



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

School of Social Sciences & Philosophy
Department of Political Science

Ph.D. in Political Science Handbook 2026/2027

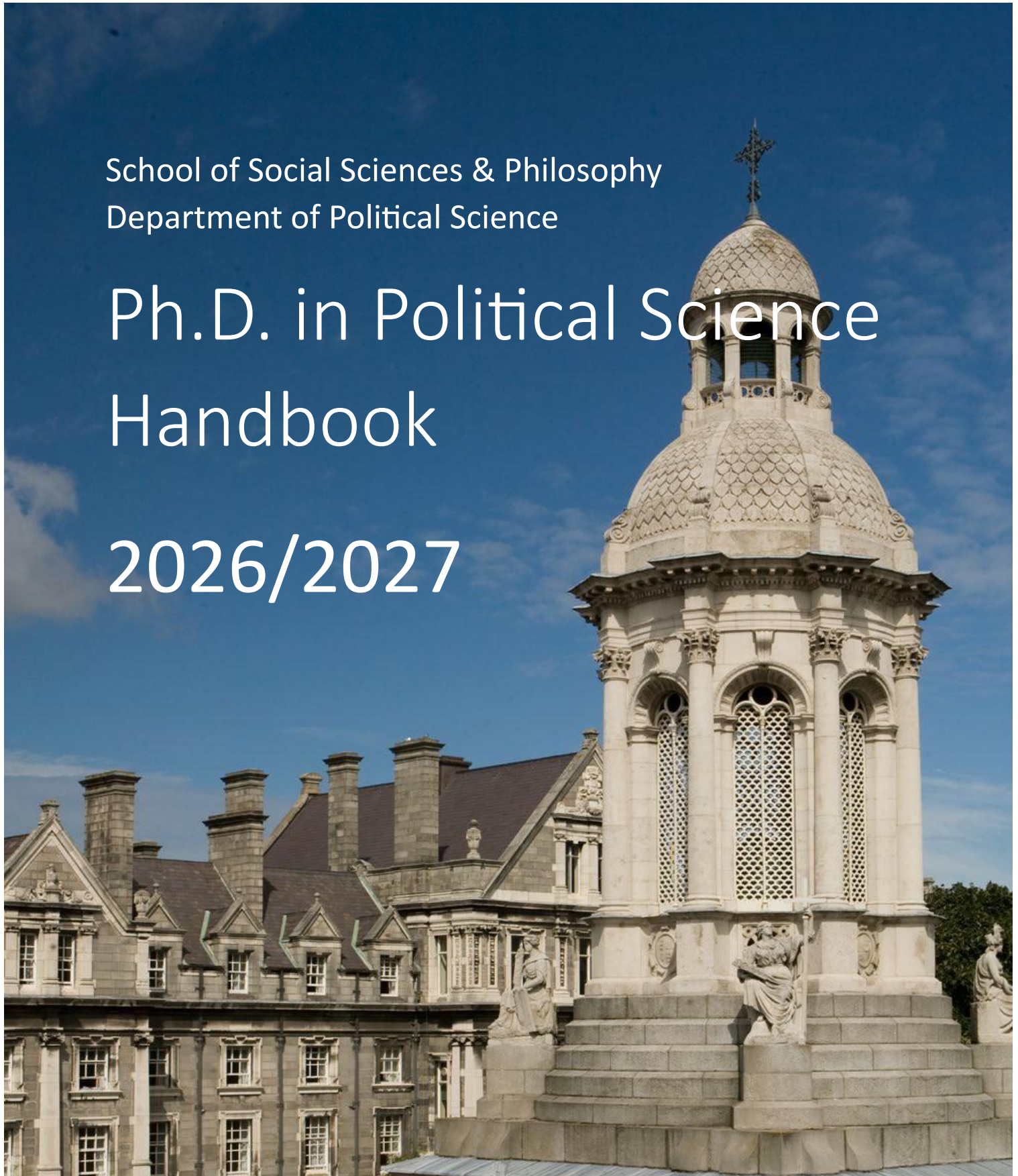


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A note on this Handbook

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 polisgraduate@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/student-services
- **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).

1.5.1 SafeZone

SafeZone is a voluntary app that increases the security and safety of students and staff while in a Trinity location. It provides immediate access to Trinity resources to aid in cases of emergencies or when an alert is raised.

For further information on this app and its advantages, please see <https://www.tcd.ie/disability/physical-access-information/safezone/>.

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

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Political Science Ph.D. Programme. I am delighted that you have decided to continue your studies here and it is my hope that you find your postgraduate experience to be a satisfying and enriching one. As the Ph.D. Course Director, I am not only responsible for the day-to-day running of the programme but I also act as an adviser to Ph.D. students in their dealings with the Department and the College. So please feel free to get in touch with me in case you have any questions or concerns about research- or teaching-related matters.

Peter Stone

Ph.D. Course Director

Welcome from the Programme Administrator

Welcome to the Department of Political Science at Trinity College Dublin. I am the Programme Administrator for the Ph.D. Political Science programme and I am here to answer any queries you may have in relation to your programme.

