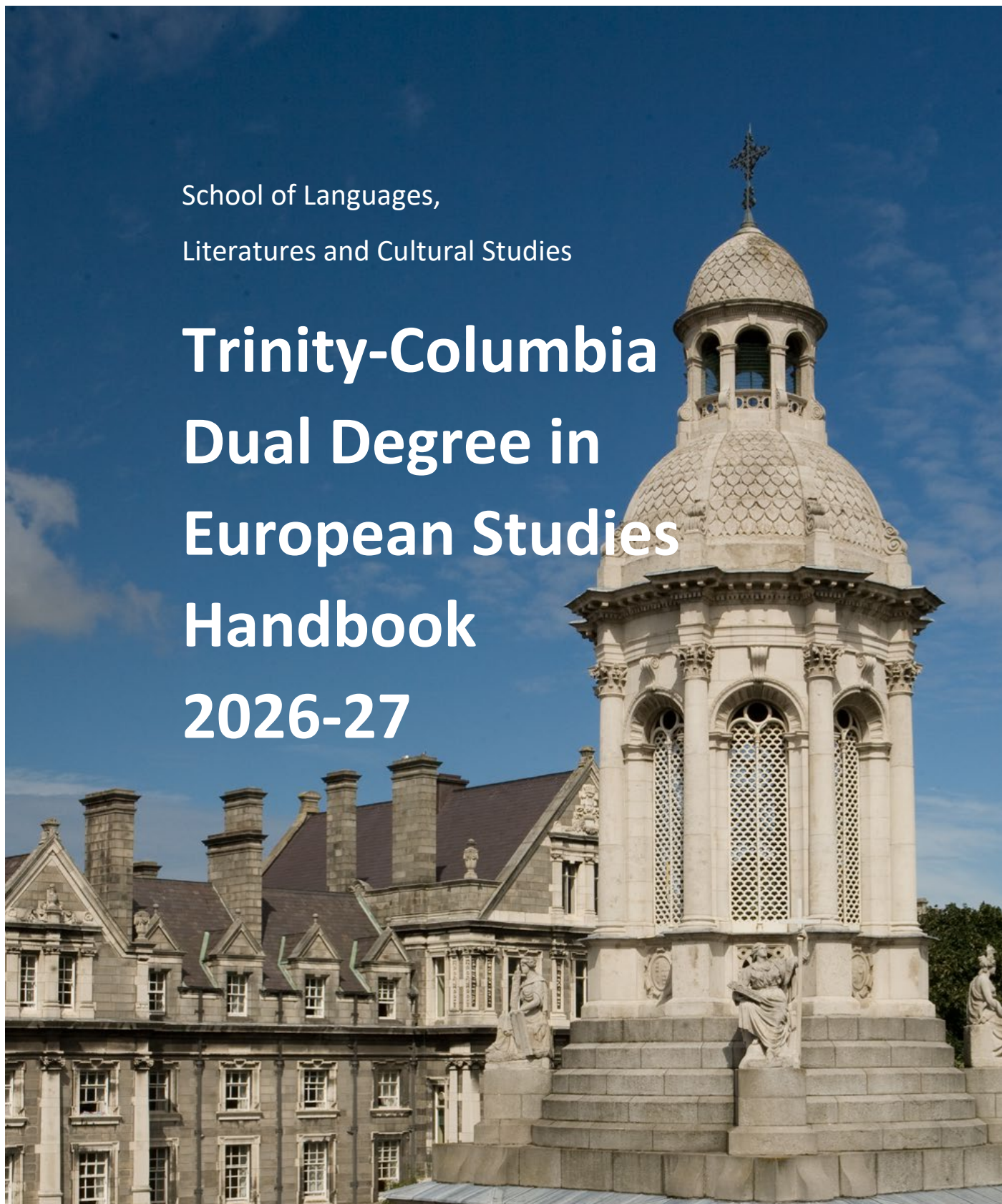
Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

School of Languages,
Literatures and Cultural Studies

Trinity-Columbia Dual Degree in European Studies Handbook 2026-27



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A Note on this Handbook

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the General Regulations published in the University Calendar and information contained in programme or departmental handbooks, the provisions of the General Regulations in the Calendar will prevail.

