SCHOOL OF RELIGION

M.Phil. in Intercultural Theology & Interreligious Studies Handbook

2020-21
M.PHIL. IN INTERCULTURAL THEOLOGY & INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES
SCHOOL OF RELIGION
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Introduction

Welcome to the School of Religion where we continue a tradition of scholarship that goes back to the very foundation of Trinity College Dublin.

The School of Religion is one of the twelve Schools that comprise Trinity College's Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. It brings together biblical studies, theology, ethics, theory of religion, and international conflict and peace studies as independent but related disciplinary fields.

The School's undergraduate and postgraduate courses explore encounters between religions and cultures from their roots in antiquity to the present day. They investigate the intellectual and institutional resources developed in historical and current interactions and conflicts and apply them to the challenges and the opportunities societies face in an age of globalisation.

The School has a strong commitment to community engagement, has campuses in Belfast and Dublin and is home to the Loyola Institute, the Trinity Centre for Biblical Studies and the Irish School of Ecumenics.

This Handbook summarizes and supplements the regulations that are contained in the University Calendar. However, in the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the General regulations, PART III, published in the University Calendar and information contained in programme or local handbooks, the provisions of the General Regulations in the Calendar will prevail.
Academic and administrative staff will be available at Orientation to explain most of these requirements, and to answer any queries that you may have about procedures and regulations.

An electronic copy of this Handbook will be available on the School of Religion website and on the Intercultural Theology and Interreligious programme webpage. Current Student page and via Blackboard. The following link will also be helpful re the College Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). A hard copy of this handbook in large print is available in the School office. Alternative formats of the Handbook can be provided on request.

There may be some modification during the year to the procedures and regulations outlined below; these will be brought to your attention as they arise.

Please note:
Familiarize yourself with College’s regulations for postgraduate students. These are available in the Calendar, Part III.

Your @tcd.ie email account is the only e-mail address used for official College business. Consult this email account regularly.

Your personal data is kept in accordance with the Student Data Policy.

College regulations require that you remain resident in the Republic of Ireland, or in Northern Ireland, during the course of your studies. Absence for a substantial period in either of the teaching terms is not permitted. Research abroad is permitted only with the approval of your Course Coordinator.
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TEACHING AND LEARNING

1. Coursework Requirements

You are assessed on the basis of six modules studied over one year (full-time) or over two years (part-time). You will receive a form to register for modules before the start of term. This will ensure that you have access to the virtual learning environment ‘Blackboard’ for each of your module choices from the start of the year.

You must take the core module “Research and Methods”, together with another 5 of the modules on offer. You may be assessed in up to two modules from other M.Phil. courses offered by the School of Religion, with the agreement of the Course Coordinators.

You must also write a dissertation of 15-20,000 words.

1.2 Internship Module

Participants in the module “NGOs and International Politics: Theory and Practice” undertake an internship with a non-governmental organisation. Intake to this module is limited in accordance with the number of internships available. The “NGOs and International Politics: Theory and Practice” module is an unpaid internship and students must bear all associated costs of internships themselves (for example, travel and accommodation). Participating students also need to be aware of any visa and insurance requirements and prepare well in advance. You will receive an invitation to apply for an internship in early Autumn. Please see the Internships and Placements Policy for further details. COVID-19 may impinge on the internship module and if so students will be asked to choose another module in semester 2.
2. Coursework Assessment

School of Religion courses rely on a continuous assessment system, based on a mixture of written assignments and lecture/seminar attendance. The internship module is assessed by participation in a work-placement scheme with an accredited body, the submission of a written report and attendance at preparatory seminars.

2.1 The Role of External Examiners

Your essays and dissertation are assessed first in the School of Religion and then made available to the University’s External Examiners for their consideration. Essays pass or fail on the final judgement of the External Examiners, not on the opinion of the teaching staff, although this counts in the final decision. External Examiners meet in late November to monitor assessment procedures and outcomes in all modules and for the dissertation. Final marks for essays and dissertations are decided at this Court of Examiners. Final responsibility for the standard of an essay rests with the student.

The IT & IS External Examiner - Prof. Dr Judith Gruber, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology; Director – Center for Liberation Theologies, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

The internal examiner of your essay (typically the module Coordinator, or lecturer for the essay topic) will provide you with a report on your work, together with the grade that will be proposed to the Court of Examiners. All fails, distinctions and borderline grades will be marked by a second internal examiner.

Deadlines for your assessments are distributed at the beginning of each academic year. **Accomplishing the assignment within the set time limit is a key element**
of the assessment. If you do not succeed in submitting your essay on time, a 10% penalty is imposed on the grade that you receive. If you are aware in advance that you are unable to meet the set deadline due to circumstances beyond your control (e.g., as a result of bereavement or illness), you should contact your Course Coordinator to request an extension of the deadline; you will be asked to provide appropriate evidence, for instance, a medical certificate. Should you fail to meet the deadlines for one or more essays during the course of your studies, you will be asked to discuss the matter with your Course Coordinator. Please see the Calendar, Part III for College absence regulations.

2.1.1 Absence Policy

Postgraduate students who consider that illness may prevent them from meeting deadlines should consult their medical advisor and request a medical certificate for an appropriate period. If a certificate is granted, it must be presented to the student’s Course Coordinator within three days of the beginning of the period of absence. Such medical certificates must state that the student is unfit. Medical certificates will not be accepted in explanation for poor performance. Further details of procedures subsequent to the submission of medical certificates are available from Course Coordinators / Director. Postgraduate students who consider that other grave cause beyond their control may prevent them from attending College (or any part of their course) must consult and inform their Course Coordinator. The Course Coordinator will then make representations to the Dean of Graduate Studies requesting that permission be granted for absence. The acceptance of medical disability is entirely at the discretion of the Dean of Graduate Studies, who may ask for a report from the medical officers in charge of the Student Health Service. The report will be strictly confidential to the Dean of Graduate Studies.
Course participants who fail to meet deadlines and who have not been granted an extension, will be notified that no further work will be accepted from them and that their assessment will be based on work already submitted.

If you have not completed your module requirements before the deadline for your dissertation outline in your final year, then you will not be permitted to submit a dissertation for the M.Phil. degree, nor to receive the postgraduate Diploma.

2.2 Marking Criteria

Your essay feedback will be returned to you through Blackboard and you will be provided with indications of where your essay was most successful and where you need to concentrate your future work. You will receive feedback based on the following rubric:

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<th>Criteria</th>
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<td>a. Relevance to question</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Coherence and structure of argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Quality of theoretical analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Identification of major themes and arguments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Critical evaluation and judgement (balanced approach)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Range of sources used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Quality of referencing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that these criteria are applied specifically to the assessment of your essay to indicate strengths and weaknesses in a particular piece of work. The grade proposed by your internal examiner(s) will seek to balance the various aspects of your achievement.

2.3 Grade Bands

0-29: Highly unsatisfactory - Fail
30-39: Very weak - Fail
40-49: Weak - Fail
50-59: Satisfactory
60-69: Very Good
70-79: Excellent
80+: Truly outstanding

An essay marked below 50 is deemed unsuccessful. A pass mark is from 50 to 69 inclusive. An essay marked 70 or above is in the Distinction class.

Marks are determined by judgements across the criteria and do not necessarily represent the same band of achievement on all criteria. Positive achievements on some criteria compensate for weaknesses on other criteria and *vice versa*. The final mark reflects the weighting of the different variables in this judgment, as agreed by the examiners, and subject to confirmation by the Court of Examiners.

Therefore:

0-29 indicates a highly unsatisfactory level of achievement across the criteria.
30-39 highlights a very weak level of achievement across criteria OR so highly unsatisfactory on at least one criteria that achievements on other criteria do not compensate.

40-49 indicates a weak level of achievement across the criteria OR a very weak level of achievement on many criteria

50-59 A satisfactory level of achievement across the criteria OR a good level of achievement on some criteria compensating for weaknesses in others.

60-69 A very good level of achievement across the criteria OR an excellent level on some criteria and at least satisfactory on all criteria.
An excellent level of achievement on all the criteria OR a truly outstanding achievement on some of the criteria and at least satisfactory on all criteria.

80+ A truly outstanding achievement on all criteria.

