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

School of Social Sciences & Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
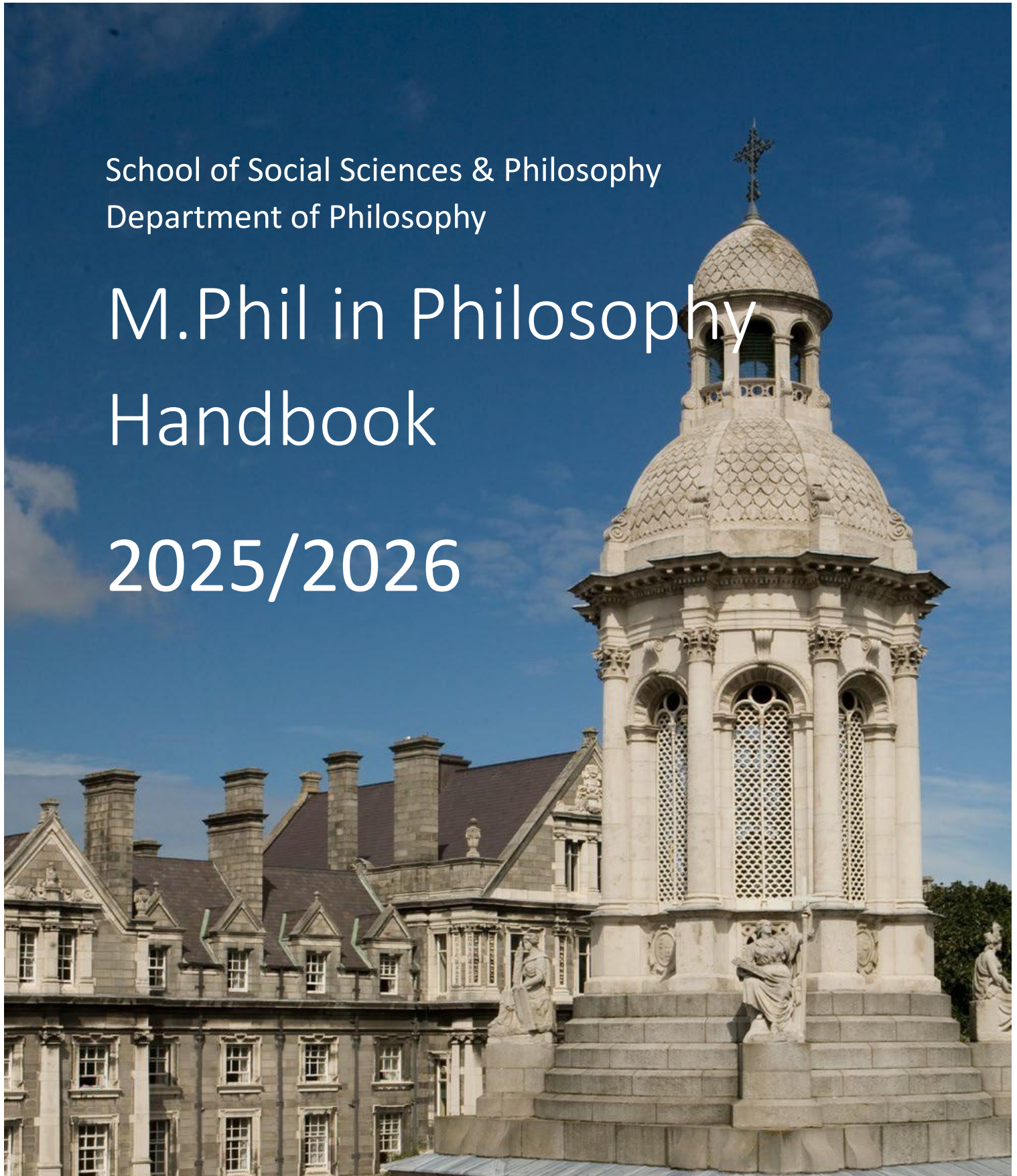
M.Phil in Philosophy Handbook

2025/2026

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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 local handbooks, the provisions of the General Regulation in the Calendar will prevail.