This Handbook should be read in conjunction with the general [School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies Handbook](#).

Alternative formats of the Handbook can be made available on request.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

In European Studies, we welcome students from a range of backgrounds and perspectives. We believe that diversity of ideas and knowledge enriches everyone's learning, provided we treat each other with dignity and respect. We strive to incorporate accessibility and inclusivity in our teaching and classrooms to ensure all students, regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, background or socio-economic status, have equitable opportunity to engage fully in their studies and achieve their learning goals.

We endorse [Trinity's Dignity and Respect Policy](#), [Accessible Information Policy](#) and other [disability-specific policies and procedures](#), and the [aims and objectives](#) of the Trinity Inclusive Curriculum Project. Suggestions and feedback on how we can improve our accessibility and inclusivity are encouraged and appreciated: please contact the director of European Studies, Prof. Clemens Ruthner (ruthnerc@tcd.ie)

1. GENERAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The objective of the European Studies programme is to achieve a high degree of linguistic competence, a firm intellectual grasp of several academic disciplines in the Humanities, and a detailed understanding of the European past and present.

In your European Studies programme, you will study and gain fluency in 2 European languages: French, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Russian or Spanish. (NB. German, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Russian can be studied from beginner level. Irish can be a minor language only; Spanish and Irish cannot be studied together, as any combination of German, Russian, and Polish is impossible for timetabling reasons.) You will also study the history of ideas and the evolution of European thought, plus a choice of modules in History, Political Science, Sociology, and Economics.

The Sophister years in Columbia University allow you to define your own academic path at an advanced level within the disciplines of the course.

Staff Contact Details

Programme Team:

Staff Name	Role	Email	Room No.
Prof Clemens Ruthner	Director, Centre for European Studies	ruthnerc@tcd.ie (for academic matters)	Room 5068, Arts Building
Susan Migunda-Greene	Senior Executive officer	Undergraduate.slhc@tcd.ie (for student queries)	Room 5080, Arts Building
Prof Balázs Apor	Dual Degree Coordinator	aporb@tcd.ie	Room 4082, Arts Building

Dr Rebecca Carr	European Studies Teaching Fellow	carrre@tcd.ie	Room 5065, Arts Building
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Departmental Coordinators for European Studies:

Programme	Contact person's name	Email
German	Dr Clemens Ruthner	ruthnerc@tcd.ie
French	Dr Edward Arnold	ejarnold@tcd.ie
Irish	Dr Mícheál Hoyne	mhoyne@tcd.ie
Italian	Dr Igor Candido	candidoi@tcd.ie
Polish	Adam Nowakowski	anowakowski@tcd.ie
Russian	Dr Balázs Apór	aporb@tcd.ie
Spanish	Patricia González Bermúdez	pgonzal@tcd.ie
History	Dr Erin-Marie Legacey	legacey@tcd.ie
Social Sciences	Dr Paul Scanlon (Economics)	scanlop@tcd.ie

1.3 Key Dates

The current [Academic Year Structure](#) is available on the College's website.

- **Essay submission dates** are available from online module descriptors and module coordinators.
- **Learning agreements and Year Abroad result deadlines** are available from departmental ES coordinators.
- **Capstone deadlines** are available from online module descriptors and the module coordinator.

Key Locations

School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies (SLLCS)

Office hours

Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 12.30pm, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Undergraduate Office

Students are welcome to call in during office hours; it is advised to make an appointment in advance where possible. In email correspondence, please always include your student number and course of study in your subject line.