The Department of Political Science office is located in room 5.02, 5th Floor, College Green, Trinity College Dublin.

Ms. Sarah Smullen

Administrative Officer

2.2 Programme Governance

The Committee for the Ph.D. in Political Science at Trinity College Dublin is chaired by the Director of the Ph.D. programme, reporting to the Head of Political Science.

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 Constantine Boussalis Tel. +353 1 896 3482 E-mail: boussalc@tcd.ie
School Director of Teaching & Learning (Post-Graduate) Dr Noah Buckley E-mail: noah.buckley@tcd.ie
Course Director/s Professor Peter Stone Tel. +353 1 896 2491 E-mail: pstone@tcd.ie
School Manager Ms. Olive Donnelly Tel. +353 1 896 2499 E-mail: olive.donnelly@tcd.ie
Programme Administrator Ms. Sarah Smullen Tel. +353 1 896 4687 E-mail: polisgraduate@tcd.ie

2.4 Key Locations

Department

The Department of Political Science office (Room 5.02) is located on the 5th floor of 3 College Green 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

Michaelmas Term

7-13 th September 2026	1 st and 2 nd years inform Programme Administrator of module choices, having received approval from supervisor and the Course Director.
TBC	2 nd year students' viva examinations.
30 th November 2026	2 nd year students who received 'revise and resubmit' at viva examinations submit proposals to the Course Director.
4 th December 2026	1 st and 2 nd year students' Independent Study (Literature review, Further piece of the dissertation project) papers due to supervisors.
4 th January 2027	1 st and 2 nd year students' Independent Study (Literature review, Further piece of dissertation research) forms due to supervisor and the Programme Administrator.
4 th – 15 th January 2027	Exam grading: TAs should plan to be in Dublin.

Hilary Term

18 th January 2027	1 st and 2 nd year students inform Programme Administrator of module choices, having received approval from supervisors and the Course Director in advance.
9 th April 2027	1 st year students' Independent Study (Research proposal) Papers due to supervisors.

Trinity Term

23 rd April 2027	1 st and 3 rd year students' College progress reports due to Course Director and Programme Administrator.
30 th April 2027	1 st year students' Independent Study (Research proposal) forms due to supervisor and Programme Administrator.
19 th April – 21 st May 2027	Exam grading: TAs should be in Dublin until 21 st May.
13 th August 2027	1 st year students' revised thesis proposals due to supervisor and Course Director.
Late August – early September 27	Supplemental exam grading for TAs for 1 st and 2 nd year modules.
TBA (September 2027)	1 st year students' viva examinations ('confirmation process').

Note: Students participating in modules in UCD as part of the TCD-UCD joint teaching of Ph.D. modules in Political Science are required to attend classes throughout the UCD term, including in weeks that may otherwise constitute “reading weeks” on the TCD calendar. Students will be informed of any necessary changes to these dates by email during the year.

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	2026/27 Academic Year Calendar		Term / Semester
		UG continuing years / PG all years	UG new first years	
1	31-Aug-26	Marking/Results 2025/26		←Michaelmas Term begins/Semester 1 begins
2	07-Sep-26	Marking/Results and Orientation (PG, Visiting, Erasmus)		
3	14-Sep-26	Teaching and Learning	Orientation (JF UG)	←Michaelmas teaching term begins
4	21-Sep-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
5	28-Sep-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
6	05-Oct-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
7	12-Oct-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
8	19-Oct-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
9	26-Oct-26	Study/Review (Monday, Public Holiday)	Study/Review (Monday, Public Holiday)	
10	02-Nov-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
11	09-Nov-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
12	16-Nov-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
13	23-Nov-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
14	30-Nov-26	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
15	07-Dec-26	Revision / Assessment*	Revision / Assessment*	
16	14-Dec-26	Assessment*	Assessment*	←Michaelmas Term ends Sunday 20 December 2026/Semester 1 ends
17	21-Dec-26	Assessment* / Christmas	Assessment*/ Christmas	
18	28-Dec-26	Christmas Period - College closed 24 December 2026 to 3 January 2027 inclusive	Christmas Period - College closed 24 December 2026 to 3 January 2027 inclusive	
19	04-Jan-27	Foundation Scholarship Examinations	Foundation Scholarship Examinations	
20	11-Jan-27	Marking***	Marking***	
21	18-Jan-27	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	←Hilary Term begins/Semester 2 begins; Hilary teaching term begins
22	25-Jan-27	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
23	01-Feb-27	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Public Holiday)	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Public Holiday)	
24	08-Feb-27	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
25	15-Feb-27	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	