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

1. General College Information

1.1 Student Services & Support

The Programme Administrator philgrad@tcd.ie is your first port of call for all general queries. College also provides a range of administrative, academic and wellbeing supports and services to help smooth your route through college. You can find further information at the links below:

- **Careers Advisory Service** | www.tcd.ie/careers
- **Graduate Studies Office** | www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies
- **Mature Student Office** | www.tcd.ie/maturestudents
- **Student Services Website** | www.tcd.ie/studentservices
- **Trinity Disability Service** | www.tcd.ie/disability
- **Student Learning Development** | https://student-learning.tcd.ie/

1.2 Postgraduate Advisory Service (PAS)

What?
The Postgraduate Advisory Service (PAS) is a free and confidential service available to all registered postgraduate students in Trinity College. PAS offers a comprehensive range of academic, pastoral and professional supports including one-to-one appointments, workshops and trainings, and emergency financial assistance.

Why?
PAS exists to ensure that all postgraduates students have a dedicated, specialist service independent of the School-system to whom they can turn for support and advice during their time at Trinity. Common concerns students present to PAS include stress; financial worries; queries about regulations or services available at Trinity; supervisor-relationship concerns; academic progression issues; academic appeals.

Who?
The Postgraduate Advisory Service is led by the Postgraduate Student Support Officers who provide frontline support for all Postgraduate students in Trinity. These Support Officers will act as your first point of contact and a source of support and guidance; they can also put you in touch with or recommend other services, depending on your needs.

How?
For an appointment, please e-mail postgrad.support@tcd.ie.

For further information, please visit our website, check out the regular PAS newsletter sent to all postgraduates via email, or follow PAS on Instagram (@TCDPGAdvisory).

1.3 Support Provision for Students with Disabilities

Trinity has adopted a Reasonable Accommodation Policy that outlines how supports are implemented in Trinity. Students seeking reasonable accommodation whilst studying in Trinity must apply for reasonable accommodations with the Disability Service in their student portal my.tcd.ie.

Based on appropriate evidence of a disability and information obtained from the student on the impact of their disability and their academic course requirements, the Disability Staff member will identify supports designed to meet the student's disability support needs. Following the Needs Assessment, the student's Disability Officer prepares an Individual Learning Educational Needs Summary (LENS) detailing the Reasonable Accommodations to be implemented. The information outlined in the LENS is communicated to the relevant School via the student record in SITS.

Further information on Postgraduate Student Supports [here](#).

Examination accommodation and deadlines:
Students should make requests as early as possible in the academic year. To ensure the Assessment, Progression and Graduation Team can set your accommodations for examination purposes the following deadlines are applied:

- Semester 1 assessments: the last Friday of October annually.
- Semester 2 assessments: the last Friday of February annually.

Student responsibilities for departmental assessments/course tests:
Students are required to initiate contact with the School/Department and request reasonable accommodations as per their LENS report, or email received following their needs assessment for particular assessments for School/ Department administered assessment. Students are advised to make contact at least two weeks prior to the assessment date to enable adjustments to be implemented.

Please note: no reasonable accommodation can be provided outside the procedures outlined in the Trinity Reasonable Accommodation Policy. For further information please visit: https://www.tcd.ie/disability/current/how-reasonable-accommodations-work-in-trinity/

1.4 Co-Curricular Activities

- **TCD Sports Clubs** | https://www.tcd.ie/sport/student-sport/sport-clubs/
  Trinity has 50 sports clubs in a range of disciplines, from Basketball to Archery.

- **TCD Societies** | trinitysocieties.ie
  Trinity offers over 100 societies across the University. From arts, culture, politics and debating to gaming, advocacy and music, you're sure to find your niche.

- **Student Union** | www.tcdsu.org
  The Trinity College Students Union is a union for students, by students. It represents the student body at College level.

1.5 Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, dial Security Services on extension 1999. Security Services provide a 24-hour service to the college community, 365 days a year. They are the liaison to the Fire, Garda and Ambulance services and all staff and students are advised to always telephone extension 1999 (+353 1 896 1999) in case of an emergency. Should you require any emergency or rescue services on campus, you must contact Security Services. This includes chemical spills, personal injury or first aid assistance. It is recommended that all students save at least one emergency contact in their phone under ICE (In Case of Emergency).

