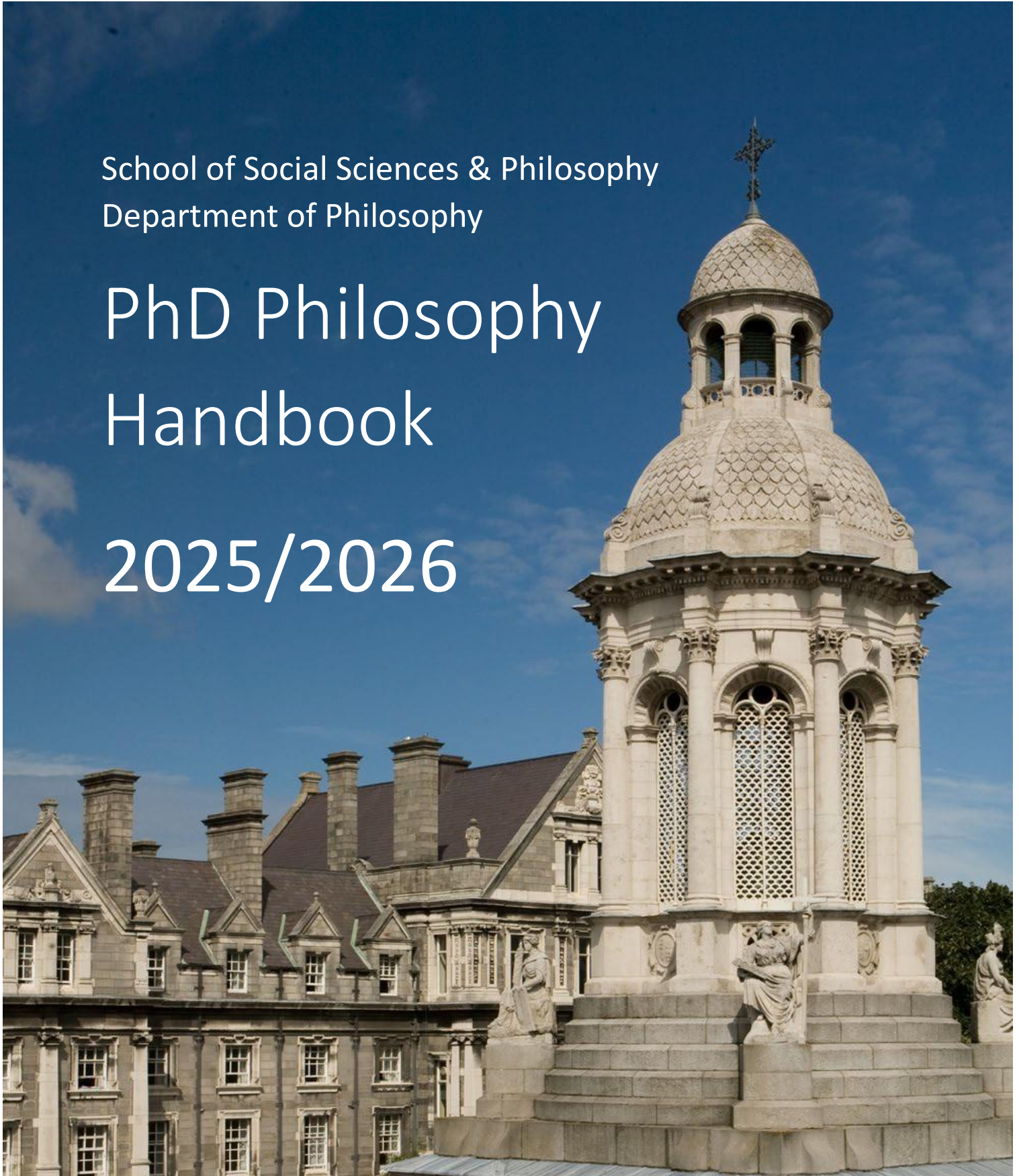**Trinity College Dublin**
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

School of Social Sciences & Philosophy
Department of Philosophy

PhD 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 9.00pm - 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

Executive Officer

June 2025

Department of Philosophy Trinity College philgrad@tcd.ie

+353 1 896 1529

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

Department Director of Postgraduate Studies and Course Director of the PhD and MLitt Programmes
Professor Alison Fernandes | Tel: +353 1 896 1174| E-mail: asfernan@tcd.ie

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

Programme Administrator
Ms Alison Corcoran | Tel. +353 1 896 1522 | 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

In year one, students are required to submit their essays for each of their TCD modules at the end of the term in which the modules take place in. They will complete a progress report by the end of May.

In year two, students are required to present their proposed research at a work in progress seminar in Semester 1. They are also required to have their thesis proposal and a sample chapter written by the end of January. They also need to prepare for the PhD confirmation interview which will take place in February.

In years three and four, students will concentrate on their PhD thesis with the expectation that they will be able to submit it at the end of their fourth year. Progress reports for year three should be completed no later than the end of May.

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/postgraduatewww.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/.

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 expects PhD students to take an active role in local research forums, including the Departmental Colloquium, work in progress seminars, reading groups and other philosophy events. For those who wish to expand their research activities further, the Department will support travel expenses related to research activities for an amount of up to 500 euros per year, subject to certain conditions. To apply for research funding, the student should contact the Director of Postgraduate Studies who will provide full instructions. Note, the student may need to apply for funding several months before they plan to travel, to meet the deadlines required, so please contact the Director as early as possible. Funding from the Department is conditional on the student applying for College funding through the Postgraduate Travel Reimbursement Fund:
https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/students/research/travel-grant/.

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 Professor Alison Fernandes | asfernan@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 submitting the research ethics application to the School's Research Ethics Committee that it is now processed through the Research Ethics Application Management system (REAMS). Please note that PhD students are automatically registered to use the REAMs platform. **Failure to comply with the School's research ethics policy could result in penalties.**

5. Teaching & Learning

5.1 Programme Structure

The Department offers two research graduate degrees in philosophy, the PhD in Philosophy and the MLitt in Philosophy.

- **PhD in Philosophy**

A PhD thesis is a maximum length of 100,000 words. It must show evidence of rigour and discrimination, appreciation of the relationship of the subject to a wider field of knowledge/scholarship, and make an appreciable, original contribution to knowledge; it should show originality in the methods used and/or conclusions drawn, and must be clear, concise, well written and orderly and must be a candidate's own work.

- **MLitt Thesis**

An MLitt thesis is a maximum length of 60,000 words. A thesis submitted for a Master's degree must show evidence of rigour and discrimination, appreciation of the relationship of the subject to a wider field of knowledge, and make some contribution to knowledge/scholarship (but it is not necessary that it be worthy of publication); it must be clear, concise, well written and orderly and must be a candidate's own work.

5.2 Programme Structure & Workload

All research postgraduates are required to participate in the weekly Postgraduate Work-in-Progress Seminars, in which each student presents at least one paper over the course of the year, and the weekly Departmental Colloquiums which host visiting speakers.

Students will be required to report on their presentation in their progress report or confirmation interview for that year.

The First Year

In the first year of the PhD programme, students are required to take three modules, at least two at Trinity and no more than one at UCD. In addition to the 40 ECTS required as part of the structured PhD, the module on "Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era" must be completed prior to the confirmation on the PhD register as part of the official confirmation process.

Students may also wish to enroll in the optional module MRP1001: Planning & Managing Your Research Process (see student-learning.tcd.ie/services/index_pmrc.php). Students are also welcome to audit other modules at either institution, with the permission of the instructor, and should consult with their supervisor about the appropriateness of doing so. Students' choice should be in accordance with their research interests in consultation with their supervisor and are meant to provide a solid grounding in research methods at the postgraduate level in various areas of philosophy. Courses offered will be listed at the start of each academic year. The courses are each worth 10 ECTS units; they are meant to supplement independent work with the supervisor.

Students who perform well subject to the discretion of the departmental Graduate Committee achieving a sufficient average mark in their course work (typically 65% or above), are invited to stay on the PhD programme; those who do not wish to stay on the PhD programme may still be eligible to leave the programme with an MLitt degree, on satisfactory completion of an MLitt thesis. Trinity and UCD both operate their own grading systems but will put in place a table of equivalences between the two.

Students will be required to write one substantial essay (3,000-4,000 words) or the equivalent as determined by the instructor of the module, in each of the three modules. Taught modules are delivered in the first two semesters and consist of one two-hour seminar per week. The year will be divided into two 11-week semesters. It is recognized that both institutions cooperate under different academic calendars: there is no requirement of harmonization.

The Second Year

Ph.D. students in their second year are required to present their thesis research proposal at a Trinity work in progress seminar (either the Early Career WIP or the TCD/UCD PG student WIP) in Semester 1. Their thesis committee will attend and provide informal feedback on the proposal and their expectations for the sample chapter. The student's performance at the presentation will not be assessed as such, but they will only be eligible for the confirmation interview having given such a presentation. The supervisor is also encouraged to attend.

In the second year, students staying in the PhD programme prepare for, and begin writing, their PhD thesis. In this year, each students works closely with his or her supervisor. By the end of January of their second year, each student is required to:

1) Write a detailed thesis proposal (approximately 3,000 words) and bibliography.
2) Write a sample chapter or extended piece of work connected to their research (approximately 10,000 words), with an accompanying note explaining how the chapter will fit into their overall thesis.
3) Prepare for the PhD confirmation interview which will take place in February, based on his/her dissertation proposal, bibliography and sample chapter. (See 'Confirmation on the PhD register' below).

Students passing the PhD confirmation interview will have only the PhD thesis to complete in order to earn the PhD. Students deemed unsuccessful on the PhD confirmation interview or who wish to exit the programme at this stage may be awarded an MLitt degree based on their first–year results and the successful completion of an MLitt thesis. Alternatively, students deemed unsuccessful in the PhD confirmation interview may be invited to revise the work for (2) and (3) above and retake the PhD confirmation interview.

Further details on possible outcomes of the PhD confirmation interview are described below (PhD Confirmation Interview Outcomes). It is expected that students will be in a position to submit the PhD thesis (maximum 100,000 words) by the end of their fourth year. Specific guidelines for submission procedure of the thesis can be found in the Calendar and Submitting & Defending the Thesis below.

Confirmation on the PhD Register

In order to begin the process of being confirmed on the PhD Register, students must ensure that they have fulfilled all course work and presentation requirements. These requirements relate to the aspects of the PhD Program as laid out in the previous section 'The First Year', including presenting yearly at one of the Work in Progress Seminars. Students who have not received on average 65% marks on their course work, or who have course work outstanding, will not be considered for progression onto the PhD Register.

Components to be Submitted for Confirmation

Students should submit:

- A written chapter-length document (approximately 10,000 words) on a theme or topic agreed with their supervisor.
- A one-page synopsis stating how this chapter fits into the overall thesis.
- A detailed thesis proposal (3,000 words) and bibliography. The thesis proposal should state the overall aim of the thesis, its significance, and what claims or arguments the thesis will make to achieve this aim.

Students should submit the materials electronically to both the Executive Officer and the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies. Candidates will be interviewed by their confirmation interview panel.

Materials are due to be submitted by the end of January in the students' second year. Interviews will take place during February.

The PhD Confirmation Interview Panel

The work submitted for the confirmation interview will be considered by a PhD confirmation interview panel (see Calendar Part 3, Section 2.9). The panel comprises the non-supervisor members of the student's Thesis Committee (see 'Thesis Committee' below) and is chaired by the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies or his or her nominee.

Members of the Thesis Committee will be chosen on the basis of his or her acknowledged expertise in the subject area of the student's research (or in a cognate field). Members of the confirmation interview panel may be drawn only from academic staff eligible to supervise. The supervisor (or co-supervisor) shall not be a member of the confirmation panel but is expected to attend the interview. The supervisor's attendance at the interview ensures that he or she is aware of the panel's critique of the student's work.

The PhD Confirmation Interview

The PhD confirmation interview shall consist of a viva voce type examination of the student in front of the confirmation interview panel. The decision as to when and where to hold confirmation interviews is organised by the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies.

The confirmation interview panel will begin by asking the student to talk for approx. 5 minutes about their project (the overall project, and how the sample chapter fits in). The student can have prepared notes (or even use slides), but neither is necessary. After that, the panel will ask questions. It's up to the panel how they structure these, but the student can expect to be asked some question about the project overall, and some about the chapter. The interview typically takes 1 to 1 ½ hours.

PhD Confirmation Interview Outcomes

Following the confirmation interview, the confirmation panel will deliberate without the student or the supervisor present, and will decide on one of the following outcomes:

a) Continuation on the PhD register.
b) Continuation on the PhD register after some minor changes have been made to the PhD confirmation report.
c) Continuation on the PhD register not recommended at this time: a new report to be written and a new PhD confirmation interview to be held, as soon as possible thereafter.
d) A recommendation to remain on the Master's register to complete a MLitt
   or
e) Not to continue as a postgraduate research student.