Nature of query	Office location	Email
Undergraduate Office: general undergraduate queries and transcript requests	Room 5080 5 th floor, Arts Building	undergraduate.sllcs@tcd.ie
European Studies		
Undergraduate timetables	Room 5080, Arts Building	timetables.sllcs@tcd.ie

Other Undergraduate Degree Programme Offices

Programme	Office location	Email
<u>Trinity Columbia Dual B.A.</u>	Room 3135, Arts Building	ColumbiaDualBA@tcd.ie

1.4 Timetable

Your lecture timetable is available through My.tcd.ie and the [Trinity Live App](#). Clashes may occur in the initial weeks. For timetable queries email: timetables.sllcs@tcd.ie

2. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER PRIZES

2.1 Foundation Scholarships

The objective of “Schol” is to identify outstanding academic potential in the complementary disciplines which make up the European Studies programme.

The Scholarship examination in European Studies includes material covered during the two semesters of the Junior Fresher year and the first semester of the Senior Fresher year. It consists of one General Paper in European Studies, two language (French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Irish, Spanish) competence papers (including a *Viva voce* examination) and one additional paper in this year from the list as follows: Empires; The Making of Modernity; Economics Paper 2; Political Science Paper 1; Sociology Paper 2. In Social Sciences students can only sit a Scholarship paper in the subject they have studied in JF year. The two language papers combined carry 1/3 of the overall marks; the General Paper and remaining paper each carries 1/3 of the overall marks.

2.2 Prizes

Students should consult the [College Calendar, under 'Prizes and other Awards'](#) for details of the prizes available for each of the languages.

3. ACADEMIC WRITING

3.1 The Use and Referencing of AI (Artificial Intelligence)

The School's guidelines on the use of Generative AI (Gen AI) [are available on the School website](#).

Acknowledging and referencing AI

The Library of Trinity College Dublin has developed [guidelines on acknowledging and referencing AI](#). GenAI is evolving rapidly and there is not yet general consensus on how to acknowledge and reference it. This guidance will therefore continue to be reviewed and updated. Generally speaking, ES does not welcome the use of GenAI for essay writing.

Resources

- The Library [guidelines on acknowledging and referencing GenAI](#).

- [Trinity's Generative Artificial Intelligence \(GenAI\) Hub.](#)
- [College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research.](#)

3.2 Academic Integrity and Referencing Guide

It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work and ideas of others. However, it is essential that we do so with integrity, in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement. Any action or attempted action that undermines academic integrity and may result in an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any member of the academic community or wider society may be considered as academic misconduct.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the work of others as one's own work without acknowledgement. As such, it is considered as academically fraudulent, and subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University. Plagiarism can arise from deliberate actions and/or through careless thinking and methodology. The offence lies not in the attitude or intention of the author, but in the action and its consequences. Please note that it is the responsibility of the author of any work to ensure that they do not commit plagiarism. Students must therefore think carefully about their practices of essay-writing, translation, citation, and note-taking. In the event of any uncertainty students should seek advice ahead of submitting any work for assessment. Please confirm the preferred citation style with each module coordinator.

For important information about this subject, students are also required to consult the [Library Plagiarism Guide](#). All students must complete the online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism, ['Ready, Steady, Write'](#), on the Library website.

The [Cover Sheet](#) that is to be submitted with all assignments declares the following:

I have read and understood the plagiarism provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for the current year, found at <http://www.tcd.ie/calendar>.

I have also read and understood the guide, and completed the 'Ready Steady Write' Tutorial on avoiding plagiarism, located at <https://libguides.tcd.ie/academic-integrity/ready-steady-write>.

References:

- [Calendar Part II, B: General Regulations & Information, 'Academic Integrity'](#)
- [College Statement on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Library Guides - Academic Integrity](#)

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING

4.1. European Studies UG Programme Architecture

Staff who teach on the [European Studies programme](#) are located across three Schools in the Faculty:

1. School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
2. School of Histories and Humanities
3. School of Social Sciences and Philosophy (Economics, Sociology and Political Science)

Further information about the contact details and research interests of staff involved in European Studies [is available through the relevant departmental websites](#).