1.6 Data Protection

Please note that due to data protection requirements, staff in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy cannot discuss individual students with parents/guardians or other family members. As the University considers students, even if they are not yet 18, to have the maturity to give consent for the use of their data, in normal circumstances, the University will not disclose personal data to the parents, guardians or other representatives of a student without the student's consent.

The University's preference is to receive written consent by way of email from the student where possible. Without such consent the University will not release any details regarding students including details of their registration, attendance, results, fee payments etc.

Trinity College Dublin uses personal data relating to students for a variety of purposes and we are careful to comply with our obligations under data protection laws.

Further information on how we obtain, use, and disclose student data can be viewed on the Trinity website: www.tcd.ie/dataprotection

1.7 Health & Safety Statements

The College Safety Statement can be viewed on the Trinity website:
https://www.tcd.ie/students/orientation/shw/

1.8 University Regulations

Please reference the links below for College regulations, policies and procedures:

- **Academic Policies**
  https://www.tcd.ie/about/policies/academic-policies/

- **Student Complaints Procedure**
  https://www.tcd.ie/about/policies/university-policies/complaints-procedure/

- **Dignity and Respect Policy**
  https://www.tcd.ie/hr/dignity-and-respect/policies/

2. General Course Information

2.1 Introduction

Welcome from Programme Director/s

Welcome to the Department of Philosophy at Trinity College Dublin. Philosophy is one of four departments in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. We are also a constituent department in the Trinity Long Room Hub, which is Trinity's Arts and Humanities Research Institute.

Philosophy has been an important part of the College curriculum since Trinity was founded in 1592 and today the Department is a close-knit, lively intellectual community of researchers, teachers and students that combines high-quality teaching with expansive research activity.

Among Trinity's most distinguished contributors to philosophy are George Berkeley and Edmund Burke. The Chair of Moral Philosophy was established at Trinity College in 1837, the (former) School of Mental and Moral Science in 1904 and the Department of Philosophy in 1964. Past holders of the Chair have included such eminent scholars as T. K. Abbott, Henry S. Macran, A. A. Luce, William Lyons, and, most recently, Peter Simons.

The department's orientation is predominately, but not exclusively, within the analytic tradition of philosophy, with notable strengths in history of philosophy, metaphysics, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion. Research by staff and PhD students is regularly disseminated in journals, conferences, and lectures throughout the world. There are also regular visiting speakers and lecturers, strengthening our connections with the international philosophical community. Details about the department's research strengths can be found at http://www.tcd.ie/philosophy/research.

The Trinity College Dublin Philosophy Department was ranked number 75 of philosophy departments in the QS World Rankings 2025.

We are delighted to welcome you to our department. Your individual timetable will be available to you via your online student portal at my.tcd.ie when you complete your programme registration.

Professor John Divers

June 2025

Head of the Department of Philosophy, Trinity College Dublin

Welcome from the Programme Administrator

Welcome to the Department of Philosophy at Trinity College. I am an Executive Officer in the Department of Philosophy with responsibility for postgraduates, and I am here to answer any queries you may have in relation to your Philosophy programme.

The preferred method of contact is by email (philgrad@tcd.ie) but if it is necessary for you to contact me in person, the Department office is in room 5009, 5th Floor, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin. The normal opening hours of the Departmental office during teaching term are Monday and Tuesday 9am - 12.30pm and Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Your individual timetable, containing both your lecture and tutorial group information, will be available to you via your online student portal at my.tcd.ie when you complete your programme registration.

Please ensure you regularly check your Trinity email account as I will use this for all administrative correspondence relating to your programme. In the meantime, enjoy the start of term and please do make contact if you have any queries.

Alison Corcoran

June 2025

Executive Officer

Department of Philosophy Trinity College

philgrad@tcd.ie

2.2 Programme Governance

The MPhil in Philosophy programme and the PhD in Philosophy programme are a joint committee including the MPhil and PhD Course Directors (Chairs), Executive Officer (Secretary), non-contract academic staff in the Department of Philosophy and a student representative from each of the MPhil and PhD programmes.

