MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

2019/2020 Course Prospectus
Introduction

*Implementation Science* is the study of methods to promote the systematic integration of research findings and evidence into healthcare policy and practice.

The Masters of Science in Implementation Science course will be of interest to all those who have responsibility for delivery and implementation of policies within their workplace. It will particularly relevant to participants from the health, social care and education sectors. Its content will be underpinned by innovative research into the approaches that work best in the translation of research evidence to practice in those sectors.

This internationally accredited course includes contributions from leading Implementation Science experts nationally and internationally including from statutory agencies and non-governmental organisations. The Centre for Effective Services (CES) is an independent organisation that connects policy, practice and research, helping to ensure the implementation of effective services to improve the lives of people across the island of Ireland. CES collaborates with Trinity College Dublin on the development and delivery of the foundation modules on this course.

Dr Allison Metz is Director of the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) at the University of North Carolina, USA. She specialises in the implementation, mainstreaming and scaling of evidence to
achieve social impact. She will deliver the Human Resources for Implementation module.

Professor Per Nilsen is recognised as a leading international expert in Implementation Science research and has contributed to building an ambitious implementation research programme for PhD and Masters students at Linköping University, Sweden. He will contribute to the foundation modules of the course.

Graduates will be expected to develop excellence in Implementation Science. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of interdisciplinary exchange within small group settings. Case studies and class discussion will facilitate the application of learning. The course is designed to cater for the needs of EU and non-EU students. Students will be educated in advanced research methods and will be expected to undertake a dissertation in an applied area of Implementation Science. The course is unique in Ireland in that it brings together the Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, Social Work and Social Policy, and Psychology within TCD. The course is coordinated by the Department of Public Health & Primary Care within the School of Medicine.

This course is available as a one-year full time option or as a part time two-year option. This prospectus reflects the one-year fulltime option.
Aims
The course aims to equip students with the research and practical skills necessary to design, implement and evaluate policies, programmes and/or interventions that result in sustained improvement in health and social care services.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this course students should be able to:

- Identify, source and critically appraise the academic and scientific literature pertaining to Implementation Science research.
- Apply the core concepts of Implementation Science in an applied workplace project.
- Identify and critically analyse the factors that enable and impede the implementation of evidence-based policies and interventions into practice.
- Apply appropriate skills needed for implementation of an evidence-based policy/intervention into practice.
- Identify and critically analyse the role of individual behaviours and organisational behaviour in influencing change and facilitating the implementation of policy.
- Apply the principles of strategic project and programme management to a workplace project.
- Utilise available information systems relevant to the workplace.
- Apply the parameters needed for evaluation of a workplace project.
• Identify and apply the knowledge, skills and professional competence relevant and necessary to the practice of Implementation Science.

• Reflect on their own experiences of organisational change and develop ways of helping themselves and other organisational members through the process of change.

**Learning outcomes required for the Masters level:**

• Present findings of investigations in a suitably academic written form. Conceive, plan, manage and complete an intellectually independent research project in the area of Implementation Science research by selecting and analysing appropriate source materials, methods and scholarship.

**Intended Participants**

• The entry requirement for the course is at graduate level 2.1.

• Prospective students will be graduates in a health or social care-related discipline with at least three years professional experience.

Other applications may be considered in exceptional circumstances, based on workplace experience. Applications should be made online and will be reviewed by an Admissions Subcommittee. Short-listed applicants may be interviewed.

Check out: [https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply/](https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply/) for further details.
Course Structure

The Masters course comprises 90 ECTS. The course will be a full time one year, and two-year part-time course, consisting of 12 taught core modules and a research dissertation module (Tables 1 and 1a). The 12 modules carry 5 ECTS each, and the dissertation module carries 30 ECTS, amounting to a total credit weighting of 90 ECTS. All modules are mandatory. Attendance at all modules is compulsory.