Module Descriptors

Students can access full Module Descriptors on their student my.tcd.ie portal by clicking on:

Courses & Modules -> View Course and Module Descriptive information

4.1.1 Junior Fresh Year (JF)

In their JF year students take modules worth **60 ECTS** in total:

1. **Two languages** (2 x 10 ECTS): French, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish.

NB. No student may take more than one language as a beginner.

The following languages combinations are not possible;

Spanish and Irish, German and Russian, German and Polish, Russian and Polish.

2. **Two 5 ECTS “area studies”** modules in their languages (one in each language).
3. The **ES core module** *Introduction to the History of Ideas* (EUU11001; 10 ECTS).
4. The **compulsory history module** *Birth of Empire* in HT (HIU12054; 5 ECTS).
5. One **optional** 5 ECTS History module in HT.

HIU12039	The English Invasion of Ireland and its Impact 1100-1400	Booker	5 ECTS
HIU12053	A new module in global history	tbc	5 ECTS
HIU12042	Famine, Land and People: Ireland 1830s- 1880s	Laragy	5 ECTS

6. **Two optional** 5 ECTS modules (one in each term) in **one** of the disciplines in Social Sciences (Economics, Sociology or Politics).

A place on any particular optional module cannot be guaranteed for timetabling and other reasons.

For the forthcoming academic year, the following module combinations are available in the Social Sciences:

1. ECU11011 Introduction to Economics A
And

2. ECU11012 Introduction to Economics B

Or

1. ECU11031 Introduction to Economic Policy A
And

2. ECU11032 Introduction to Economic Policy B

Or

1. POU11033 Politics and Popular Culture A
And
2. POU11034 Politics and Popular Culture B

Or

1. SOU11011 Introduction to Sociology 1
And
2. SOU11012 Introduction to Sociology 2

Students cannot take a particular social science module in SF and subsequent years; if they have not studied that discipline in JF.

Choosing your discipline is thus an important choice for your subsequent academic pathway. If you choose Political Science, Sociology or Economics in first year, you will follow through with modules in that same discipline in SF and SS.

4.1.2 Senior Fresh Year (SF)

In their SF year, students take:

1. The **two languages** studied in the JF year are continued throughout the SF year (2x10 ECTS). By the end of the first semester, students will be asked to designate one of the two languages as their major language. This determines the country to which they will go in the Junior Sophister year.
2. Students will also choose **two**, one-term, 5 ECTS “**area studies**” modules in their two languages.
3. The SF **ES core module** ‘The making of modernity, 1750-1820’ (EUU22002; 10 ECTS) in HT.
4. **Two 5 ECTS modules in History** in Michaelmas Term
5. Apart from the compulsory modules and area studies options, students are required to choose **two 5ECTS optional modules in Social Sciences or History**. Students may combine a 5 ECTS history option with an additional “area studies” module. In 2026-2027 the following modules are available; a place on any particular module cannot be guaranteed for timetabling and other reasons.

Module Code(s)	Module Title	ECTS	Semester
ECU22041 & ECU22042	Economics Issues A&B	5 & 5	1 & 2
HIU12030	The Hundred Years War	5	2
HIU12050	Northern Ireland since 1921	5	2
HIU12051	Debating Modern Britain: conflict, change and society in the Long Eighteenth Century	5	2
HIU22010	Writing History	5	1
HIU12048	Modern Eastern Europe, 1890-1990	5	1
HIU12046	Thinking about thought: Ideas in History	5	1
HIU12045	Across the sea: Ireland and its neighbours in the Early Middle Ages	5	1
HIU12049	Humans and the environment in Modern History	5	1
POU22031 & POU22032	Comparative Politics A & B	5 & 5	1 & 2
POU22021 & POU22022	International Relations A & B	5 & 5	1 & 2
SOU22061 & SOU22062	Social Theory 1&2	5 & 5	1 & 2
SOU22021 & SOU22032	Gender, Work and Family 1 & 2	5 & 5	1 & 2
SOU22041 & SOU22052	Power, State and Social Movements 1& 2	5 & 5	1 & 2
NMU22032	Islam in Europe	5	2
NMU22212	Early Jewish History and Literature	5	2
NMU22252	International Relations of North Africa: regional unification & new challenges	5	2

NMU22221	Jews and European Society	5	1
NMU22112	History of the Ottoman Empire	5	2

To take any Political Science modules in the Senior Sophister year, students must pass one of the Senior Fresher modules offered in that subject area with a minimum mark of 40. In addition, students intending to take the Contemporary International Relations module in the Senior Sophister year (if available) must pass the Senior Fresher International Relations modules POU22021 and POU22022 with a minimum mark of 40.

4.1.3 Trinity Sophister Programme of Study

Please note: This section does not apply to students entering the programme in 2026-27.

From the end of their second year of study at Trinity students will complete additional Trinity modules to the value of 30 ECTS studied through the Centre for European Studies. This programme of study is complementary to the programme at Columbia, builds on the Fresher programme at Trinity, and takes into consideration the individual skills, abilities and circumstances of students. The programme consists of one compulsory and two optional modules. All students are required to complete a capstone project (20 ECTS) in their final year and complete an internship (10 ECTS), or the taught module 'Ideas and Perceptions of Europe' (10 ECTS). Students must complete their 10 ECTS optional module in the Junior Sophister year.

Research project (Capstone)

The 20 ECTS research project or capstone is to be completed in year 4. This project must be based on original research to produce an extended piece of writing that analyses sources and is written according to the appropriate methodology of the discipline involved. The aim of this capstone research project is to enable students to devise, develop and complete an original piece of research in a defined time frame which draws on the insights, skills and knowledge acquired during their study programme. Students will complete an extended piece of writing which is based on independent research, involving critical study of primary sources.

The capstone project will be assessed by a research proposal (700 words), a written element of 4-5,000 words and an oral component (viva) at the end of the academic year. The character of the work completed will be determined by the chosen discipline from the available major subjects of study available for European Studies students at Columbia. The character of the writing will be agreed by the academic advisor at TCD in line with the students' learning objectives to ensure it is an intellectual exercise that reflects on the range of skills and knowledge developed by the student. It might also be written in the major language of the candidate.

“Ideas and Perceptions of Europe” (taught module)

The aim of this team-taught module is to explore ideas, perceptions and representations of Europe over the ages—from antiquity to the present—from a cultural and historical perspective. The module will discuss ideas and representations of Europe as expressed in texts, discourses, material culture, visual sources and other forms media, relying on disciplinary approaches used in classics, art history, cultural history, film, English. The module will be delivered in three installments by colleagues from a range of humanities disciplines. Students will participate in three, two-hour workshops at TCD at the end of the SF year (HT). Students will consult with colleagues online in the first semester of the JS year and will submit a research essay that draws upon relevant material discussed in the lectures.

Internship

The internship introduces students to practical work experience. Those students who choose this module will be required to spend 3-4 weeks under the direction of a professional at an approved place of work. The internship is normally to be taken during the summer following the third year of study, but it can also be completed during the academic year in Columbia as a part-time internship. The placement must be related to the academic disciplines and objectives of the European Studies degree and must be agreed in advance with the Dual Degree Academic Advisor in European Studies. Students are encouraged to take the initiative in organising placements of relevance and interest to their programme of study (embassies, NGOs, think-

tanks, international institutions, cultural institutions, etc.), but will receive assistance from their advisors at Trinity College Dublin and in Columbia University. The module is assessed by an essay/report reflecting on the experience of the internship and the development of professional and other skills after the end of the period of work. The Dual Degree Academic Advisor in European Studies will provide guidance for the student to produce the assessment on the internship. The essay is to be submitted to the Centre for European Studies. A short report will also be received from the institution or work professional about the intern to ensure satisfactory completion of the criteria of the internship.

Students who wish to complete their internship during the academic year while enrolled at Columbia University must also consult with the Columbia International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO), to ensure that they remain in compliance for all student visa regulations.