Written feedback will be provided as soon as possible following the PhD confirmation interview in all cases. In the case of (a) the supervisor and the student will be notified that a continuation on the PhD register has been approved as soon as possible following the confirmation interview. The Department Director of Postgraduate Studies and the student will then complete the transfer form and return it to the School Director.

In the case of any outcome other than (a), the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies will prepare a written report providing feedback to the student from the PhD confirmation interview. In the case of (b) or (c), this report shall consist of changes required or suggested for the student to address in revising their materials. In the case of (d) or (e), the report shall briefly outline the reasons why the student's PhD continuation's application was rejected by the panel. In the case where external examiners participate in the PhD confirmation panel, the chair of the PhD confirmation panel may request that the external examiner prepare these reports. These reports shall be returned to the student and his or her supervisor within two days following the viva, unless extraordinary circumstances prohibit the completion of the report within this deadline.

Appeals

Students have the right to appeal the decision of the confirmation interview panel or of decisions made to deny their confirmation on the basis of criteria other than the PhD confirmation. Appeals shall be requested in writing to the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies. The Department Director of Postgraduate Studies, following consultation with the Dean of Graduate Studies, will appoint an appeals committee consisting of him/herself, a member of the student's department with some knowledge of the research area, and a member from another department. Members of the appeal committee will not have served on the confirmation panel.

The appeals committee will be supplied with the student's original PhD confirmation or transfer report, the panel chair's report explaining the decision being appealed, and the student's written appeal request. Appeals will be considered only if regulations covering the PhD confirmation process were applied unfairly or improperly to the student.

It shall not be within the remit of the appeals committees to reconsider the academic basis for the decisions made by the PhD confirmation or transfer panels. Appeals committees will either reject the student's appeal or may recommend a different outcome (such as option (c)). Following the appeal panel, the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies will prepare a written report which will be forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies and communicated as well directly to the student and his or her supervisor.

Thesis Committee

A Thesis Committee is appointed for each PhD student. This committee comprises their supervisor, any co-supervisors and two other persons appointed by the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies. The role of the Thesis Committee is to monitor and advise in relation to the progress of the PhD student throughout the lifespan of his or her PhD. The progress of graduate students will be reviewed each year according to the procedures above ('Confirmation on the PhD Register'), and below ('Progress Reports').

Progress Reports, Extensions, and Withdrawals Progress Reports

Separate to the processing for confirmation on the PhD register, the department reviews the work of each postgraduate student (see Calendar Part 3, Section 14). The content of the progress reports will have a particular bearing upon the department's attitude to any request for an extension of the deadline for submission of the thesis and continuation beyond year four. The progress report needs to be completed by the student and supervisor(s) in the first, third and subsequent years of a student's period on the PhD register, the last only if the student intends to be registered beyond their fourth year.

Students and supervisors are required by the Graduate Studies Office to fill out the following form, found on the Graduate Studies website here. This form should be returned to the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies by 30th May for students who registered in September, or as advised by the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies.

Prior to submitting the relevant report, the student should submit the report to their supervisor and to the non-supervisor members of his or her Thesis Committee. Thereafter, a meeting should be arranged between the student and these non-supervisor members to discuss academic progress. These meetings are not viva voce style examinations of the student's research. Instead, they are discussions of the students' progress, experience and plans.

Following this meeting and, if appropriate, following discussions between the supervisory and non-supervisory members of the Thesis Committee, the latter should sign the progress report form (if required) and indicate whether or not they recommend continuation on the register. If progress is unsatisfactory, supervisors or non-supervisor members of a Thesis Committee may recommend to the Dean of Graduate Studies that the student's registration should be terminated.

Request for an Extension

Request for continuation on the research register beyond year 3 for the MLitt and beyond year 4 for the PhD must be requested in writing, typically by the student's supervisor in consultation with the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies. For details on the current process, please see: www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/students/research/academic-standing.

Requests are ultimately decided by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Withdrawing from the Programme

If for some reason a student opts to withdraw from the MLitt/ PhD programme at any stage, they must immediately inform in writing a) their supervisor b) the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies and c) the Graduate Studies Office. A "Dean's Grace" extension for one month (free of fees) to submit a thesis or dissertation is automatically granted if students are in the final expected year of their program (year 4 for PhD students). Otherwise, an extension will have to be requested as detailed above.

Submitting and Defending the Thesis

When the thesis is complete it is submitted to the College (Graduate Studies) for examination. Regulations governing the formatting and submission of research theses may be found on the Graduate Studies Office website: www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/students/research/thesis-submission.

Students submit both MLitt and PhD theses directly to the Graduate Studies Office. The thesis is read by an internal examiner who will be a member of the department other than the supervisor, whose job will be to evaluate the thesis in the context of its contribution to the profession as a whole, and by an external examiner from another institution, who has detailed professional knowledge of the thesis topic and whose job will be to provide an expert assessment of this.

It is the full responsibility of the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies, who will consult with the candidate's supervisor, to choose the external examiner of the thesis in order to maintain the objectivity of the examination process. Clearly, students may have views on who is best to serve as external examiner and they are thus encouraged to discuss this with

their supervisors well in advance of the date of final submission; their supervisors will then discuss the matter with the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) who will make the final decision. In no circumstances are any students to approach and ask potential external examiners of their willingness to serve on the examination committee.

Once both the internal and external examiners have read the thesis, an oral (or viva voce) examination will be held. The examination should last around two hours. The examination will begin by the student being asked to present on the main claims and arguments of their thesis. This presentation should last around 5 to 10 minutes. The internal and external examiners will then ask questions on any aspect of the thesis and the theme(s) with which it deals. Supervisors are not present during the viva voce. The viva voce is chaired by the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies or his/her nominee.

Examination of the thesis examiners will result in one of the following:

- The thesis passes as it stands.
- The thesis passes after minor corrections have been made (the internal examiner must certify that these corrections have been made before the final thesis is submitted and the degree awarded).
- The thesis must be revised in a more major way, and then be submitted for reexamination; (in this event the examination procedures outlined above will be repeated).
- A lesser degree (such as a Master's) should be awarded.
- The thesis should fail outright.

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/programmes/postgraduate/phd-in-philosophy/module- previews/

5.4 Coursework Requirements

In year one, students are required to submit their essays for each of their modules at the end of the term in which the modules take place in.

In year two, students staying in the PhD programme prepare for, and begin writing, their PhD thesis. In this year, each students works closely with his or her supervisor. By the end of February of their second year, each student is required to:

1) Write a detailed thesis proposal (approximately 3,000 words) and bibliography.
2) Write a sample chapter or extended piece of work connected to their research (approximately 10,000 words), with an accompanying note explaining how the chapter will fit into their overall thesis.
3) Prepare for the PhD confirmation interview which will take place in February, based on his/her dissertation proposal, bibliography and sample chapter. (See 'Confirmation on the PhD register' below).

In year three and four, students will continue writing their PhD thesis and submit their work to their supervisor and together they will complete the required progress report.

5.5 Marking Scale

 Students will need to achieve an average mark of 65% or above in their course work modules in order to stay registered in the PhD program, subject to the discretion of the Departmental Graduate Committee.

5.6 Attendance Requirements

All students in the Ph.D. programme are expected to be physically present and available to meet with academic staff at Trinity College in Dublin throughout the undergraduate teaching year, until the end of the summer examinations marking/court of examiners period. In the case of students working as Teaching Assistants – almost everyone in practice – they are expected to be present in Dublin and available to meet with academic staff to prepare for the teaching year ahead from Monday of the week before the first week of undergraduate teaching.

Teaching Assistants should discuss in advance with their module instructors work that may need to be done outside undergraduate teaching weeks, particularly over the Christmas period. Travel and holiday arrangements should be made with these constraints in mind. Of course, we know that students may need to engage in travel for research purposes, for example, and that under some circumstances travel during term time will be appropriate. Students should consult the Ph.D. Director and/or the instructor for the module on which they are teaching as appropriate in advance of making any travel commitments.

Calendar regulations require Ph.D. students to be normally in residence in or near Dublin during the undergraduate teaching year for the entire length of the Ph.D. program. In particular cases, a Ph.D. student may spend up to a year in residence outside of Dublin for an approved research purpose, such as a period as a visiting Ph.D. student at another institution. Time spent away from Dublin for such a purpose requires prior approval of both the supervisor and the Departmental Director of Graduate Studies. Trinity has policies in place regarding 'remote supervision' which provide guidance on the kinds of considerations that may justify a student spending some of their degree time outside of Dublin and the supervision plans that should be in place whenever a student is absent from Dublin for such a purpose.