26	22-Feb-27	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
27	01-Mar-27	Study/Review	Study/Review	
28	08-Mar-27	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
29	15-Mar-27	Teaching and Learning (Wednesday, Public Holiday)	Teaching and Learning (Wednesday, Public Holiday)	
30	22-Mar-27	Teaching and Learning (Friday, Good Friday)	Teaching and Learning (Friday, Good Friday)	
31	29-Mar-27	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Easter Monday)	Teaching and Learning (Monday, Easter Monday)	
32	05-Apr-27	Teaching and Learning	Teaching and Learning	
33	12-Apr-27	Revision	Revision	
34	19-Apr-27	Assessment**	Assessment**	← Hilary Term ends Sunday 25 April 2027
35	26-Apr-27	Trinity Week (Monday, Trinity Monday) / Assessment**	Trinity Week (Monday, Trinity Monday) / Assessment**	← Trinity Term begins
36	03-May-27	Marking/Results (Monday, Public Holiday)	Marking/Results (Monday, Public Holiday)	
37	10-May-27	Marking/Results	Marking/Results	
38	17-May-27	Marking/Results	Marking/Results	
39	24-May-27	Research	Research	
40	31-May-27	Research	Research	← Trinity Term ends Sunday 6 June 2027/Semester 2 ends
41	07-Jun-27	Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	
42	14-Jun-27	Research	Research	
43	21-Jun-27	Research	Research	
44	28-Jun-27	Research	Research	
45	05-Jul-27	Research	Research	
46	12-Jul-27	Research	Research	
47	19-Jul-27	Research	Research	
48	26-Jul-27	Research	Research	
49	02-Aug-27	Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	Research (Monday, Public Holiday)	
50	09-Aug-27	Research	Research	
51	16-Aug-27	Research	Research	
52	23-Aug-27	Reassessment 2026/27 - Semesters 1 & 2	Reassessment 2026/27 - Semesters 1 & 2	

* Semester 1 assessment session: December 11 to 22, 2026 inclusive (No assessment after Dec 22nd)

** Semester 2 assessment session: April 19 to 30, 2027 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 8, 2027

3. Academic Policies

3.1 Academic Integrity & Referencing

3.1.1 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 <https://www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning/academic-integrity/>.

3.1.2 The Use and Referencing of Generative AI

Aligned with the [College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research](#) (2025), 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 appropriately 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 as 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.

3.1.3 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.

3.1.4 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 find the standard School Assignment Submission Form [here](#). Some Departments may currently use their own submission form. Students should check with their department or Module Coordinator to confirm which form should be used for their assignment.

For further information including details of the procedure to be followed in case of suspected plagiarism, please refer to Section 1, 'Academic Integrity' of the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar: <https://www.tcd.ie/media/tcd/calendar/graduate-studies-higher-degrees/section-1.pdf>.

3.1.5 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 Peter Stone | pstone@tcd.ie
- ~ School Director of Teaching and Learning (Post-Graduate) Dr. Noah Buckley | Noah.Buckley@tcd.ie

Dignity, Respect and Consent FAQs

Where can I find the link to the Speak Out tool?

As a member of the Trinity community, you have the right to work or study in an environment which is free from bullying, harassment, and sexual misconduct. Speak Out provides the opportunity for you to make the University aware of incidents that you have either experienced or witnessed by reporting them anonymously. The Speak Out tool can be found [here](#).

Where can I find resources relating to Dignity, Respect and Consent for students?

The Dignity, Respect & Consent (DR&C) Service provides information and support about the Dignity & Respect and Sexual Misconduct policies and processes to Students. This information can be found [here](#)

How do I request an appointment with a Dignity, Respect and Consent Support Advisor?

Use the [Booking Form](#) to request an appointment with a Dignity Respect and Consent Support Advisor.

What is a disclosure and where can I find information on how to make a disclosure as a student?

A disclosure refers to the case where an individual discloses that they feel they have been subjected to bullying, harassment, and/or sexual misconduct. Making a disclosure does not constitute raising a complaint, however you may decide to submit a complaint after seeking advice from the DR&C Service. Information on how to make a disclosure as a student can be found [here](#).

Where can I find information on how to make a complaint as a student?

Information on how to make a complaint as a student can be found [here](#).

3.2 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 <https://www.tcd.ie/ssp/research/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 Ph.D. students are automatically registered to use the REAMS platform. **Failure to comply with the School's research ethics policy could result in penalties.**

4. Teaching & Learning

4.1 Programme Structure

The Ph.D. programme lasts four years, and is a level ten QQI – NFQ qualification. Structured training is given to students in the first two years in the form of a series of modules. Unlike traditional Ph.D.s in Europe, the programme combines intensive training with a substantial project of supervised original research resulting in a thesis. Students' progress is assessed throughout the programme. A particularly important assessment point takes place after the first year, as detailed below. These assessments are designed to establish whether students are making satisfactory progress. Continuation on the Ph.D. register each year is contingent on the demonstration of satisfactory progress as outlined below. In addition to the credits required as part of the structured Ph.D., the module CA7000 Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era (5 ECTS) must be completed. The course is delivered online and should be completed at any stage in the first 6 months of the first year. Students are expected to take the module Teaching and Supporting Learning as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (5 ECTS), which is offered by TCD's Centre for Academic Practice, Trinity Teaching & Learning.

Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era – mandatory module

CA7000 is an online module which is a mandatory component of the Ph.D. programme, and is worth 5 ECTS. The course aims to provide students with an understanding of ethical considerations, principles of intellectual property, data protection law and other issues involved in academic research. Students will be automatically enrolled in the module on Blackboard upon registration. The module is divided into 5 sessions, with each involving an MCQ assessment. A minimum grade of 80% on each of these assessments is required in order to pass the module. A completion certificate is awarded upon completion of the module; students are encouraged to save this certificate for their own records. The module also includes formative assessment in the form of a Learning Journal. This assessment is not required in order to pass the module but is for the student's own development. Students who complete the formative assessment will receive an additional certificate of achievement. Students should complete the module at any stage in the first 6 months of their first year. Any questions or issues arising in relation to the module should be addressed to the course coordinator Niamh Brennan (nbrennan@tcd.ie) or the course administrator Monica Sanchidrian (sanchidm@tcd.ie)

Teaching and Supporting Learning as a Graduate Teaching Assistant Module

This fully online for-credit module (5 ECTS) is aimed at postgraduate research students (PGRs) with active roles in supporting teaching, learning, and assessment at Trinity.

Grounded in the scholarship of teaching & learning (SoTL), participants are supported to engage in a community of practice where they will develop familiarity with, and insight into, evidence-based approaches to pedagogical practice. The module introduces participants to core concepts of teaching, learning and assessment in higher education and supports participants to critically reflect on their professional roles and articulate their own philosophy of teaching, informed by pedagogical research.

This for-credit module can contribute to the award of the structured PhD.

Please note this module is open to PhD students only at this time.

<https://www.tcd.ie/academicpractice/professional-development/graduate-teaching-assistants/teaching--supporting-learning-module-5-ects/>.

4.2 Programme Structure & Workload

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is an academic credit system based on the estimated student workload required to achieve the objectives of a module or programme of study. It is designed to enable academic recognition for periods of study, to facilitate student mobility and credit accumulation and transfer. The ECTS is the recommended credit system for higher education in Ireland and across the European Higher Education Area.

The ECTS weighting for a module is a measure of the student input or workload required for that module, based on factors such as the number of contact hours, the number and length of written or verbally presented assessment exercises, class preparation and private study time, laboratory classes, examinations, clinical attendance, professional training placements, and so on as appropriate. There is no intrinsic relationship between the credit volume of a module and its level of difficulty. The European norm for fulltime study over one academic year is 60 credits. 1 credit represents 20-25 hours estimated student input, so a 10-credit module will be designed to require 200-250 hours of student input including class contact time, assessments and examinations.

Year 1: Compulsory Modules & Thesis Proposal

The first year of the integrated Ph.D. programme includes the following compulsory modules in the 2026-27 academic year (Variations from the Quantitative Methods I module and/or the Quantitative Methods II module can be granted by the Ph.D. Director):

Michaelmas Term:

- Quantitative Methods I (10 ECTS)
- Research Design (5 ECTS)
- Independent Study (Literature Review) (10 ECTS, Pass/Fail, see below)
- Causal Inference from Observational Data (5 ECTS)

Hilary Term:

- Independent Study (Research Proposal) (10 ECTS, Pass/Fail, see below)
- Quantitative Methods II (10 ECTS) or, alternatively, Qualitative Methods (10 ECTS)

Online, Self-Paced Modules, Must Be Completed during the First Six Months:

- CA7000 Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era (5 ECTS)
- Teaching and Supporting Learning for Postgraduate Students (5 ECTS)

Independent Study

The Independent Study (Literature Review, Research Proposal) is crucial for 1st year students for the development of their thesis proposals. Each first-year student will be assigned a

supervisor for the Independent Study (Literature Review) at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term and will follow a programme designed on an individual basis to provide structured reading. At the start of the course, both the student and lecturer will agree upon a reading list and a schedule of informal meetings to review progress. At least three meetings should be scheduled. The Independent Study (Literature Review) culminates in the student submitting a written paper of 5,000 words to be submitted by the end of the Michaelmas Term. This paper will be a thorough review of the scholarly literature that clearly identifies a research question, and identifies areas for future research. It should thoroughly explore a topic and its issues, mapping out the territory for the student's own thesis project. The Independent Study (Literature Review) itself is graded by the supervisor, on a pass/fail scale, on the basis of the detailed literature review of the student's research area submitted by the Independent Study (Literature Review) deadline.

The Literature Review paper in Michaelmas Term differs from the Independent Study (Research Proposal) in Hilary Term in that it is typically longer, focuses more on summarizing existing research and identifying lacunae, and contains fewer precise details about the research design and the student's own potential contribution to the field than does the Research Proposal. The importance of the Literature Review lies in the fact that it serves as the basis for the Research Proposal in Hilary Term, which in turn is the basis for the 'Thesis Proposal' to be defended in September 2027 after the first year.

