



Fully-Funded PhD Opportunity (4 years)

Project Title: Harnessing trained innate immunity to support infants to fight infection.

Direct Supervisor: Dr Cilian Ó Maoldomhnaigh, Paediatric Infectious Consultant, Children's Health Ireland, HRB Clinical Research Fellow and Clinical Senior Lecturer, Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, Trinity College Dublin

Co-Supervisor: Prof Sharee Basdeo, Assistant Professor in TB Immunology, Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, Trinity College Dublin

Summary

The most vulnerable time to infection is the neonatal period. While differences in neonatal innate immune function have long been recognised, the mechanisms regulating these responses are yet to be fully explored and represent a potential target to therapeutically support the immune system. This project is an innovative exploration of the innate immune function of infants using novel techniques in our laboratory. The aim of this project is to examine neonatal innate immunity and directly compare it with adult responses. This project will also investigate if innate immune responses can be trained towards enhanced bactericidal capacity.

This position is **fully funded via a Trinity Research Doctorate Award (TRDA)**:

- **Stipend:** €25,000 per annum (tax-free)
- **Tuition fees:** EU or non-EU fees covered for 4 years
- **Start date:** September 2025

Applicant Profile

- First-class or upper-second-class honours degree (or Master's) in immunology, biomedical science, biochemistry, microbiology or related discipline.
- Strong motivation to solve global health challenges; prior BSL-2/3, flow-cytometry or metabolic-assay experience desirable but not essential.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills; ability to work both independently and in a multidisciplinary team.
- Eligibility to meet Trinity College Dublin's PhD entry requirements and (if non-EU) secure the appropriate visa.

How to Apply - Application deadline: Friday 30th May 2025

Email a **single PDF** to maoldomc@tcd.ie with:

1. **Cover letter** (max 2 pages) outlining research interests & suitability.
2. **Curriculum vitae** (including grades, publications, conference abstracts).
3. Contact details for **two academic referees**.

Trinity College Dublin champions equality, diversity and inclusion; we welcome applications from all backgrounds and particularly encourage women, first-generation graduates and candidates from under-represented groups to apply.