### 2.4 Assessment standard

Most modules require coursework totaling 4,000 words to be submitted according to the internal deadlines distributed at the beginning of each academic year. The 30 ECTS dissertation is 15,000-20,000 words long and is to be submitted in August. For 2020-21 the submission date is Monday 16 August 2021.

In the calculation of the overall mark for the course, modules are weighted according to their ECTS credit value. The best 5 module marks out of 6 are used to calculate the final overall average mark. The pass mark for all elements is 50%, except for the internship module which is assessed on a pass/fail basis. Part-time students must pass all modules taken in the first year in order to proceed to the second year of the course. Students must achieve a mark of at least 50% in each module in order to proceed to dissertation, and must receive a mark of at least 50% in the dissertation to be eligible for the degree of M.Phil. Students that fail an assessment to a maximum of 10 ECTS may resubmit their work, provided that the original submission had been received by its deadline. Compensation is allowed to a maximum of 10 credits at a minimum mark of 40%.

Students can be awarded the M.Phil. with Distinction if they achieve a mark of Distinction (70% or above) on their dissertation and in the final overall average mark. A Distinction cannot be awarded if the candidate has failed any module during the course. A student who does not wish to submit a dissertation for the M.Phil., or who fails the dissertation, may instead opt to be considered for a Postgraduate Diploma provided that they have passed modules amounting to 60 credits. The Postgraduate Diploma may be awarded with Distinction to candidates
who, in addition, have achieved an overall average mark of 70% or above. If you do not wish to proceed to the dissertation stage, you should notify your Course Coordinator in writing before 1 April. Such students are required to submit module assessments by 1 May.

2.5 Entitlement to an Oral Examination

In a case where the failure of a dissertation is contemplated, the student is entitled to defend their dissertation at an oral examination. This exam must take place prior to, or during, the Court of Examiners. The student will be given the reasons for this examination and at least a week’s notice that their presence at the examination board will be necessary. The format for the examination is at the discretion of the course committee.

2.6 Description of ECTS

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 full-time 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.

ECTS credits are awarded to a student only upon successful completion of the programme year. Progression from one year to the next is determined by the programme regulations. Students who fail a year of their programme will not obtain credit for that year even if they have passed certain components. Exceptions to this rule are one-year and part-year visiting students, who are awarded credit for individual modules successfully completed.

2.7 QQI-NFQ Level

Under the QQI-NFQ, the Irish National Framework of Qualifications, the Postgraduate Diploma and MPhil are both Level 9 qualifications.

2.8 Module Descriptors

For the full list of modules with ECTS weighting, learning outcomes and a clear statement on graduate attributes that are achieved within the programme, please consult the relevant module syllabus on Blackboard and the School website. All registered staff and students automatically have accounts in Blackboard.

If you are not enrolled in your modules check with your School Office to ensure you are timetabled for the modules. All data in Blackboard is based on the College timetabling systems and information taken from your student record on my.tcd.ie. Blackboard requires an active TCD computer account for access. For more information on access and enrolment issues visit the IT Services VLE page.
2.9 Timetable

Your timetable will be accessible via your student portal.

3. Presenting and Submitting Your Work

3.1 Essays

Module Coordinators will provide a range of titles for your essays. Most written assessments are 4,000 words in length, excluding footnotes and bibliography. 4,000 words is about 12 pages of A4 double-spaced, excluding footnotes and bibliography. Essays should not exceed the stated length, and those in excess of the word length will be penalised. The word count for your essays must be given at the end, or beginning of each essay. Please note that you are welcome to submit an outline of your essay plan (one page, A4, maximum) to your module Coordinator, or lecturer for your topic, before you write your essays and dissertation: this is a helpful way to ensure that, at an early stage in the process, your research and writing are on target.

The School essay submission cover sheet, which is available on the Current Student page of the School website, should be used in submitting essays.

The essay should include detailed references (either in-text, or endnotes, or footnotes) and a bibliography laid out in alphabetical order. Your pages should be A4 size, numbered, and your typing double-spaced. Correct and consistent spelling, grammar and clear presentation are essential.

Retain a copy of each essay that you submit. Your assessments will be submitted via Turnitin on Blackboard. Details on how to do this will be provided by your module Coordinators. Submit each of your essays no later than 5 PM (17.00) on the day on which the essay is due, unless otherwise specified.
3.2 Dissertation

Researching and writing your dissertation is the culmination of your studies in the School. All courses within the School include compulsory modules on research methods and skills, where you will receive guidance for your research proposal and for choosing your dissertation topic.

Your dissertation topic must be relevant to your course’s modules and themes. Your dissertation title must be registered before you engage in study on a particular subject; this is to ensure both that the topic is acceptable for assessment and adequate supervision is available. Please note that permission to study a specific topic depends on adequate expertise existing in the School. The topic should not normally coincide with any of your other assessment essays, but you may be granted permission to extend the topic of one of your essays into a dissertation, or choose a related topic, subject to your supervisor’s agreement.

You will be asked to notify us of the area in which you wish to write your dissertation, and a supervisor will normally be allocated to you by semester two.

Once you are allocated a supervisor, please arrange to meet her or him as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to arrange an appropriate working relationship with your supervisor, and to submit work in a timely fashion so that there is adequate time for them to provide you with feedback. In general, students should meet with their supervisors at least twice to discuss their dissertation. Your dissertation, like your essays, is marked in the School before being read by the External Examiners and considered at the Court of Examiners. The official written notification of your results will include the internal examiners’ report on your dissertation.
In terms of feedback during the writing process, please note that your supervisor will read and provide comments on your proposal and two other chapters. You may also submit short chapter outlines to your supervisor for feedback.

3.3 Submitting Your Dissertation

You are required to submit one soft-bound copy, not spiral bound, and one electronic copy via Blackboard by the submission deadline. Please see link to the Thesis Centre: [http://www.thesiscentre.ie/](http://www.thesiscentre.ie/). The dissertation must be typed on white A4 Paper, on one side only, using double spacing. A margin of about 3.5 cm on the binding side and 2 cm on the other is required, with a top margin of about 3.5 cm. Pages must be numbered, starting after the Table of Contents.

The current regulations set a minimum of 15,000 and a maximum of 20,000 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography. Dissertations over 20,000 words will be penalised.

The word count for your dissertation must be given at the end of the last chapter or the conclusion.

The structure of the dissertation should be (in this order):

1. Title page, including title and author (this is the name under which you are officially registered in College).
2. Declaration. Use the following wording:

   DECLARATION

   I certify that this dissertation, submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of M.Phil. has not been submitted for a degree
at any other University, and that it is entirely my own work. I agree that the Library may lend or copy the dissertation upon request.

Signed: .............................................

Date: .................................

3. Acknowledgements (if any)

4. Abstracts. You must provide a one-page Abstract at the start of your dissertation. The Abstract of the dissertation (in single spacing), outlines its content and mode of investigation. It should be headed by title and author and entitled “Abstract”.

5. Table of Contents

6. Introduction

7. Chapters

8. References (if you are not using the Harvard system whereby references are in brackets in the text)

9. Bibliography

You must also include:

(i) a list of **abbreviations** used in the dissertation (if such abbreviations are extensive), placed either before the Introduction or immediately before the Bibliography. This should be noted in the Contents.

You may also include:
(ii) **appendices**, containing any important extra material you **need** to include.

Any appendices are placed after the conclusion but before the bibliography.

You must follow the exact form and colour of the binding required for the dissertation. It should be bound in dark blue cover, with front lettering in gold. The name of the degree (M.Phil.) must appear on the front cover. The name of the degree is followed by the year of submission and the student’s name. The front cover should show the title of the dissertation.

Your name must appear on the front cover of the dissertation exactly as registered. If in doubt, please check with Ms Helen Murphy at srpostgrad@tcd. First name initials are not allowed.

### 3.4 Referencing

Clear and accurate referencing is an important part of the scholarly task. Your reader should be able to see when you are quoting directly from a source, when you are summarizing a source, and when you are advancing your own judgement on the sources to which have referred. The reference that you provide should enable your reader to check the sources that you have used. And, as section 5 on Plagiarism, below, makes clear, clear and accurate referencing is essential to the scholarly enterprise.