At the start of Hilary Term, both the student and lecturer will agree a schedule of informal meetings for the Independent Study (Research Proposal). At least three meetings should be scheduled. The Research Proposal should be clearly based on principles of research design: defining some variation to be explained, identifying alternative explanations, proposing clear tests which can distinguish between alternative explanations, discussing issues of data collection and measurement issues, etc. (This assumes the dissertation is empirical in nature; a theoretical project, for example, would require a different structure.) The Independent Study (Research Proposal) culminates in the student submitting a written paper of 4,500 words (including footnotes, etc., but not the bibliography) to be submitted by the end of Hilary Term. The student will normally present a draft of this paper in the department's Friday Seminar. The Independent Study (Research Proposal) itself is graded by the supervisor, on a pass/fail scale, on the basis of the student's research proposal submitted by the Independent Study (Research Proposal) deadline.

Revised Thesis Proposals and Confirmation Process

Every Ph.D. student completing the 1st year in the programme must submit a revised Thesis Proposal (4,500 words excluding the title page and bibliography) by 13 August 2027. The proposal will be defended at the beginning of the student's second year in September 2027

(exact date TBA) in front of a committee composed of an External Examiner, the Ph.D. Director, and another Internal Examiner ('Confirmation Process').

The Thesis Proposal is a revised version of the research proposal which was developed under the guidance of the student's supervisor during Hilary Term. It should be clearly based on principles of research design: defining some variation to be explained, identifying alternative explanations, proposing clear tests which can distinguish between alternative explanations, discussing issues of data collection and measurement issues, etc. (This assumes the dissertation is empirical in nature; a theoretical project, for example, would require a different structure.) The proposal should be double-spaced including normal margins, and should amount to no more than 4,500 words including all footnotes, etc., but not the bibliography. Please include a word count on the first page. The paper must follow the format set out in the document titled "Ph.D. Research Proposals Formatting and Structure", available on the departmental website.

Following its defense, the Thesis Proposal may receive one of the following evaluations from the Assessment Committee:

- Eligible to proceed.
- Revise and Resubmit to proceed. In this case, students should resubmit their Thesis Proposal, or other piece of work required by the Assessment Committee, by November 2027 (exact date TBC). They will be informed of the revised decision by mid- December.
- Ineligible to proceed with Ph.D.

Year 2: Confirmation Process, Compulsory Independent Study and Elective Modules

Providing that the student is eligible to proceed to the second year of the programme, they will defend their Thesis Proposal in September 2027 in front of a committee composed of an External Examiner, the Ph.D. Director, and another Internal Examiner (see details above). The successful defence of the Thesis proposal is a key component of the student's confirmation process.

Students will also have to make up 30 ECTS credits in total this year. 10 ECTS are based on a compulsory Independent Study (Further Piece of the Dissertation Project) agreed by the supervisor and the student. The other 20 ECTS can be chosen from M.Sc. or Ph.D. modules offered by the Department, postgraduate-level modules offered by other departments/schools at TCD, or from Ph.D. or M.Sc. level modules available at UCD. Students who took Quantitative Methods II in their first year may take Qualitative Methods in their second year to meet their credit requirements, and vice versa. Students must first seek approval from their supervisor and the Ph.D. Director and then contact the Course Administrator to register for elective modules.

At the start of Michaelmas Term, both the student and lecturer will agree a schedule of informal meetings for the Independent Study (Further Piece of the Dissertation Project). At least three meetings should be scheduled. The further piece of the dissertation project should be clearly based on principles of research design: defining some variation to be explained, identifying alternative explanations, proposing clear tests which can distinguish between alternative explanations, discussing issues of data collection and measurement issues, etc. (This assumes the dissertation is empirical in nature; a theoretical project, for example, would require a different structure.) The Independent Study (Further Piece of the Dissertation Project) culminates in the student submitting a written paper of 4,500 words (including footnotes, etc., but not the bibliography) to be submitted by the end of Michaelmas Term. The Independent Study (Further Piece of the Dissertation Project) itself is graded by the supervisor, on a pass/fail scale, on the basis of the student's further piece of the dissertation project submitted by the Independent Study (Further Piece of the Dissertation Project) deadline.

Modules typically meet 10-11 weeks for 2-3 hours per week. The compressed time and the small size of the groups involved means that participation and attendance are compulsory. Students may also be asked by the instructor to make presentations. Unexplained absences from class will not be tolerated and persistent absence from courses and/or the Friday Seminar may result in the department deciding that, with immediate effect, a student may not continue in the Ph.D. programme. In the second year, it is also expected that students will meet regularly with their supervisors to continue the progress made in the first year on their particular dissertation topic.

Students who are either eligible to proceed to with the Ph.D., or who have successfully revised and resubmitted their proposal work on converting the ideas developed in the first year into a more concrete research proposal in the second year of the programme. It is expected that students will continue to meet with their supervisors as in the first year (see the Independent Study (Further Piece of the Dissertation Project) above), to refine their proposals in the second year.

Years 3 and 4: The Ph.D. Thesis

The final two years of the programme are spent preparing a thesis on a substantial and original topic, developed in consultation with one (and in some cases two) supervisor(s). The supervisor of a student's thesis will ideally be the member of staff with whom the student did their independent study modules (Literature Review, Research Proposal, Further Piece of the Dissertation Project). In exceptional circumstances, the department may ask someone who is not a member of the staff of the department to assist in the supervision of the thesis.

The Ph.D. Director will act as adviser to all Ph.D. students, dealing with matters not directly related to the subject matter being researched. Our expectation is that every thesis should be publishable, and that every attempt should be made to publish it in some form or another, such as articles in established journals.

The relationship between supervisors, the Ph.D. Director, and research students is critical to determining the quality of the student's postgraduate experience. This relationship is one of collaboration in a common enterprise. For a successful collaboration, all parties must recognize their separate responsibilities, which are set out below.

Submitting and Defending the Dissertation

When the thesis is complete, it is submitted to the College (Graduate Studies) for examination. At the same time, you must submit the datasets (or other relevant replication material) used in your dissertation, if any. All data and other relevant replication material should be sent electronically to the Ph.D. Director, your supervisor, and the Course Administrator. The datasets must be clearly named, documented, and submitted in a single file (e.g., zip). The department (or examiners) may also, at their discretion, request other supporting materials (e.g. notes of interviews, documents etc.) as necessary. You are also strongly encouraged to submit your replication code, if any. 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. In exceptional circumstances in which no suitable internal examiner can be found, that role may be filled by a faculty member in another department at Trinity (e.g., Economics, Philosophy, or Law) or from outside College.

It is the full responsibility of the Ph.D. Director, who will consult with both the candidate's supervisor and the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), 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 and the Ph.D. Director will then discuss the matter with the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), who will make the final the decision. In no circumstances are students to approach and ask potential external examiners of their willingness to serve on the examination committee.

Once the thesis is read by both the internal and external examiners, an oral examination will be held generally between two and four months after the thesis has been submitted to Graduate Studies. (Students who would prefer a viva held before Christmas are advised not to submit their draft dissertations at the last possible moment near the beginning of the Michaelmas term, as experience shows that oral examinations for such dissertations can

frequently be scheduled only in January or February of the following year). The examination should last about two hours and the internal and external examiners may ask questions on any aspect of the thesis and the theme with which it deals.

Detailed rules for submission of thesis are contained in the College Calendar, Part 3, and these must be consulted carefully by the student before any plans for submission are made. The Calendar provides for students to submit theses without the prior approval of the supervisor, but in practice it would be extraordinarily unwise for any student to do this. Both department and supervisor have a strong interest in having good theses accepted by the examiners and, if they advise against submission, then this advice should be taken very seriously by the student. It almost certainly means that the thesis will encounter serious problems when it is examined. After the thesis has been examined in this way, the examiners will recommend 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, although there is no oral examination);
- A lesser degree (such as a Master's) should be awarded;
- The thesis should fail outright.

Ph.D. Thesis Committee

A Thesis Committee shall be appointed for all Ph.D. students. This committee comprises the Principal and any co-supervisors, and two faculty members. The role of the Thesis Committee is to monitor and advise in relation to the progress of the Ph.D. student throughout the lifespan of his or her structured Ph.D. The progress of graduate students will be reviewed each year, including taking into account the modules taken by students and grades received.

In the first and third year of a student's period on the Ph.D. register, [s]he and his or her Supervisor should complete an annual review report. This form may be downloaded from the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies website (<https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/current-students/postgraduate-research-students/assessment-and-progression/>).

The students should submit the annual review report to the non-supervisor members of his or her Thesis Committee by 23 April (Trinity Term).

Thereafter, a meeting will be arranged between the student and such non-supervisor members to discuss academic progress. Following this meeting and, if appropriate, following discussions between the supervisory and non-supervisory members of the Thesis Committee,

the latter will sign the annual review report form 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.

Annual Progression

Progression on the Ph.D. register is subject to annual reviews. Annual progress reporting is an essential requirement for all postgraduate students on the research register (full and part-time) in Trinity College Dublin.

Annual review reports should be completed jointly by the Ph.D. student and the supervisor/supervisory team. They must be submitted by the end of year 1 and year 3 locally to the Course Director (pstone@tcd.ie) as well as the designated administrator within the Department (polsiggraduate@tcd.ie).

Forms for annual progression can be obtained here:
<https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/current-students/postgraduate-research-students/assessment-and-progression/>

Progression during the second year is conditional on an official confirmation on the Ph.D.-registry by the Thesis Committee as outlined above and in the College Calendar, Part III, Section II.36-40.