2.3 Contact Details

Head of the School of Social Sciences & Philosophy
Professor Paul O'Grady | Tel. +353 1 896 1522 | E-mail: pogrady@tcd.ie

Head of Department
Professor John Divers | Tel. +353 1 896 1026 | E-mail: diversj@tcd.ie

School Director of Teaching & Learning (Post-Graduate)
Professor Selim Gulesci |E-mail: gulescis@tcd.ie

Course Director/s
Dr. Farbod Akhlaghi | Tel. +353 1 896 1206 |E-mail: farbod.akhlaghi@tcd.ie

School Manager
Ms Olive Donnelly | Tel. +353 1 896 2499 | E-mail: olive.donnelly@tcd.ie

Programme Administrator
Ms Alison Corcoran | E-mail: philgrad@tcd.ie

2.4 Key Locations

Department
The Department of Philosophy office (Room 5009) is located on the 5th floor of the Arts building in Trinity College Dublin.
Maps of campus are available at https://www.tcd.ie/Maps/map.php

Blackboard
Blackboard is the College online learning environment, where lecturers will give access to material like lecture notes and discussion forums. The use of Blackboard varies from module

to module and individual lecturers will speak to you about the requirements for their module. In order to access a module on Blackboard you should be registered to the module by your Programme Administrator. Blackboard can be accessed via tcd.blackboard.com.

Email

All official email correspondence will be sent to TCD email addresses only. You should check your email on a regular basis. When emailing the Administration, students should always include their TCD Student ID Number.

Student Portal

https://my.tcd.ie allows students to view their own central student record containing all relevant information related to the course for which you are registered. To access the system, you will need your College username and network password.

If your personal student information is incorrect, you should contact Academic Registry (via email, academic.registry@tcd.ie) stating your full name and student ID number. If your timetable module list is incorrect then you should notify the Programme Administrator.

Academic Registry

Academic Registry ("AR") manages course registration and fees. Their website can be accessed here: https://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/. The Academic Registry offices are located in the Watts Building, on the east side of the main campus.

2.5 Key Dates

MPhil in Philosophy

The deadline for the full-time **MPhil dissertation** is beginning of August 2026 and August 2027 for those taking the part-time programme. The MPhil in Philosophy results will be published through the my.tcd.ie portal in September 2026.

2.6 Timetable

The updated course timetable will be available online shortly before the start of the Michaelmas term. Personal timetables will be available to students through https://my.tcd.ie.

The Academic Year Structure is available here.

Academic Calendar Week	Week beginning	2025/26 Academic Year Calendar		Term / Semester
		UG continuing years / PG all years	UG new first years	
1	25-Aug-25	Reassessment 2024/25- Semesters 1 & 2		←Michaelmas Term begins/Semester 1 begins
2	01-Sep-25	Marking/Results		
3	08-Sep-25	Marking/Results and Orientation (PG, Visiting, Erasmus)		
4	15-Sep-25	Teaching and Learning	Orientation (JF UG)	←Michaelmas teaching term begins
5	22-Sep-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
6	29-Sep-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
7	06-Oct-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
8	13-Oct-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
9	20-Oct-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
10	27-Oct-25	Study/Review (Monday, Public Holiday)	Study/Review (Monday, Public Holiday)	
11	03-Nov-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
12	10-Nov-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
13	17-Nov-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
14	24-Nov-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
15	01-Dec-25	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
16	08-Dec-25	Revision / Assessment*	Revision / Assessment*	←Michaelmas Term ends Sunday 14 December 2025/Semester 1 ends
17	15-Dec-25	Assessment*	Assessment*	
18	22-Dec-25	Assessment* / Christmas	Assessment*/ Christmas	
19	29-Dec-25	Christmas Period - College closed 24 December 2025 to 1 January 2026 inclusive	Christmas Period - College closed 24 December 2025 to 1 January 2026 inclusive	
20	05-Jan-26	Foundation Scholarship Examinations	Foundation Scholarship Examinations	
21	12-Jan-26	Marking***	Marking***	←Hilary Term begins/Semester 2 begins
22	19-Jan-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	←Hilary teaching term begins
23	26-Jan-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
24	02-Feb-26	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Public Holiday)	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Public Holiday)	
25	09-Feb-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
26	16-Feb-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
27	23-Feb-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
28	02-Mar-26	Study/Review	Study/Review	
29	09-Mar-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
30	16-Mar-26	Teaching and Learning (Tuesday, Public Holiday)	Teaching and Learning (Tuesday, Public Holiday)	
31	23-Mar-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
32	30-Mar-26	Teaching and Learning (Friday, Good Friday)	Teaching and Learning (Friday, Good Friday)	
33	06-Apr-26	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Easter Monday)	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Easter Monday)	
34	13-Apr-26	Revision	Revision	←Hilary Term ends Sunday 19 April 2026
35	20-Apr-26	Trinity Week (Monday, Trinity Monday) / Assessment**	Trinity Week (Monday, Trinity Monday) / Assessment**	←Trinity Term begins
36	27-Apr-26	Assessment**	Assessment**	
37	04-May-26	Marking/Results (Monday, Public Holiday)	Marking/Results (Monday, Public Holiday)	
38	11-May-26	Marking/Results	Marking/Results	
39	18-May-26	Marking/Results	Marking/Results	
40	25-May-26	Research	Research	←Trinity Term ends Sunday 31 May 2026/Semester 2 ends
41	01-Jun-26	Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	
42	08-Jun-26	Research	Research	
43	15-Jun-26	Research	Research	
44	22-Jun-26	Research	Research	
45	29-Jun-26	Research	Research	
46	06-Jul-26	Research	Research	
47	13-Jul-26	Research	Research	
48	20-Jul-26	Research	Research	
49	27-Jul-26	Research	Research	
50	03-Aug-26	Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	
51	10-Aug-26	Research	Research	
52	17-Aug-26	Research	Research	
53	24-Aug-26	Reassessment 2025/26 - Semesters 1 & 2	Reassessment 2025/26 - Semesters 1 & 2	