Extensions and Off-Books

Graduate students on the research register must inform their Supervisor as soon as is practicable if they are incapacitated by illness or other grave cause and unable to undertake their agreed research programme. If, following consultation with the Supervisor, the illness is deemed to be of significant duration or severity to impede the graduate student's progress, medical certificates should be provided by the Supervisor to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The maximum period before submission of a thesis for students on the full-time M.Litt. and M.Sc. (by research) registers and for those on the full-time Ph.D. register are two and four years respectively (three and six years respectively for students on the part-time register). An extension of the period within which the thesis can be presented may be obtained by application to the Dean of Graduate Studies by the student's Supervisor and must have a strong recommendation from the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate).

Requests for extensions must be submitted before the period on the higher degrees register has expired. In cases where a request for an extension is not made before expiry of the normal time on the higher degree register, a replacement fee will be charged, in addition to the continuation fee, if an extension is granted.

In special circumstances (such as prolonged illness or absence from the country for grave ad misericordiam reasons), a graduate student may be allowed "off-books" (off the register) for one year. Application should be made by the student's Supervisor to the Dean of Graduate Studies and must have a strong recommendation from the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). In exceptional circumstances this period may be extended for a second year with the agreement of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

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

5.7 External Examiner

It is the full responsibility of the Department Director of Postgraduate Studies, who will consult with the candidate's supervisor, to choose the external examiner of the thesis to maintain the objectivity of the examination process.

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.

Philosophy Events In and Around Dublin

POSTGRADUATE WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINARS

The Postgraduate Work-in-Progress Seminars occur weekly. It is a forum for postgraduate students to discuss philosophical topics or work in progress. The meetings take place regularly and alternate between locations at TCD and UCD. All research students are required to present at least once per academic year at these work-in-progress seminars.

TCD PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUMS | www.tcd.ie/philosophy/events/colloquium/index.php

Most Wednesday in teaching term the Philosophy Department hosts a Visiting Speaker Research Colloquium in which postgraduate students are required to participate. Its main purpose is to provide a forum for academic interaction and discussion in the department as a whole, and, in particular, for interaction between staff and postgraduate students.

DONNELLAN LECTURES

The Department of Philosophy at Trinity is host to the triennial series of endowed lectures, the Donnellan Lectures in Philosophy. Recent Donnellan Lecturers have been Jerry Fodor, Martha Nussbaum, David Chalmers, Richard Sorabji, Richard Rorty, Stanley Cavell and Professor Robert Pippin.

THE PLATO CENTRE | www.dublinplatocentre.ie

The Plato Centre organises and directs a variety of activities in the area of the history of Platonism and contemporary philosophy in the Platonist tradition.

IRISH SOCIETY FOR THE PHILOSOPHY OF TIME | isphilosophytime.weebly.com

The ISPT hosts a number of events each year in Dublin, including workshops; talks by visiting speakers; and paper discussions.

CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND VALUES | www.tcd.ie/Philosophy/research/research-centres/centre-justice-values

The Centre for Justice and Values is a research centre based in the Department of Philosophy, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. The main aim of the Centre is to conduct and promote research in the area of value theory broadly defined, and more specifically on normative questions of justice, rights, fairness by bringing together researchers from different disciplines in College as well as outside it. We envisage a few broad themes around which research would be concentrated: Justice, Equality, Human rights, Responsibility, Gender, and Health. The Centre also seeks to engage with the public and practitioners in the area of social justice with a view to promoting fairness in society.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY | www.ria.ie/ethics-politics-law-and-philosophy-committee

The Committee for Philosophy of the Royal Irish Academy brings together representatives from all the philosophy departments in Ireland and hosts a number of conferences. Keynote speakers have been Alasdair MacIntyre, Hilary Putnam, Stephen Stich, and Jonathan Glover.

IRISH PHILOSOPHICAL CLUB

The Irish Philosophical Club meets once a year at Ballymascanlon near Dundalk and brings together Irish philosophers from north and south of the border with guests from overseas. Recent guest speakers have included Crispin Wright, Ernest Sosa, Ernie Lepore, Jack Copeland, Fraser MacBride, Alex Miller and Robert Stern.

IRISH PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY | www.irish-philosophical-society.ie

The Irish Philosophical Society organises a conference each year at different locations in Ireland and publish the Yearbook of the Irish Philosophical Society.

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.