Quotations (and references generally) must be made with care for accuracy. Quote the exact words; if you have to add extra words to clarify the sense, put them in square brackets; if you omit any, indicate that you have done so with three dots; so, for example:
It is instructive to note the comment of Henry Kissinger: “[In such cases] ... it is essential to bear in mind the role of personal humility in the exercise of diplomacy.”

If a quotation is going to take up more than two lines in your script, or if you wish to give it a special emphasis, make a distinct paragraph of it: indent the whole paragraph five places in from the left hand margin, with single spacing and without quotation marks. Always when you quote or refer, supply a precise reference to the work and page or pages to which you have referred.

It is a standard and essential academic requirement to cite the source of ideas taken from other authors and to place direct quotes in quotation marks. Where the idea or quotation is second-hand, i.e., drawn from a citation in another source, that fact should be noted in your list of references, e.g.: Sen, 1999, p. 75, as cited in Todaro, 2009, p. 16.

Web-based resources should be referenced with the following information: author of the document, title of the document, website address, and the date at which you accessed the site.

The work of compiling an accurate bibliography and footnotes is immeasurably lightened if proper care is taken from the beginning of your research to keep such details. When you note down a quotation or other reference, take care to record with it the full and precise details of publication.

3.5 Reference Styles

College does not require you to employ a particular reference style – you may, therefore, use styles that rely on endnotes or footnotes (e.g., Chicago), or that provide references in parentheses in the body of your text (e.g., Harvard), as long as you are consistent in their use – never mix the referencing styles.

Endnotes or footnotes serve two chief purposes: (i) to give a reference or several references; or (ii) to discuss a point which is incidental to your main argument, but which you wish nevertheless to acknowledge, or which serves to supplement or clarify your text. Most of your footnotes or endnotes will be of the first type.

Footnote and endnote references should be in single spacing and may be placed at the bottom of the relevant page (footnotes) or in numerical order before the bibliography at the end of the dissertation or essay (endnotes).

In the bibliography for your essays and dissertation, books, journal articles, online resources or book chapters should be listed alphabetically by the author’s surname. The bibliography should include all works that you quote or mention in your references. Full publication details of the books and articles should be given, and you should follow a consistent pattern for doing this. The titles of books and journals should be italicised (or underlined), but not the titles of articles in journals, which should be put in inverted commas or quotation marks.

Referencing Style
The following methods of citing a work are recommended for IT&IS students:

You must give full details of the source in footnotes and endnotes when you first quote from it, as well as when you list it in your bibliography. Subsequent quotations from the same text may use an abbreviated form, e.g., Gaither, To Receive a Text, 155-160 or Todaro, 2000, pp. 175-176.

Bibliography


In the case of book chapters or articles in edited volumes, the citation should include the author, the title of the article, the journal or periodical title, the volume and issue numbers, the date and page numbers. For example:


4. Research Ethics in the School of Religion

Trinity College Dublin and the School of Religion’s research community takes great care to ensure that our research activities follow best ethical practice in their design, content and conduct. Staff and students are required to follow College policies, maintain appropriate ethical standards in their research, and adhere to current data protection policies such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If you are conducting research that involves human participants, it is highly likely that you will need to apply for research ethics approval from either the School’s Research Ethics Committee or the ArtsHSS Faculty Research Ethics Committee. Visit Research Ethics on the School website for details of procedures, approval checklists, forms and deadlines. To review the College’s full “Policy on Good Research Practice”, follow this link.
5. Plagiarism

It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work and ideas of others. It is commonly accepted also, however, that we build on the work and ideas of others in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the work or ideas of others as one’s own, without due acknowledgement. Plagiarism can arise from deliberate actions and also through careless thinking and/or methodology. The offence lies not in the attitude or intention of the perpetrator, but in the action and in its consequences. It is the responsibility of the author of any work to ensure that he/she does not commit plagiarism. Plagiarism is considered to be academically fraudulent, and an offence against academic integrity that is subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University.

To ensure that you have a clear understanding of what plagiarism is, how Trinity College deals with cases of plagiarism, and how to avoid it, you will find information on the library website.

Please:

(i) Visit the online resources to inform yourself about how Trinity College deals with plagiarism and how you can avoid it. You should also familiarize yourself with the 2020-21 Calendar entry on plagiarism located on this website and the sanctions which are applied;

(ii) Complete the ‘Ready, Steady, Write’ online tutorial on plagiarism. Completing the tutorial is compulsory for all students.

(iii) Familiarise yourself with the declaration that you will be asked to sign when submitting course work and which is included on the essay cover sheet, available on the Current Student page of the School website.
(iv) Contact your Course Coordinator or your Lecturer if you are unsure about any aspect of plagiarism.

References/Sources:
- Calendar, Part III, General Regulations & Information, Section I 'Plagiarism'
- Plagiarism Policy
- Library Guides - Avoiding Plagiarism
- Plagiarism Declaration

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Postgraduate Appeals Process

The Postgraduate Appeals Process is outlined in the Trinity College Calendar Part III. All appeals should be heard first at School level. The grounds for appeal against the decision of Taught Course Committees are outlined in the Calendar under General Academic Regulations for Graduate Studies and Higher Degrees – Section 1.

A student who wishes to appeal should first write to their Course Coordinator within two weeks of the publication of results, stating clearly the grounds for appeal and, where necessary, enclosing documentary evidence.

The Course Coordinator will then discuss the case with the relevant parties and attempt to find a solution.

If the Course Coordinator cannot resolve the matter, the student may appeal to the School Appeals Committee (Taught Postgraduate). The Director of Teaching and Learning Postgraduate (DTLPG) will convene and chair this committee which will be composed of one Course Coordinator (of a course not taken by the student) and
another member of academic staff. At the School Appeals Committee, the student concerned should have representation appropriate to the formality of the process, for example, a supervisor, Course Coordinator or other appropriate staff member.

No one will be appointed to an Appeals Committee where a conflict of interest might arise. Should the DTLP experience a conflict of interest, she or he will be substituted by the Head of School.

Appeals against the decision of a School Appeals Committee (Taught Postgraduate) may be made in writing to the Dean of Graduate Studies, who has the discretion to grant or deny the appeal. Appeals against the decision of the Dean of Graduate Studies may be brought to the Academic Appeals Committee for Graduate Students (Taught). This committee will consider appeals concerning events occurring more than 4 months prior only in the most exceptional circumstances. For further details of appeals at College level, please consult the Calendar Part III.

2. College Disability Service

The School welcomes applications from prospective students with disabilities, and endeavours to assist all students to realise their potential by offering a range of supports that include reasonable accommodations.

Trinity is an inclusive university and encourages students with disabilities to think about coming here. There are over 1,600 students with disabilities who have applied for reasonable accommodation with the Disability Service; this offers a confidential and accessible service for all students with disabilities and aims to identify and support your learning needs during your time in Trinity. It is student-centred and is committed insofar as is reasonably possible, to empowering students with disabilities achieve their academic and vocational goals, as well as
access all aspects of College life. Please click on this link to find out more about the Disability Service and supports offered.

3. Links to University Policies/Reference/Sources

- PG Student Learning Development
- Student complaints
- Dignity and Respect Policy
- Data Protection
- My TCD
- Interactive College Map
- Blackboard
- Academic Registry
- ‘Learning to Learn Online’ Blackboard Module

4. Student Support Services

There are a range of services to turn to for advice and support should you need it at any stage of your studies. The main services are outlined below, and you will receive more information on how they can support you at orientation. Visit the Student Support Services website for a full list of services and the latest Student Support Services booklet.

Student-facing module:
We thought we should bring the following student-facing module ‘Learning to Learn Online in Trinity’ to your attention. The pedagogically-led module has been developed to prepare and support students in Trinity (both undergraduate and postgraduate) with the transition to hybrid learning at Trinity this academic year.
Registered students can self-enrol on Blackboard for the module.

The module is structured thematically across four blocks and three of these are now available.

**Block 1. Getting Started for Learning Online**
**Block 2. Working Together Online**
**Block 3. Creating your Study Routine**
**Block 4. Preparing for Assessments**

**5. Postgraduate Advisory Service**

The Postgraduate Advisory Service, commonly referred to as PAS, is the frontline support for postgraduate students at Trinity. PAS is coordinated by the Postgraduate Student Support Officer who acts as a first point of contact for any postgraduate student needing support or guidance.

**Providing support**

The PAS is there to provide support on any matter that may impact upon your time as a postgraduate at Trinity. Some of the most common issues students go to PAS to discuss include study-related stress or worry; concerns about academic progress; supervisor-relationship concerns; extensions and going off-books; queries regarding regulations and academic appeals; bullying; plagiarism and disciplinary cases and financial hardship.

**PAS supports students by:**

- Providing frontline confidential and free support, information, and referral via the Postgraduate Student Support Office
- Providing, on referral, named academics to provide advice, advocacy, and assistance via a panel of Postgraduate Advisors
- Providing a suite of complementary supports including informal mediation, workshops and training to postgraduates
- Administering the Postgraduate Student Assistance Fund and other financial assistance to postgraduate students.

PAS also provides representation for postgraduates in the event of disciplinary and/or academic appeals.

PAS is located on the ground floor of House 27. We are open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Appointments are available from 10am to 3pm. If in doubt get in touch!

**Financial Assistance**

The Postgraduate Advisory Service administers the Postgraduate Student Assistance Fund. This fund is intended to tackle disadvantage by providing small amounts of financial assistance to students requiring additional support to enable them to fully benefit from their third-level studies. It is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

For further details see the [financial assistance information](#) on the PAS website.

**Contact PAS**

+353 896 1417
pgsupp@tcd.ie
PAS Website

**6. Data Protection**

Trinity College Dublin uses personal data relating to students for a variety of purposes. It is careful to comply with relevant obligations under data protection
laws and has prepared a short guide to ensure you understand how it obtains, uses and discloses student data in the course of performing University functions and services. The guidance note is intended to supplement the University's Data Protection Policy.

7. Graduate Students’ Union

Located on the second floor of House Six, the Graduate Students' Union is an independent body within College that represents postgraduate students throughout College. Upon registration, all postgraduates are automatically members. It is run by two full-time sabbatical officers. The President is the head and public face of the Union, and is responsible for strategy and policy formulation, whilst sitting on a wide range of College committees. The Vice-President is also the Union's Education and Welfare Officer and advises students on matters such as academic appeals and supervisor relationships. S/He is also here to help on more personal matters, such as financial concerns, illness and bereavement. Any discussions about such concerns are treated with the strictest confidence. The GSU website provides the latest updates from the Union, information on elections, campaigns and connections to the Union’s social media platforms. Students can arrange meetings with the sabbatical officers by emailing either the GSU President at president@tcdgsu.ie or the GSU Vice-President at vicepresident@tcdgsu.ie, or by contacting the office landline at (01) 896 1169.

Another useful contact for research students is the GSU Research Student Officer, who can be contacted at phd@tcdgsu.ie

The GSU help organise elections for class and School Reps. The Class Reps report to their School Rep who attends the School Executive Committee meetings and represents the whole school in the GSU.
8. Careers

See Trinity Careers Service.

Students can make an appointment with a Careers Advisor through MyCareer. To avail of this service please login to MyCareer with your Trinity student name and password, update your profile and you can then book an appointment. The email address of the School’s Careers Advisor, Orlaith Tunney, is tunneyo@tcd.ie.

Students may also wish to avail of the following online resources:
Overview of careers resources for postgraduate taught students
Plan Your Career
Trinity Linkedin Alumni Tool

9. Clubs and Societies & Sports

Whether you are interested in yoga, debating, music or photography, or you would just like to try something new, there are over 124 Trinity Societies for you to choose from. You can join a society at any time during the year. For information on the wide array of sport, health and fitness facilities available see Trinity Sports Centre.

10. Field Trips

During the course of the academic year a number of field trips are organized. In the past these have included interreligious immersion trips to India and Lebanon, visits to the World Council of Churches in Geneva, and opportunities to take part in the regular conferences of appropriate professional bodies such as the American Academy of Religion, Societas Oecumenica, the European Society for Intercultural Theology & Interreligious Studies and European Network of Buddhist-Christian Studies. In addition to these, a guided visit to places of worship is organized every year. Details will be provided during the year by course staff.
COVID-19 may impinge on the internship module and if so students will be asked to choose another module in semester 2.

