



FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

School of Religion, Theology,
and Peace Studies

19 March 2025

Foundation scholarship

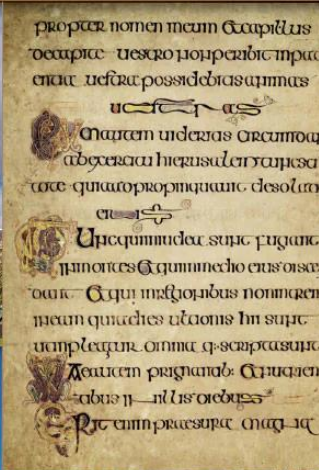


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A Pictorial Guide to

Trinity College Dublin



THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

1. History

- The College was founded as a corporation:
Provost, Fellows, Scholars.
- Scholars who are members of the corporation
= “foundation scholars” / “scholars of the
house” (≠ holders of other scholarships)

2. What is Foundation scholarship?

- A College institution: long history, high Prestige
- A distinctive feature of student life at Trinity.
- Involves a searching examination to select **students of outstanding ability.**



The foundation scholarship examination

- Traditionally sat in **Senior Fresh (SF) Year**.
- Objective: **To identify students who**, at a level of evaluation appropriate to the Senior Freshman year, **can consistently demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of their subjects.**

Required Standards

Candidates to demonstrate:

- Skill in synthesising and **integrating knowledge across** examination materials
- **Rigorous and informed critical thought** in appropriate disciplines, a highly-developed ability to **solve problems and apply knowledge**

The examinations thus consist of **questions that**
differ from those in annual examinations

Criteria

- The **award is based solely on** the performance in the scholarship **examination**
- Past performance in other examinations is **not** taken into account;
- Nor is there any attempt to identify through any subjective means students who may be appropriate candidates for scholarship.

3. Foundation scholars

- **Scholars are elected annually in various subjects**, based on the result of an examination held in January.
- The names of **those elected are formally announced** by the Provost **on the Monday of Trinity Week**.
- Scholars are entitled to statutory **emoluments and privileges**

Scholars

Foundation scholars' statutory emoluments and privileges of Foundation scholars

- a. Scholars have their Commons (**meals in the Dining Hall**) free of charge;
- b. Scholars are entitled to **rooms**, in any accommodation owned or provided by the College as assigned by the Provost, **free of charge for up to nine months of the year**;
- c. Scholars receive a **salary** which, **together with any grant** they may receive **from an outside body**, shall amount to **not less than €253.95 per annum** (after payment of the annual fee);

Foundation scholars' statutory emoluments and privileges of Foundation scholars (con.)

- d. Scholars are entitled to **remission of the annual fee appropriate to their main course of study if they are not in receipt of outside scholarships or grants**, save that undergraduate **scholars from non E.U. countries shall have their fees reduced** by an amount corresponding to the appropriate fee level of an E.U. fee paying student.

Duration of Scholarship

- Foundation scholars hold their scholarships normally **either until the end of the June quarter following the date at which they become or might have become masters in arts;**
- **Or until the end of the June quarter of the fifth year following their election, whichever of these two dates is the earlier,** except when permission has been given for a scholar to intermit the tenure.



4. Examinations structure College-Wide

SINGLE HONORS candidates must:

Achieve an **overall first class result (70 per cent or higher)**, along with a **grade profile indicating the attainment of first class marks in** at least two out of three papers in courses with three papers and **at least two out of four papers in courses with four papers.**

Examinations structure College-Wide

JOINT HONORS Candidates must:

- **Sit examinations in both** of their course **subjects**.
- Achieve an overall mark **for both subjects combined of 70%** or higher
- Obtain **a first** class result in one subject, and **at least a 2.1** in the other
- Have **a minimum of two first class marks** out of their total four Papers
- **No paper may be below 65** per cent.
- **Both subjects contribute with equal weighting** to the combined mark.
- **Sit a maximum of 4.5 hours** of written examinations in each subject.

School of RTPS Examinations standards

- Students expected to
- Demonstrate factual, conceptual, methodological **knowledge in the three strands:**
 - **Biblical studies**
 - **Religious studies**
 - **Theology and ethics**
- –E.g., of eras and turning-points in the history of + self-understanding of
 - **Religious traditions** (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Dharmic religions)
 - **Approaches** to study of religion
 - **Ethics.**
- Locate **own perspectives** within the different **approaches and key positions** of each **strand.**
- Demonstrate ability to Synthesise and **integrating knowledge.**

School of RTPS Examinations structure

1. **Biblical Studies** employs historical, philological and hermeneutical methods to investigate the origins and transformations of Jewish and Christian monotheisms in their historical and cultural contexts.
2. **Religious Studies** draws on methods from the social and cultural sciences, exploring religion as an enduring feature of human life (Theory of Religion) and investigating the diversity of religious traditions (Cultural Study of Religion).

School of RTPS Examinations structure

3. Theology and Ethics:

- Theology engages concepts and approaches from philosophy and history to treat the development of Christian doctrines and Christian self-understandings in interaction with different cultures and eras.
- Ethics engages questions of moral deliberation, norms, and values within and between different philosophical, historical, and theological schools of thought.