* Semester 1 assessment session: December 11 to 22, 2025 inclusive (No assessment after Dec 22nd)

** Semester 2 assessment session: April 21 to May 1, 2026 inclusive

*** Marking of Semester 1 assessments will continue into January and early February. Provisional Semester 1 results will be made available to students during the week commencing February 9, 2026

3. Scholarships & Prizes

A range of funding opportunities are open to postgraduate students, and the department makes every effort to secure funding for students accepted on to the programme. Some of these opportunities are identified below and further details are available from the websites listed. This is only a partial list; further funding opportunities may arise (such as funding for PhD students associated with particular research projects) or be available from sources not listed here.

For more general information on internal funding available through Trinity please visit: www.tcd.ie/study/postgraduate/scholarships-funding.

RESEARCH IRELAND

Research Ireland invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for Postgraduate Scholarships in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Law and Business Studies. They should already be, or about to become, registered in a recognised third-level institution as full-time postgraduate research students pursuing a research master's or PhD. All PhD students registered at Trinity are required to apply yearly for IRC funding, whether or not they are in receipt of other funding. For more details and the full eligibility criteria, please visit: https://researchireland.ie/funding/.

THE WILLIAM LYONS PRIZE

A prize of €200 has been provided by the Philosophy Benefaction Fund. The prize is for the dissertation awarded the highest mark submitted each year as part of the MPhil. in Philosophy. The dissertation can be on any topic or area of philosophical interest.

JOHN DILLON FELLOWSHIP IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

This one-year fellowship covers an annual stipend of €13,500 and PhD fees up to and including non-EU fees for PHD in Philosophy. New and continuing students, EU and non-EU, whose thesis topic is in the field of ancient philosophy can apply. Previous recipients of the fellowship are eligible to apply again. New students who apply for admission by 1 April will automatically be considered for this award, provided that the thesis proposal is in the field of ancient philosophy. Continuing students wishing to be considered for the fellowship should contact Department Director of Postgraduate Studies before 1 April.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Teaching assistantships are also regularly offered to postgraduate students as a form of supplemental financial support. Teaching assistants are responsible for leading tutorial sections for beginning undergraduate philosophy students and marking associated essays. For

further details, and to apply, students should contact the head of department. For information on additional postgraduate funding please visit: www.tcd.ie/Careers/students/awards/index.php.

FUNDING FOR CONFERENCE TRAVEL

The Department will consider requests for funding for conferences on a case-by- case basis. Requests should be made in writing to the departmental Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) stating the name, date, and location of the conference, and whether a paper is to be presented at the conference. Decisions on funding will be made in consultation with the Head of Department.

