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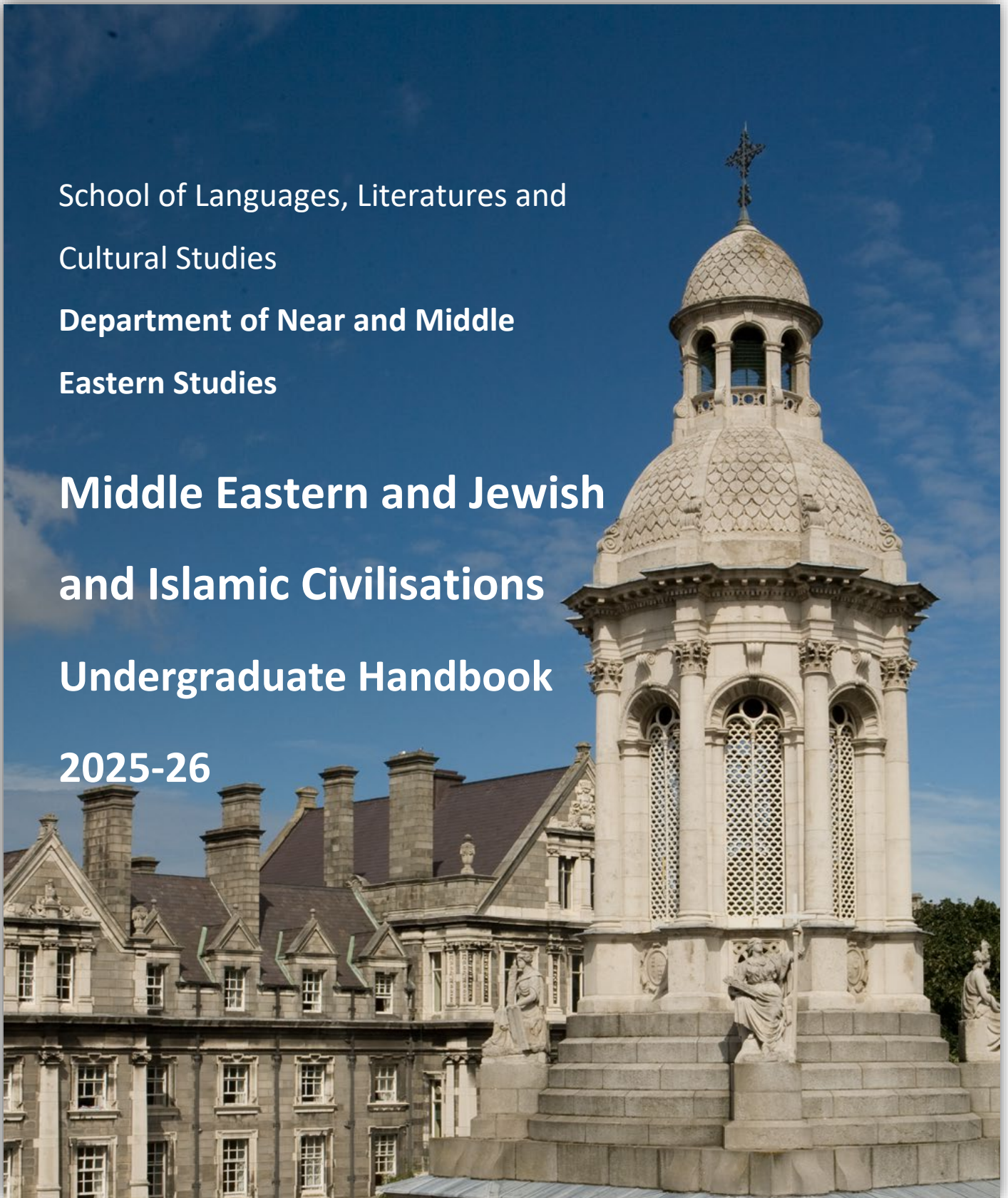Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies

Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies

Middle Eastern and Jewish and Islamic Civilisations

Undergraduate Handbook

2025-26

Contents

1. GENERAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION

1.2 Introduction

The Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies is a dynamic and diverse hub for teaching and research focused on the societies and cultures of the Middle East, North Africa, as well as Jewish and Islamic civilizations.

Our Joint Honours (TJH) undergraduate programme in Middle Eastern, Jewish, and Islamic Civilisations (MEJIC) offer foundational modules in the first year, allowing students to explore various areas of expertise. From the second year onward, students can tailor their studies by selecting a pathway that aligns with their interests. Additionally, students may choose to study a language starting in the second year, with options including Arabic and Turkish.