Table 1: Course Modules for Master of Science in Implementation Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>ECTS credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Concepts of Implementation Science (1)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Concepts of Implementation Science (2)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information for Implementation – Using data to drive the implementation agenda</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing People in Organisations – Management and Organisational Behaviour</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing People in Organisations – Human Resources Management in Implementation</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project and Programme Management in Implementation</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy policy and health economics in Implementation Science</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conducting a Systematic Review</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Research Methodology, Design and Basic Analyses</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qualitative Research Methodology, Design and Basic Analyses | 5
---|---
Advanced research: Methodology, Design and Analyses | 5
Planning thesis - development of a research project proposal (this will be interspersed throughout the course also). | 5

Full time students will be expected to complete all modules within one academic year (60 ECTS credits). In addition to completion of the modules, students will be expected to undertake a research project and submit a dissertation (30 ECTS credits).

Students who have successfully passed the taught modules of the course and accumulated 60 credits and who do not wish to proceed to the dissertation stage will be considered for a Postgraduate Diploma (exit award).

**Dissertation (30 ECTS)**

Students are required to complete a substantial piece of research work, which is to be presented in the form of a dissertation to be eligible for consideration for the award of Masters of Science in Implementation Science. Having acquired the necessary skills and competencies from taught modules, students will develop a proposal outlining clear research questions to be investigated (Module 12). The students will begin the initial preparatory work on their proposal for dissertation, in
tandem with the taught modules, with the aim of achieving approval of the proposal by the course committee and the research ethics committee (if appropriate) by the end of the taught modules.

**Assessment**

Assessment will be based on a variety of methods to include the following: written assignments, in class presentations, small group assignments and open book short MEQs.

The dissertation should be 10,000 words long (excluding appendices) and should normally be submitted by no later than 31st August at the end of academic year of enrolment for fulltime students. In addition, the student will be encouraged to write up a scientific paper for publication, based on his/her research.

A 50% pass mark is required for each of the modules. Each module must be passed independently. The final mark for each module will be the mark derived from the assignments.

Compensation: To remain eligible for an MSc, students must pass all modules but may compensate in up to two taught modules if they achieve a grade of at least 40% in each and receive at least 50% across all 12 taught modules.

Failure of an assignment: In cases where students fail to achieve a minimum of 50% in an assignment, a resubmission will be permitted
with a deadline of three weeks from the publication of the initial results. Only one resubmission will be allowed, and the maximum mark awarded for the resubmitted assignment is 50%.

In order to qualify for the award of MSc with Distinction, students must achieve a final overall mark of at least 70% in the taught modules as well as the dissertation and without having failed any assignment component. A student who fails the dissertation is not permitted to repeat the dissertation but may apply to repeat the MSc course. Students are advised that such permission is not automatically granted. Students who are permitted to retake the course are liable for full annual fees.

**Course Delivery**

The Masters course will run one year full-time or two-year part time. Course attendance normally comprises three-day blocks each month (usually Wednesday to Friday) to facilitate work release, with some months having to facilitate two three-day blocks to accommodate all the taught modules within the academic year structure. Each course attendance day consists of six hours of lecture sessions, workshops or tutorials. Students are expected to complete coursework via distance learning outside of these time periods.
Course Venue

The location of the delivery of the course is primarily within the Institute of Population Health, Tallaght. However, some sessions may also be held in other Trinity locations, such as the Trinity Institute of Biomedical Sciences (TBSI).

Course Materials

Course materials will be made available for each module via the interactive Blackboard website. In addition, students will be provided with pre-module reading before each of the taught modules. The students will be expected to review all material provided and to study the reading lists contained in the course materials. Personal assignments for each module must be completed by each student and returned within the designated timeframe. Late assignments will be subject to penalties.

Students will be expected to provide their own computer and online access for the modules and module documentation presented on the interactive Blackboard website.

Tuition Fees

Information relating to course fees for both EU and Non-EU students can be found here: https://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/fees-and-payments/
Further Information

Contact the Course Administrator: Ailbhe Mealy (amealy@tcd.ie) Phone: +353 (0)1 896 1087

Course Co-Ordinator - Assistant Professor Catherine Darker (Catherine.darker@tcd.ie)

Course Director - Associate Professor Catherine Hayes (hayesc9@tcd.ie)

Applications for this course should be made online. Further information is available at:

http://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply