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

Integrating Heritage at Trinity East

Trinity Research Doctorate Award 2025-2029

Natural Heritage

We invite applications to doctoral research on the natural heritage of Trinity East site in Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, as part of the interdisciplinary research project *Integrating Heritage at Trinity East*.

The Project

The heritage of Trinity East is uniquely complex, a combination of tangible and intangible and of multiple historical and present actors, and requires an interdisciplinary study. Our research project will study the built, cultural, commercial, and natural heritage of the Trinity East site and the larger Grand Canal Dock area. Our aim is to understand how the historical complexity and legacy of human-environment interactions have shaped the unique challenges and possibilities of this site and how the globalisation of Dublin has affected local communities and their natural and built environments.

This study seeks to help 're-earth' the Trinity East site as it develops and thereby demonstrate what else a city can be in the midst of an overdeveloped industrial and residential zone in which civic space, community flourishing, and biodiversity have been, at best, supplementary concerns.

The successful applicant will be fully funded (see below) and will join a team of three other PhD researchers and four co-PIs across Business, History of Art and Architecture, History, and Geography. The project will integrate these studies to

understand how the historical complexity and legacy of human-environment interactions shape the challenges and possibilities unique to this site. It will explore the historical and contemporary pathways and practices through which commercial actors, local and global communities, and other human and non-human agents have influenced the Trinity East site and its locale.

Details of the Award

This PhD project will be supervised by Professor Iris Möller in the School of Natural Sciences. It will provide an extended review of the coastal geomorphological heritage of the Trinity East (and Grand Canal Dock) site and model future development scenario implications for the site's (and its surrounding's) bio-physical integrity. The site sits at the confluence of the Dodder and Liffey River systems as well as at the heart of what once was a functioning low-lying soft-sediment estuary. The project will chart the externally and internally driven modification of water and sediment fluxes and associated biodiversity and ecosystem service change resulting from phases of human modification (e.g., altered water quality, carbon storage, food resources). The insights will be combined with a detailed assessment of the present-day hydrological and geomorphological effect of the site on its surroundings and will explore, through modelling, potential futures arising from site-based interventions and existing (IPCC AR6) climate scenarios.

Candidates should have an undergraduate degree in Geography, Earth, or Environmental Sciences and a strong academic background in coastal geomorphological theory and practice. A Masters degree in a cognate subject area would be an advantage.

Candidates should have a high degree of computer literacy with some programming experience, intermediate to advanced GIS skills, and a basic level of experience and/or an interest in learning advanced numerical modelling skills (e.g. hydrological, coastal, geomorphological). An interest in working across disciplinary boundaries and willingness to engage in multi-disciplinary dialogue and discussion is essential.

The Award includes a €25k per annum tax-free stipend for 4 years and a tuition fee write-down. This excludes the once-off Application fee (€55) for Admission and the annual Student

Levies & Charges (SLC) (approx. €200 p.a.) charged to students at registration.

The successful applicant must be registered and ready to commence by March 2026.

Details of Application

Please send a CV, Cover Letter, and two-page Research Proposal to Prof Iris Möller (moelleri@tcd.ie) by 5pm on Friday 14 November 2025.

Viable applicants will be shortlisted for interview soon thereafter. The successful applicant will then have to apply directly to the School of Natural Sciences following the Trintiy College PhD application process.