Coursework requirements and assessment

During each year at Trinity, you must take modules with a total value of 60 credits (ECTS). You must make sure that you have a balanced credit-load across the two teaching terms; therefore, you should aim to obtain 30 credits in each semester.

To progress each year in College you need (1) to secure an overall mark of 40 minimum and (2) to obtain 60 credits (ECTS), either by passing all modules, or by compensation. To pass a year by compensation, you must achieve the pass mark in modules carrying a minimum of 50 credits and obtain a module mark of at least 35 in any remaining module(s).

Students who have not passed their year are required to present for reassessment, if:

1. They obtain a mark of 35-39 for more than 10 credits;
2. They fail any module uncompensatably (i.e. achieving marks below 35);
3. They do not obtain an overall pass mark for the year;
4. Any combination of 1 -3 (above) occurs.

If a student has achieved both fail and qualified pass grades at the first sitting or has exceeded the 10-credit limit allowed for compensation and is not permitted to rise with their year, they must present for reassessment in all failed components of all modules for which they obtained a fail and/or a qualified pass.

For the purpose of calculation the Trinity degree classification, the cumulative GPA recorded on the final transcript provided by Columbia University will be combined with the aggregate mark from the modules completed as part of the TCD Sophister Programme of Study (extra credits) (30 ECTS) on a 50%-50% basis.

For students entering the course from 2026/27, the degree classification at Trinity is calculated by combining the overall end of year mark from the Senior Fresh year on a 20% basis with the aggregate mark from the period of registration at Columbia on an 80% basis.

4.2.1 Essay submissions

Every Junior Fresher and Senior Fresher and Senior Sophister essay for an EUU-coded module must be accompanied by the appropriate cover sheet which can be downloaded from Blackboard. A copy of all assessed work must be uploaded to the Blackboard platform of the respective module, using the link provided by the module coordinators; it might be advisable to submit a soft copy of essays via email as well.

For assessed work for EUU-coded modules, please note that work submitted after the deadline, unless an extension has been agreed in advance, will be given a mark including a penalty. In cases of failure to submit assessed work, a mark of zero (0) will be awarded. For details on submission on work in other modules please consult the information provided by the relevant department.

Students are reminded of [Trinity's Accessible Information Policy](#). All written material (e.g. theses, essays) should use sans serif font (e.g. Calibri, Arial), minimum size 11/12.

4.2.2 Essay-writing guidelines

European Studies students have to adapt their writing skills and citation styles to different disciplines. These guidelines on essay-writing should be read in conjunction with specific advice offered by module coordinators/tutors in different disciplines.

An essay should provide a structured analysis of evidence in order to answer a specific research question or set of interlocking questions. Essays should not merely provide descriptive information about a topic. You should therefore prepare to write by reading books and articles from reading lists provided by your module coordinator/tutor.

These texts should be directly related to the subject under discussion. You are not reading merely to accumulate information but to understand arguments about how to analyse and interpret processes, ideas, texts and events.

Before writing, you should read carefully through your notes and devise a structure for your writing around relevant arguments. Essays should be structured around points of analysis, not around blocks of information. An essay which simply narrates will never receive high marks no matter how well written and presented it is.

In assessing essays, markers take account of attributes such as library research, quality of analysis, depth and range of understanding of relevant issues, accuracy, structure, expression, presentation and originality of thought. The mark represents a composite evaluation of these factors. An interesting, provocative, but poorly informed piece of writing might then receive the same grade as one which is clearly presented but reliant on repetition of basic narrative information.

The introduction is a vital element of a successful essay. It should define how the author intends to treat and analyse the question asked. Any terms or concepts in the title requiring definition should be considered in the introduction.

The main part of an essay should consist of several main points, which deal with individual aspects of the question posed and lead up to an answer to the question. A clear structure will ensure that the argument is coherent and easy to follow. The conclusion should summarise the argument, take the insights to a last stage, and supply an answer to the exact question posed in the introduction.