All Years: Teaching

The most important contribution that Trinity College makes to Irish society is the teaching of our undergraduate students. The department takes the teaching of undergraduates very seriously and expects that postgraduates participating in teaching undergraduate modules do the same. Obviously, modules will differ in their requirements and Teaching Assistants should consult with the module instructor for the module they will be teaching to determine exact arrangements. In general students may be required to grade papers and exams under the guidance of the instructor, lead tutorials ('discussion groups'), note student attendance at tutorials, hold office hours, answer student email, and distribute and collect materials from students, and other course related activities, working of course in conjunction with the module instructor and – for particularly large classes – the Head Teaching Assistant.

Note that, where relevant, Teaching Assistants are expected to be available to grade summer exam papers (as well as papers for 'Supplemental' exams, which are held in early September for students who fail or are absent from summer examinations) for courses they have acted as Teaching Assistants for over the year. The module instructor may also require that Teaching Assistants attend undergraduate lectures to better prepare them to lead tutorials and grade student work. Teaching tends to improve with feedback and instructors may also ask Teaching

Assistants to solicit anonymous feedback from the undergraduates on Teaching Assistants' performance and to discuss this feedback with the module's instructor.

Note that it is also school policy to require that undergraduate student course surveys will collect survey evaluations of individual Teaching Assistants and make them available for discussion within the department. Outstanding performances may be publicly acknowledged, for example through an annual prize ceremony. The department also solicits feedback on the performance of Teaching Assistants from module instructors.

All Years: Friday Seminars

A Friday seminar series operates throughout the programme and is compulsory for all students registered in the programme. 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. Every active student will be scheduled for a presentation at some point during each year. In addition, some of the seminars will be given by distinguished visitors while others may be given by staff members. Any suggestions from postgraduate students of topics, speakers, or both, for seminars will be very welcome and should be directed to the Friday Seminar Coordinators, Dr. Violeta Haas and Dr Joseph Phillips, who will also set more detailed arrangements for presentations, circulation of papers, etc.

Each student is expected to present progress on his or her Ph.D. topic once a year at a Friday seminar. Students may also present other work at a second or third seminar. It is a very important feature of the collegiality of the department that, as far as is humanly possible, all members of staff and all postgraduate students attend all departmental seminars. To miss a seminar without very good cause undermines the value of the series and is discourteous to colleagues.

Responsibilities within the Ph.D. Programme

A potential supervisor will not accept a student for supervision if there is any reason, such as lack of competence in the field of study, lack of facilities for the proposed research, lack of essential funding for fieldwork, the imminent departure of the supervisor from College, or over-commitment, that would lead to inadequate supervision during the projected period of the student's research.

Supervisors have both a reactive and a proactive role. On the one hand, a supervisor must be accessible to the student for academic help and advice during the progress of the research and the final preparation of the thesis. On the other hand, the supervisor has an active duty to be informed about the progress of the research student's work, to give frank and constructive opinions about this work (whether or not these are asked for), to make sure that

the student is aware of the quantity and quality of work required, and to negotiate and monitor a timetable for its submission.

To this end, student and supervisor should negotiate a programme of meetings at the beginning of each academic year. For most students on this programme, monthly meetings should be the norm, and these meetings should be held whether or not the student has a particular piece of written work to submit for comments.

Supervisors will do everything they can to provide careful analysis and constructive criticism of all work submitted to them within an agreed period of time, and to make themselves available, when feasible, for discussions with students that might take place outside an agreed programme of meetings.

Responsibilities of the Ph.D. Director as Adviser

An adviser's essential job is to help the student in all dealings with the department and the College and to be aware of College regulations as far as they affect postgraduates: the Ph.D. Director fills this role. The reason for having an adviser who is not the supervisor is, of course, that the relationship between supervisor and student is one of the matters upon which advice might possibly be needed. Another reason is to give every student more people in the department with whom he or she should maintain routine contact. A more extensive discussion of the role of the adviser can be found in the section below on resolving problems.

Responsibilities of the Research Student

Research students must keep in contact with their supervisors and inform them on the progress of the research. They should meet the supervisors for discussions, submit written work and perform other academic exercises (for example, attending and contributing to the Departmental Friday Seminar) according to the timetable negotiated with the supervisors. While the doors of most members of the department are nearly always open to postgraduates, students should remember that members of staff do have other responsibilities, and that these may at times preclude a member of staff dropping everything to give them immediate unscheduled attention. Students should inform their supervisors as early as possible of anything that might affect their ability to complete an agreed programme of work on schedule, rather than bringing problems to the department at only a late stage. The essential point to remember is that the department is on the side of its postgraduate students in relation to almost any problem that might arise, and will do everything possible to help, given good notice and the information necessary to do so.

Resolving Problems

Although rare, problems may arise between Course Director, supervisor, and student. In these cases, it is important for students to know what to do. In the first instance, of course, student

and Course Director or supervisor should meet informally to discuss the problem and attempt to resolve it in a balanced manner. Since almost all students and members of staff are reasonable people, by far the most likely outcome is that any misunderstanding can be ironed out smoothly at an early stage. If an informal discussion of problems fails to find a solution, then the student should write a letter to the Course Director or supervisor setting out the problem in more formal terms and send a copy of this letter to the Course Director. (In exceptional circumstances, a student may be unwilling to commit such problems to paper, in which case a meeting should be sought with the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). If the Course Director or supervisor is still unable to offer a resolution of the problems set out in the letter from the student, then the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will meet both individually and attempt to negotiate a solution. If the student is unwilling to accept the solution offered by the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), then there is no alternative but to take the matter up with the Dean of Graduate Studies and implement the procedures set out in Part 2 of the University Calendar. It is, however, very unlikely that any problem, handled in an open and reasonable manner by all concerned, should ever get this far. If problems should arise in the course of work as a Teaching Assistant, the student should in the first instance discuss the issue with their instructor. If necessary, the student may then meet with their thesis supervisor or the Course Director.

TCD–UCD Co-operation in Education of Ph.D. Students in Political Science

Ph.D. students in Political Science at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) can take postgraduate methods modules in the Political Science Department at University College Dublin (UCD). In addition, a TCD Ph.D. student may take one non-methods module at the other department (that is, one non-methods module in total, not one module per year). Students are to be aware that if they are taking a course at the other university attendance at class is compulsory including in weeks when otherwise a reading week is available at their home university.

Requirements for standards of student behaviour, including the requirement to avoid plagiarism, continue to apply. Students must make themselves familiar with, and comply with, rules of conduct established by University College Dublin

Job Placement

As a department, our success is ultimately measured by the success of our students, and that includes their job placement in top-quality academic institutions, governmental agencies, and private enterprises. Our goal is therefore to assist you on the job market in every way possible, both through guidance on your research projects and by providing opportunities to gain experience teaching and to contribute as a ‘good citizen’ in the department in ways which will help you on the job market. This process begins, of course, with the rigorous and

comprehensive training you will receive as part of the normal programme, but it also includes a specialized support and training system designed to make you the most effective job candidate possible.

Students who are considering applying for academic jobs should first consult with their supervisor(s) and the Ph.D. Course Director to make sure that they are ready to go on the market. Only students who are deemed to be ready will be supported by the department in their job search. Students are strongly encouraged to hold specially scheduled practice job talks when actually on the job market.

Our Programme includes the following features designed to help your job search:

- A regular series of seminars and opportunities to present your research that will prepare you for job talks when being interviewed.
- A programme that requires students to produce many short papers and encourages and assists them in revising and possibly submitting these for publication.
- A programme that encourages and assists students to participate in additional training courses and professional conferences.
- A well-established and widely-respected faculty that is willing to recommend students who have the potential to pursue an academic career.

4.3 Learning Outcomes

The Ph.D. programme in political science at Trinity College Dublin is designed to give students the highest level of training to become professional political scientists, including two years of modules covering research design, methods and a range of substantive areas of political science, and the writing of a thesis of original research. The programme is designed to impart substantive knowledge about politics, but train students in the techniques necessary to recognize, design and implement cutting-edge research. We strongly emphasize and support the placement of our students in top-quality positions upon completion. Most of our graduates have pursued careers in research and teaching; but others have gone into careers in government and business. ([See the Former Students page on the departmental website.](#))

4.4 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/political-science/programmes/postgraduate/phd-in-political-science/module-outlines/>

4.5 Coursework Requirements

The coursework requirements for each individual module will be detailed in the relevant syllabus.

Documentation

While strictly speaking the Department of Political Science imposes no particular house- style for written work, in practice we strongly recommend adhering to the Style Manual for Political Science published by the American Political Science Association: <https://connect.apsanet.org/stylemanual/>. This is a parenthetical referencing system based on the Chicago and “Harvard” styles used by such journals the European Journal for Political Research, West European Politics, the American Political Science Review, and the American Journal of Political Science, just to name a few. The booklet also clearly states guidelines for presenting quotations, tables, and figures. It does not contain guidelines about spelling and punctuation, which in your written work may certainly follow the Irish and British conventions. Before submitting your Dissertation, you should also consult the College’s rules for printing and binding.

Late Work

All work must be submitted against the specified deadlines set out by the module instructor. Late submissions will be penalised if no authorised extension is agreed with the instructor in advance, for example, with the support of medical certificate..

4.6 Marking Scale

To monitor students’ progress in their training programme, the Department of Political Science uses the following grading scheme for assessment of all work, where there is one overall grade for each class:

- First Class Honours I 70-100%
- Second Class Honours, First Division II.1 60-69%
- Second Class Honours, Second Division II.2 50-59%

The passing mark for all Ph.D. modules is 50%.

4.7 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.

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 and meritorious 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/>

4.8 External Examiner

The External Examiner for the Ph.D. in Political Science is Professor Marina Costa Lobo, University of Lisbon.

4.9 Progression Regulations

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

4.9.1 Appeals

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

4.10 Transcripts

Transcripts are available on request to the Programme Administrator at polsiggraduate@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.

4.11 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 (<https://www.tcd.ie/careers/graduates/>) 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](#).

4.12 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.