1.3 Staff Contact Details

The list of current Study Abroad Coordinators is available on the [School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies' Study Abroad webpage](#).

Staff Name	Role	Email	Room No.
Mohamed Ahmed	Al Maktoum Associate Professor in Middle Eastern Studies	ahmedm4@tcd.ie	
Tylor Brand	Assistant Professor in Modern Middle Eastern Studies	branda@tcd.ie	5032
Anne Fitzpatrick	Associate Professor in Biblical Studies and Second Temple Judaism	fitzpaa@tcd.ie	5011
Lesley Grant	Erlington Teaching Fellow	grantlm@tcd.ie	

Idriss Jebari (Currently on leave)	Al Maktoum Assistant Professor in Middle Eastern Studies	jebarii@tcd.ie	
Maya Petrovich	Yunus Emre Institute Assistant Professor in Turkish Cultural History Erasmus/Study Abroad Coordinator (Inbound) MT	petrovim@tcd.ie	
Zuleika Rodgers (on Research Leave in Michaelmas Term)	Associate Professor in Jewish Studies Erasmus/Study Abroad Coordinator (Outbound)	rodgersz@tcd.ie	5037
Murat R. Şiviloğlu	Head of Department Associate Professor in Islamic and Middle Eastern Civilisations	sivilogm@tcd.ie	5029
Martin Worthington (Hilary Term only)	Al Maktoum Associate Professor in Middle Eastern Studies	worthinm@tcd.ie	5045

1.4 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

The Undergraduate Office is located in Room 5080 on the 5th floor of the Arts Building, students are welcome to call in during office hours.

Nature of query	Office location	Email
Undergraduate Office: **general undergraduate queries and transcript requests**	Room 5080 5th floor, Arts Building	undergraduate.sllcs@tcd.ie
European Studies		
Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures		
Undergraduate timetables	Room 5080	timetables.sllcs@tcd.ie
Erasmus and Study Abroad	Room 5080	erasmus.sllcs@tcd.ie
School Office: School operations, finance and HR	Room 5042	

Undergraduate Degree Programme Offices

It is advised that students make an appointment in advance, where possible. In the email subject line include your student number and course of study.

Programme	Office location	Email
Trinity Joint Honours	Room 3135, Arts Building (office hours)	joint.honours@tcd.ie
TJH Open Modules		open.modules@tcd.ie
TJH Erasmus and Study Abroad		tjh.erasmus-studyabroad@tcd.ie
SLLCS Erasmus and Study Abroad Co-ordinator	Room 5080, Arts Building	erasmus.sllcs@tcd.ie
Business Studies and a Language	Trinity Business School	business@tcd.ie
Trinity Columbia Dual B.A.	Room 3135, Arts Building	ColumbiaDualBA@tcd.ie
Dual B.A. Columbia University Officer		gsinternational@columbia.edu
Law and a Language	School of Law, House 39, New Square	law.school@tcd.ie
Computer Science, Linguistics and a Language (CSLL)	Room 4091, Arts Building	clcsinfo@tcd.ie

1.5 Key Dates

The current Academic Year Structure is available on the Trinity website.

1.6 Timetable

Your timetable will be accessible via MyTCD.ie or the Trinity Live App. In the first few weeks of Term check it regularly, since changes may occur in order to resolve clashes. All queries relating to your timetable should be sent to timetables.sllcs@tcd.ie.

1.7 Study Abroad/Erasmus

MEJIC students can apply to study abroad for a Term in third year. Places are awarded on a competitive basis. An information session for Second Years will be held by the MEJIC Study Abroad Coordinator in Michaelmas Term.

The School's Study Abroad webpage outlines comprehensive information relating to Erasmus/Study Abroad programmes, including the list of current Erasmus destinations for students, how to plan for your year abroad, the procedures for different pathways, and supports for students with disabilities.

School Contacts

In the first instance, students should contact the Study Abroad Coordinator for MEJIC.

For all queries and supports, students are welcome to contact the School's Erasmus and Study Abroad Coordinator (erasmus.sllcs@tcd.ie) or by calling in to the Undergraduate Office during office hours.

SH and TJH pathways

Contact the TJH Erasmus and Study Abroad Coordinator by email (tjh.erasmus-studyabroad@tcd.ie), or by calling into the TJH Programme Office during office hours.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

2.1 Foundation Scholarships

The primary objective of the Foundation Scholarship examination, which is sat in early January of the Junior Fresh Year, is to identify and recognize outstanding academic potential in the fields covered by the degree course in Middle Eastern, Jewish, and Islamic Civilisations. The examination encompasses material taught during the two semesters of the Junior Freshman year and the first semester of the Senior Freshman year.