11. Graduation

Following the Court of Examiners, the University’s decision to award a degree must be processed and ratified at different committee levels, and you should not expect to be commenced (graduate) within less than two months of a Court decision.

Many students of the School aim to be commenced (attend graduation) in April or June. The School hosts an alumni gathering to coincide with one of the commencement dates, and this is an enjoyable opportunity to reconnect with classmates, teachers and alums.

All queries about your Commencement, following the Court of Examiners, must be addressed to the Academic Registry. The Academic Registry will email students and contact them through their student portal, inviting you to register for Graduation. Please adhere to the acceptance deadline outlined in the email, and respond before this date.

Please note: you may not graduate until all outstanding fees and charges (including library charges) have been paid.

12. Feedback

Much of this Handbook is taken up with rules and procedural requirements. This is unavoidable if we are to ensure that the School’s courses are well-structured and that the degree you obtain is of real value. But the experience of postgraduate study should be richer than the mere passing of assessment requirements and the
School of Religion encourages you to participate in our continuing efforts to improve our procedures as the year advances and to make an evaluation of your experience at the end.

Your suggestions on every aspect of the programme will be invited throughout the year. At the end of each semester, you will be asked to complete an assessment of each of the modules that you have undertaken. The information that you supply is invaluable to staff in the further development of the School. You may also be asked to take part in an online survey conducted by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Please note that in any official survey you will remain anonymous, and your assessment of your experience in the School of Religion – whether positive, negative or both – is fed into a structured assessment of teaching and learning. Of course, you do not have to wait for these formal assessments to take place: staff are available at regular office hours (communicated at the start of the year) and they welcome your concerns and suggestions. Your class will also elect a class representative, who will be able to articulate your concerns through the appropriate channels.

13. Emergency Procedures

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).

14. Health and Safety

Health, Safety and Welfare at work are of crucial importance throughout Trinity College and the School of Religion is committed to upholding the College’s Health, Safety and Welfare policies.

The School also recognises and will ensure compliance with the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005; associated legislation made under the Act, and the College Safety Statement and College Policies and Codes of Practice documents. The Act requires that precautions are taken, as far as is reasonably practicable, to avoid endangering oneself or others by our actions / activities. All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of all persons – be they staff, students or others – will not be put at risk. A copy of the School Health and Safety Statement is available from the School Office.

COVID-19: It is our collective responsibility to keep up-to-date with the latest COVID secure measures introduced by Government and any advice issued as a result.

Please refer to the relevant legislation, guidance and advice available on the College COVID-19 website (http://www.tcd.ie/about/coronavirus) and the Health and Safety Authority www.hsa.ie.
15. Key Dates

Key dates for each M.Phil. course are available in the Orientation Pack on the Current Student page of the School website. Submission deadlines for coursework are listed on the Key Dates and in module syllabi.

16. Key Locations

We are on the main Trinity Campus. The building is located beside the Department of Zoology. Further facilities information will be provided at orientation. View our location and get driving/walking directions.

17. Contacts and Opening Hours

Head of School – Prof. Siobhán Garrigan
garrigs@tcd.ie
353 (0)1 896 4794

Director of Teaching and Learning Postgraduate – Prof. Gillian Wylie
wylieg@tcd.ie
+353 (0) 1896 4783

School Manager – Aideen Woods
aidwoods@tcd.ie
+353 (0)1 896 4778

Postgraduate Officer – Hellen Fennell-Batista
srpostgrad@tcd.ie
+353 (0)1 8964772

IT&IS Course Coordinator - Prof. Jude Lal Fernando
lafern@tcd.ie
For the full list of all academic and administrative staff please visit the School of Religion website.

**Opening Hours**

**ISE-LI building:** Access will be swipe card only and will be restricted to normal office hours. Currently a standard 9.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. working day i.e. Monday - Thursday is planned and 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. (each Friday). The School will remain open on Monday and Thursday evenings until 9.30 p.m. to accommodate the delivery of the School’s Dublin based Evening Postgraduate programmes. Any changes to the closing times will be notified by e-mail.

Please note students are not permitted to remain in the building outside normal office hours unless attending a lecture, seminar or event which has been scheduled by a staff member.

**18. Scholarships and Prizes**

For scholarships please see information available online at:

Postgraduate Scholarships.