Further travel funding may also be available from TRISS (Trinity Research in Social Sciences), with deadlines typically in September and April. For further information please visit: www.tcd.ie/triss/programmes/travelbursary.php and www.tcd.ie/triss/programmes/research-fellowships-call.php.

Additionally, the Graduate Studies Office offers a Trinity Trust Travel Grant. For further information please visit: www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/current-students/postgraduate-research-students/travel-grant/.

EXTRAORDINARY FUNDING REQUESTS

Under extraordinary circumstances, students may make a written appeal to the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies outlining their need and request for tuition or some portion of tuition. These requests will be considered by the Head of Department.

4. Academic Policies

4.1 Academic Integrity & Referencing

4.1.1 Academic Integrity

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. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- **Plagiarism** - presenting work / ideas taken from other sources without proper acknowledgement. Submitting work as one's own for assessment or examination, which has been done in whole or in part by someone else or submitting work which has been created by using artificial intelligence tools, where this has not been expressly permitted.
- **Self-plagiarism** - recycling or borrowing content from the author's own previous work without citation and submitting it either for an assignment or an examination.
- **Collusion** - undisclosed collaboration of two or more people on an assignment or task, or examination, which is supposed to be completed individually.
- **Falsification/fabrication**.
- **Exam cheating** - action or behaviour that violates examination rules in an attempt to give one learner an unfair advantage over another.
- **Fraud/impersonation** - actions that are intended to deceive for unfair advantage by violating academic regulations. Using intentional deception to gain academic credit.
- **Contract cheating** - form of academic misconduct in which a person uses an undeclared and/or unauthorised third party to assist them to produce work for academic credit or progression, whether or not payment or other favour is involved. Contract cheating is any behaviour whereby a learner arranges to have another person or entity ('the provider') complete (in whole or in part) any assessment (e.g., exam, test, quiz, assignment, paper, project, problems) for the learner. If the provider is also a student, both students are in violation.

Further examples of the above available at www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning/academic- integrity.

4.1.2 The Use and Referencing of Generative AI

Aligned with the [College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research](#) (2024), the use of GenAI is permitted unless otherwise stated. Where the output of GenAI is used in a document or work output, this usage should be acknowledged and appropriate cited, as per [Library guidelines on acknowledging and reference GenAI](#). From an academic integrity perspective, if a student generates content from a GenAI tool and submits it has his/her/their own work, it is considered plagiarism, which is defined as academic misconduct in accordance with College Academic Integrity Policy.

Please check the relevant syllabus/module description on Blackboard for details of any restrictions on specific modules.

4.1.3 Academic Misconduct in the Context of Group Work

Students should normally submit assessments and/or examinations done in co-operation with other students only when the cooperation is done with the full knowledge and permission of the lecturer concerned. Without this permission, submitting assessments and/or examinations which are the product of collaboration with other students may be considered to be academic misconduct.

When work is submitted as the result of a group project, it is the responsibility of all students in the group to ensure, so far as is possible, that no work submitted by the group is plagiarised, or that any other academic misconduct has taken place. In order to avoid academic misconduct in the context of collaboration and group work, it is particularly important to ensure that each student appropriately attributes work that is not their own. Should a module coordinator suspect academic misconduct in a group assignment, the procedure in cases of suspected academic misconduct must be followed for each student.

4.1.4 Avoiding Academic Misconduct

Students should ensure the integrity of their work by seeking advice from their module coordinator or supervisor on avoiding academic misconduct. All schools and departments must include, in their handbooks or other literature given to students, guidelines on the appropriate methodology for the kind of work that students will be expected to undertake. In addition, a general set of guidelines for students on avoiding academic misconduct is available at [libguides.tcd.ie/academic-integrity](#).

Each coversheet that is attached to submitted work should contain the following completed declaration:

"I have read, and I understand the academic integrity provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for the current year. I have also completed the Online Tutorial on avoiding plagiarism 'Ready Steady Write'.

Please refer to your relevant School/ Department for the format of essay submission coversheets.

For further information including details of the procedure to be followed in case of suspected plagiarism, please refer to Section 1, 'Academic Integrity' (pages 30 & 31) of the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar:
www.tcd.ie/calendar/graduate-studies-higher- degrees/complete-part-III.pdf.