Further details and specific guidance regarding the examination will be provided by the Schols coordinator for MEJIC.

2.2 Prizes

MEJIC students are eligible for a number of prizes:

Haddick Memorial Prize This prize was founded in 1967 by Dr H. G. K. Haddick as a memorial to his brother, the Rev. Dr James E. K. Haddick. The prize is to be awarded to the best answerer in the department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the Junior Sophister examination in Hebrew, provided sufficient merit is shown. Value, €191.

Hincks Memorial Prize This prize was founded in 1944 by a gift from J. H. Magee in memory of Edward Hincks, Fellow 1813-20, to encourage the study of the language, history, religion, literature, culture and ideas of the Hebrews in Old Testament times, and of Old Testament archaeology.

The prize is awarded in two parts, one to an undergraduate of the Junior Sophister year and the other to a postgraduate student in the department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies. In each case the award is made for a dissertation within the areas designated. The topic chosen should be approved in advance, and the dissertation should be submitted not later than 1 October. In the event of two or more dissertations being judged to be of equal and sufficient merit, the

prizes may be divided. Value, undergraduate prize €381; postgraduate prize €2,540.

David Parris Prize For Arabic This prize was founded in 2013 by Mr David Parris, F.T.C.D. The prize is to be awarded to the Junior Sophister student who achieves the best overall mark in the Intermediate Arabic module in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, provided sufficient merit is shown. Value, €75

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 GenAI. 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.

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.

Sources:
- Calendar Part II, B: General Regulations & Information, 'Academic Integrity'

- [College Statement on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Library Guides - Academic Integrity](#)
- [Coversheet Declaration](#)

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING

4.1 Programme Architecture

MEJIC is a Subject within Trinity Joint Honours. The [Pathways and Degree Awards](#) offered by the TJH pathway are detailed on the Academic Registry website.

4.2 Module Descriptors

Information on the 2025/26 modules will be confirmed in September 2025.

4.1.1 Junior Fresh Year

During the Junior Fresh year, students are required to take six modules.

Modules TBC

4.2.2. Senior Fresh

Modules TBC

4.2.3 Junior Sophister Year

Modules TBC

4.2.4 Senior Sophister Year (60 ECTS)

All students must prepare a dissertation or capstone project of 10,000 words (20 ECTS). The submission date is specified on the module's Blackboard page.

Students can choose to take an ancient or modern language as part of their studies, including Arabic, Modern or Biblical Hebrew and Turkish. Studying a language not only provides students with a greater understanding of cultures and societies but also expands their career options.

In addition, students take two modules per semester, worth 10 ECTS each.

Modules TBC

4.3 Coursework Requirements

Submission of assessed work

All assessed work must be submitted with the appropriate coversheet, which can be downloaded from Blackboard or obtained from the module coordinator. All submissions should be through Blackboard.

4.4 Capstone Project

This information is for MEJIC students planning to do their capstone in NMES, and for MEELC students who plan to do their capstone with an NMES supervisor. It does not apply to MEELC Dual Degree students, who should refer to the MEELC Dual Degree Handbook.

The Capstone Project is weighted at 20 ECTS. It requires a significant level of independent research by the student. The Capstone should:

1. be an integrative exercise that allows students to showcase skills and knowledge which they have developed across a range of subject areas and across the four years of study
2. result in the production of a significant piece of original work by the student
3. provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their attainment of the four graduate attributes: to think independently, to communicate effectively, to develop continuously and to act responsibly.

At the start of your Senior Sophister year you will be enrolled on the relevant Blackboard module (NMU44CPY or MLU44CPY), which will contain information about deadlines, word

length, citation format, etc. You should refer to the Blackboard page as the only authoritative source of information on such things (in the event that any such information is missing, you should contact the module coordinator).

While the precise word limit will be on the Blackboard page, it will not be less than 10,000 words (excluding bibliography). It will need acknowledgments, a table of contents, the main text, conclusions, the bibliography, and any appendixes (for raw data, not for additional discussion).

The main text should include:

- an introduction
- review/survey of existing scholarly literature
- explanation of the data set (i.e. of the sources you are using)
- explanation of the methods you will be using
- how you will be circumventing any methodological problems which attach to the project
- plus oyour own analysis (which will constitute the lion's share of the work)

Choosing a topic and research question

As well as a topic, you will need a specific research question. This needs to be carefully chosen, as the markers will be interested in how well you answer it. It is quite normal for the research question to be refined along the way (many students start off with one which is too broad to be answerable, and/or cumbersomely worded), and the same is true of the title.