Paragraphs should be limited to less than a typed page and develop a single point. Single sentence paragraphs should be avoided. Think carefully about your style of writing to deliver clear, accurate and sophisticated ideas.

The first person should be sparingly used. Elisions, contractions, as well as slang, jargon, colloquial expressions, and an excessive use of metaphors should be avoided.

A frequent error of grammar is around the use of 'its' (a possessive pronoun). 'It's' (a contraction of 'it is') cannot be used in its place. On dates, you should write the 1850s (as a plural) not the 1850's.

When you use 'twentieth century' as a noun, no hyphen is needed, but as an adjective a hyphen is required ('twentieth-century Ireland').

You are taking a programme of study involving language learning. Please take care to spell place names, personal names and concepts accurately. Read and edit your work carefully before submitting it. Some people find it helpful to read their work aloud to themselves to check whether sentences make sense or are too long and confusing.

Every essay must contain a bibliography, at the end of the essay, listing works consulted in alphabetical order of the author's last name. Only works actually consulted should be listed.

There are different methods of listing publications; it is crucial to be consistent and ensure that sufficient information is supplied to allow the reader to trace the publication used.

All direct quotations, as well as the ideas or opinions of others, must be referenced.

Indirect quotations must be extensively reworded, reordered and their contents analysed. This is important not only to demonstrate quality of analysis but in order to avoid plagiarism. As a general rule, any information taken from a book or article must be sourced. However, it is not necessary to source general information or well-known facts which are common knowledge or can be easily verified. References should be inserted as consecutively numbered footnotes after the relevant text passage. References should be consistent in style and contain precise page references. Make yourself familiar with common style sheets such as **MLA** or **Chicago**.

For additional writing support, students should visit the [Academic Writing Centre](#).

4.3 Marking Scale

The marking scheme used is based on the following grade descriptors:

- First / I = 70 - 100 marks;
- Upper Second Class / II.1 = 60 - 69 marks;
- Lower Second Class / II.2= 50 - 59 marks;
- Third / III= 40 - 49 marks;
- Fail / F.1= 30 – 39 marks;
- Fail /F.2= 0 - 29 marks.

In cases of failure to submit an assessed work component, a. mark of 0 is awarded.

Students should consult module and relevant departmental handbooks for specific criteria relating to each of these grades.

4.4 Attendance Requirements

In some modules and departments, students must satisfy an attendance requirement. In others, students must complete non-examined written work. In any case, students are responsible for ensuring that they understand and meet the criteria required in all modules they study. Please consult your module coordinator/tutor if you are uncertain about what is expected. In case of illness, submit a copy of medical certificates in support of absence requests via email.

Source:

- [Calendar Part II, B: General Regulations and Information, 'Attendance'](#)

4.5 Examinations

There are varied modes of assessment in different modules in your programme. Please consult information provided by module coordinators to understand precisely what is required of you in assessed exercises and in examinations. Please also note that it is the responsibility of each student to establish the time and date of examinations and be aware of examination regulations by consulting the [College Examination Office website](#).

References:

- [Calendar Part II, B: General Regulations and Information, 'Absence'](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)

4.6 External Examiner

The external examiner (Extern) oversees the assessments and marking of assignments and exams for the JS and SS years. S/he moderates marks and gives feedback on the whole procedure in the two Court of Examiners (in May and September) that finalise all marks.

- Dr Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses, Professor in History at Maynooth University

4.7 Transcript Requests

If you wish to request a copy of your academic transcript, contact the School Undergraduate Office (undergraduate.slcs@tcd.ie).

Include the following information in your email:

- Full name (as it appeared during your time as a student)
- Student number
- Programme of study
- Years of attendance at Trinity College Dublin

For older transcripts, the following details may not be available:

- Module or course descriptions for each academic year
- Module names corresponding to results listed on transcripts
- Descriptions of module content or learning outcomes
- ECTS credits, contact hours, or workload per module

Transcript processing requires a **minimum of 10 to 14 working days**.