4.1.5 Procedures regarding Dignity & Respect Matters

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy is committed to fostering a learning environment that upholds principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion. We strive to ensure that all students and staff can pursue their academic and professional goals without fear of discrimination, harassment, bullying, or any form of mistreatment.

Recognizing the adverse impact harassment can have on individuals' performance, morale, confidence, health, and learning, the School seeks to create a culture where such behavior is unequivocally condemned. Our goal is to encourage an atmosphere in which individuals can address harassment concerns without fear of ridicule or retaliation.

Trinity Dignity and Respect Policy sets out the College's key principles and procedures for addressing matters related to negative treatment, including discrimination, bullying, and any form of harassment. TCD Sexual Misconduct Policy establishes the principles, approach, and procedures on the subject of sexual harassment or sexual assault and outlines the resources and support available to both students and staff when facing issues related to sexual harassment.

Should any student encounter issues related to dignity and respect, as outlined above, we strongly urge them to immediately reach out for support from the designated contact person, who will provide guidance and support in accordance with the Dignity and Respect Policy:

Course Director Dr. Farbod Akhlaghi | Farbod.akhlaghi@tcd.ie

School Director of Teaching and Learning (Post-Graduate) Professor Selim Gulesci | gulescis@tcd.ie

4.2 Research Ethics

We wish to draw your attention to the need for you to comply with the School's research ethics policy. Full details can be found at http://www.tcd.ie/ssp/research/ethics/. The most consequential aspect of this is that, should you be planning to observe, interview, poll, or experiment on human beings, you will need to get ethics approval. This involves completing a form that you will find via the link above and then having it approved/signed by the Department's Research Ethics representative. **Failure to comply with the School's research ethics policy could result in penalties, up to and including a zero mark for the dissertation.**

5. Teaching & Learning

5.1 Programme Structure

The Department offers one taught graduate degree in philosophy, the MPhil in Philosophy. It is a one-year full-time, or two-year part-time, course, incorporating both taught and research components.

MPhil Degree

To qualify for the award of the MPhil degree, students must:

- Achieve a pass mark in all taught modules, amounting to 60 ECTS.
  and
- Achieve a pass mark in the research dissertation **amounting to 30 ECTS.**

5.2 Programme Structure & Workload

The Trinity MPhil in Philosophy offers the foundation for advanced research in philosophy. Students are given in-depth courses in philosophical methodology, core areas of contemporary philosophy, the Anglo-American and Modern European traditions and the application of contemporary scholarship to key historical figures. Students will also write a dissertation on a topic of their choice in consultation with the course director and their supervisor.

One-year full-time MPhil in Philosophy students take six taught modules, worth 60 ECTS, which work together to form an integrated foundation for cutting-edge contemporary philosophical research. In addition, students write a dissertation, which counts for 30 ECTS.

Two-year part-time MPhil in Philosophy students take three taught modules per year: two in one semester and one in the other. The dissertation must be written in the second year.

5.3 Module Descriptors & Compulsory Reading Lists

The School reserves the right to amend the list of available modules and, in particular to withdraw and add modules. Timetabling may restrict the availability of modules to individual students.

Module descriptors and timetables will be available on the Departmental website shortly before the start of each term:
https://www.tcd.ie/philosophy/current-students/postgraduate-module-outlines/

5.4 Coursework Requirements

MPhil students will be required to submit their assignments for each of the taught modules at the end of each semester. The maximum wordcount for the MPhil assignments for each of the taught modules is 3000 words. This includes footnotes but it does not include the bibliography. Assignments that go over the limit will be liable for a 5-mark deduction. Students must attach a philosophy cover sheet to all assignments.

5.4.1 Dissertation

The MPhil dissertation is due by the beginning of August 2026 for full-time students, and August 2027 for those doing the two-year part-time programme. It must not exceed 15,000 words. The word count includes footnotes, but it does not include the bibliography, abstract or contents page. The research dissertation, which counts for 30 ECTS, is the crux of the MPhil programme with students receiving one-to-one supervisory support from an academic supervisor in the student's chosen field. Supervision will normally be given by full-time staff of the Department of Philosophy.