Capstone supervisor

While the capstone is your own original research, and you have ultimate responsibility for it, you are supported by a supervisor. For MEJIC students doing their capstone in NMES this will be a member of NMES academic staff, for MEELC students it can (subject to availability and depending on your pathway) be any academic staff member in the School.

Your supervisor's role is to make suggestions, answer your questions, advise you on what is and is not likely to work well, make critical-constructive comments on writing and content, and generally help you achieve your and the project's potential.

You can expect five hours of contact supervision hours over the year, and how you divide them up (five 1-hour slots, ten 30-minute slots, etc.) is to be agreed between yourself and the supervisor. You can also expect your supervisor to read one full draft of the piece, providing you send it to them a reasonable length of time (stipulated in advance) before the deadline.

It is advisable to meet with your supervisor before the start of the summer, and to update them on your progress by email throughout the duration (every month at least).

Capstone deadlines

NMES will have a series of deadlines in advance of formal submission. While only the final submitted work (and not the earlier deadlines) will count towards the mark, it is important to meet them: they are there to help you break down the large task into manageable chunks.

Your first deadline will be in the first week of Michaelmas teaching Term. You will need to send your supervisor a brief document including: the research question (and sub-questions), a description of the primary sources to be used (data set), a list of relevant scholarly literature which you have already read, and a list of works which you plan to read. The document does not need to be long (a page or a page and a half should do it), but it should reflect actual work and thinking rather than being a last-minute scramble.

It is, therefore, advantageous to do as much preparatory work as possible over the summer.

Capstone research

Capstones are often strongest when they include independent analysis of a well-defined body of primary sources. While projects that rely largely on secondary literature can still be successful, incorporating primary material usually allows for more original arguments and

higher-level critical engagement. If it is not clear how to integrate primary sources into your project, your supervisor will be able to advise you.

It is also important to approach supervision as a collaborative process. Your supervisor's suggestions draw on their experience of what enables projects to succeed, both academically and in terms of assessment criteria. Even if you decide not to follow a particular piece of advice, you should make sure you understand the reasoning behind it, as this will help you frame your work in ways that demonstrate its value most effectively.

Research Ethics

If you plan to do interviews you will need authorisation from the [School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies' Research Ethics Committee](#). Information about this will be circulated closer to the time.

It is important to distinguish between academic research and activism, even though the two can sometimes overlap. When planning a capstone project, students should focus on identifying an academic problem that can be approached through critical analysis and research methods, rather than presenting advocacy alone. For example, while a contemporary humanitarian crisis may well provide a powerful and urgent context, a capstone project should not simply describe its tragic effects or call for action. Instead, it should frame a clear research question that allows for intellectual engagement, such as examining the historical roots of the crisis, evaluating the effectiveness of international responses, or analysing the role of media representation. In this way, pressing issues of current affairs can become the basis for strong academic projects, provided they are approached with analytical depth and methodological clarity.

Sources:

- [Capstone website](#)
- [Policy on Good Research Practice](#)

4.5 Marking Scale

The following grade boundaries apply:

- I: 70 - 100%
- II.1: 60 - 69%
- II.2: 50 - 59%
- III: 40 - 49%
- F.1: 30 – 39%
- F.2: 0 - 29%

In cases where an assessed work component is not submitted, a grade of 0% will be awarded.

For language modules, the maximum grade is capped at 80%.

For the marking criteria which will be applied to your work, see the information provided for individual modules.

4.6 Attendance Requirements

In certain modules, students are required to meet specific attendance criteria and complete non-examined written work. It is the responsibility of students to understand and fulfill the requirements for all modules they are enrolled in. If you are uncertain about any expectations, please consult the module coordinator.

Reference:

- Calendar Part II, B: General Regulations and Information, 'Attendance'

4.7 Absence from 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](#).

Sources:

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

4.8 External Examiners

External examiners reviewwork in the Sophister years, and are responsible for ensuring that the standard of assessments is both fair and in line with best practice nationally and internationally. In the academic year 2025-26, the External Examiners are:

1. Professor Sarah Pearce (Southampton) – Antiquity
2. Professor Eugene Rogan (Oxford) – Modern Middle East
3. Professor Aslı Niyazioğlu (Oxford) – Ottoman Studies

Where Externals are based outside the EU/EHEA (European Higher Education Area), your personal information, i.e. exam script and coursework, will be sent outside the EU/EHEA.

4.9 Requests for Transcripts

If you wish to request a copy of your academic transcript, contact the Undergraduate Office (undergraduate.sllcs@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**.