School of RTPS Examinations structure

4. General paper:

- Covers modules taken in the first semester of JF year.
- Comprises of Two parts, both a required:
 - Part 1: Answer **an overarching question** (need to refer to all modules taken in Religion in JF first semester)
 - Part 2: Answer a question of a **specific module** taken in Religion in JF first semester

School of RTPS Examinations structure (SH)

Single Honors students:

- **Four papers** of two hours duration (25% each), in each of the following:
 - Biblical studies (JF modules)
 - Religious studies (JF modules)
 - Theology and ethics (JF modules)
 - A general paper (SF modules of Michaelmas term, across ALL three strands)

Examinations structure — School of RTPS (TJH-1)

Examinations structure depends on pathway in SF year:

1. Single Honours – students on this pathway must take **three** papers in the subject they remained on for SF year and one paper from the subject they no longer study.

- Two papers involving the three strands above (25% each)
- A general paper (SF modules) (25%)

Examinations structure — School of RTPS (TJH-2)

2. **Major/Minor** – students on this pathway have two options.

- Take **three** papers in the subject they are taking 40 ECTS in SF year + **one** in the minor subject:
 - Two papers involving the three strands above (JF modules, 25% each)
 - A general paper (SF modules) (25%)

OR

- Take **two** papers in each subject. In Religion:
 - A paper involving the three strands above (JF modules) (25%)
 - A general paper (SF modules) (25%)

Examinations structure — School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies (TJH-3)

3. Joint Honours - students take **two papers** in both subjects.

- A paper involving the three strands above (JF modules) (25%)
- A general paper (SF modules) (25%)

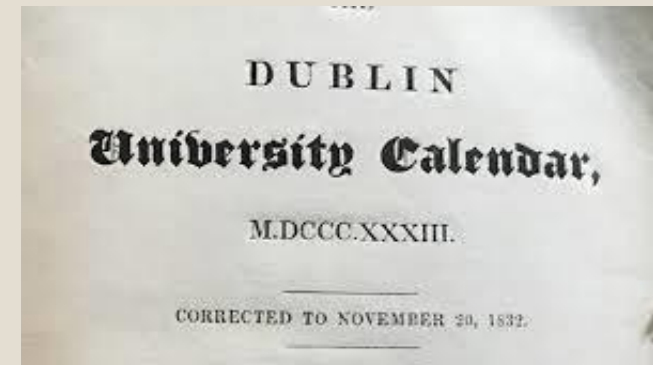


5. How to apply for Foundation Scholarships

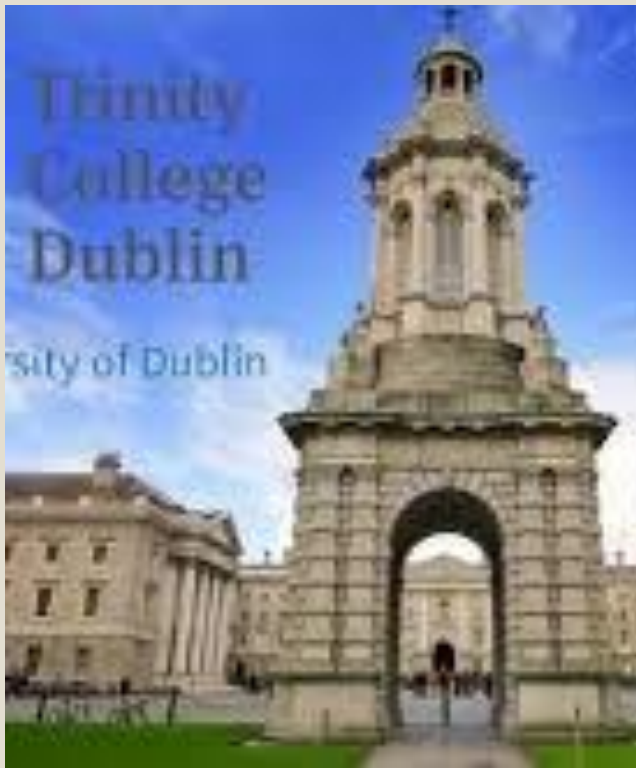
- Candidates must **give notice of their intention to take** the scholarship **examination** on the prescribed form.
- This **form should be submitted by the applicant** and not by another party.
- A confirmation email will be sent via an intray message on their my.tcd.ie portal which may take up to 24 hours.
- **Submit Applications to sit the Foundation Scholarship Examinations through the [2025/26 Foundation Scholarship Application Form](#)**

6. Key Dates (exact times TBC)

- **September–October 2025**
Submission of online applications to sit Foundation Scholarship examinations
- **November 2025**
Candidate submission of online confirmation of attendance forms
- **January 2026**
Foundation Scholarship examinations
(It may be necessary to schedule some examinations in the preceding week.)
- **April 2026, Trinity Monday**
Announcement of Election to Scholarship



7. More information / queries



- [Academic Registry Foundation and Non Foundation Scholarship page](#)
- [Calendar Regulations](#)
- Foundation Scholarships in the [School of RTPS Handbook](#)
- Contact the Course Coordinator:
Prof Zohar Hadromi-Allouche hadromiz@tcd.ie
- A School of RTPS clinic session for students who apply to sit the examination: September/October 2025