5.5 Marking Scale

MPhil Grade Bands:

- 70+ Excellent
- 60–69 Good
- 50-59 Pass
- 0-49 Fail

The pass mark for all submitted and examined work is 50%. There is no compensation between modules and within modules where there is more than one assignment component.

Students may request an extension by contacting the MPhil Course Director.

A failed essay can be re-submitted within the term of the degree, with a due date determined by the MPhil Course Director in consultation with the module instructor.

To qualify for the award of the MPhil degree, students must:

- Achieve a pass mark in all taught modules, amounting to 60 ECTS
  and
- Achieve a pass mark in the research dissertation.

Students failing to pass taught modules may re-submit required work within the duration of the course as provided for in the course regulations. Students who, following the reassessment, have failed to pass taught modules will be deemed to have failed overall, and may apply to repeat the course.

Students who have passed taught modules, but who do not achieve a pass mark in the research dissertation, will be deemed to have failed overall. Such students who achieve a dissertation mark in the range 40-49 may make one application to the School to repeat their dissertations. Marks for a new submission will be capped at 50%. Resubmitted research elements must be submitted before the next examination session at a date determined and published by the School. Alternatively, such students may be awarded an associated Postgraduate Diploma. Please see the Graduate Studies Calendar Section III for further details.

Students who have passed taught modules according to the above, but who do not choose to complete the dissertation, may be awarded the associated Postgraduate Diploma.

Students can qualify for the award of Masters with Distinction in line with Calendar Part 3 regulations. A distinction a shall require at least 70% in the research dissertation and at least 70% in the final aggregated mark of the taught modules. The final mark is based on a credit weighted average of the mark awarded in each module.

5.6 Attendance Requirements

Modules on this programme are delivered in-person and are not recorded. Regular and consistent attendance at all module seminars is required of all MPhil students. Authorised absences should be requested in advance from the relevant instructor, who should be provided with medical or other documentation as appropriate. Students who fail to attend without obtaining authorisation may receive a failing grade for that module, which may prevent them from obtaining an MPhil. To avoid misunderstanding, a failing grade may be awarded for a module in the case of non-attendance without prior authorisation even if the student would otherwise have passed the module on the basis of coursework submitted etc.

See Part III of the Calendar for College regulations regarding attendance and 'Off-Books' status: https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/

5.7 External Examiner

The External Examiner for the MPhil programme is Professor Emma Tobin from University College, London, UK.

5.8 Progression Regulations

See Part III of the College Calendar for full details of College regulations regarding Progression: https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/.

5.8.1 Appeals

See Part III of the College Calendar for full details of College regulations regarding Academic Appeals: https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/.

5.9 Transcripts

Transcripts are available on request to the Programme Administrator at philgrad@tcd.ie. Please include your student number and course when requesting a transcript. Transcripts are never issued to a third party, such as a parent or prospective employer without the consent of the person named on the transcript.

5.10 Careers Information & Events

The Careers Advisory Service (CAS) provides a wide range of resources and services to help you make and implement informed choices about your future career direction. The Careers Information Centre at 7-9 South Leinster Street contains a range of free, career-related booklets and employer materials for you to take away. Online, the resources section of the website (www.tcd.ie/Careers/resources) provides useful information on a range of topics from

career choice and planning, to working abroad, taking a year out and everything in between. CAS also provides a MyCareer online service. More information is available [here](#).

5.11 Student Feedback & Evaluation

Evaluation of courses and their constituent modules is an important component of the College's commitment towards improving the quality of teaching and the support of learning. To this end, all modules that are taught by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy are evaluated on a twice-yearly basis using an online survey. The survey is anonymous, and the results are used in reviewing and improving aspects of each module and its delivery. We particularly want to hear what students think was good about a module and what needs to be improved. Student feedback forms an important part of the evaluation and review process.

All results for each survey are collated and made available to the lecturer who taught the module, the Head of Department, the Head of School, the School's Director of Teaching and Learning (UG/PG), and the School Manager. Teaching Assistants receive their feedback through communication with the course lecturer.

Studies have shown that there is some gender bias in student evaluations of teaching – namely that female lecturers tend to receive more negative evaluations than their male counterparts. We ask you to bear this in mind when making your evaluations.