

SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE

# Post Graduate Studies in Christian Theology



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

**The Loyola Institute**  
*School of Religion*  
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

---

## Trinity College, The University of Dublin

---

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's leading university and as one of the leading universities in the world. Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a cosmopolitan community of students from around the world. Its bustling 47 acre campus, in the heart of Dublin, is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

Trinity's main campus of cobbled squares, historic buildings and green playing fields also includes state-of-the-art modern facilities for teaching and research, and a Sports Centre with a climbing wall and swimming pool. The Trinity Library is one of the world's great research libraries. Community is a key element in the Trinity education and every student can benefit from a wide variety of extra-curricular activities which broaden and reinforce the experience of a Trinity graduate.



---

## Loyola Institute

---

The Loyola Institute is part of the School of Religion in Trinity College Dublin. The School continues a tradition of scholarship that goes back to the very foundation of Trinity College Dublin.

The particular academic mission of the Loyola Institute is teaching and research in theology in the Catholic Christian tradition. Since its establishment in 2012, the Loyola Institute has attracted expressions of interest in postgraduate study from a great variety of people, in Ireland and internationally.

The Loyola Institute offers degrees in theology at postgraduate level, both taught and via research. Regular research seminars are part of our post-graduate offering.

The Institute is a vibrant centre for discussion of theology and its contribution to current debates. One of our

particular areas of excellence is the creative intersection of theology, Church and society. We regularly organize and host international conferences. Each year, to facilitate the dissemination of theological debate to a wider audience, we organize the interdisciplinary Loyola Lecture series.

In addition to our postgraduate degrees we also offer modules at undergraduate level in the School BA in Religion.

For the academic year 2020-21, most of our activity has been online because of COVID restrictions. Our teaching has been delivered virtually, as was the Faith Seeking Understanding course for a general audience. We envisage resuming face to face activities in the autumn, as well as online events.

For more information on our activities see our website or our newsletter.



MPhil graduates Ursula Hannigan, Deidre Soffe and Emmett O'Regan at launch of *The Church in Pluralist Society: Social and Political Roles* Edited by Cornelius J. Casey and Fáinche Ryan in Jan 2020.



MPhil student Emma Rothwell, recipient of the Loyola Trust Scholarship for Teachers, was invited to speak at the Loyola conference on Religious Literacy in January 2020. Here Emma is (2nd from right) with (from Left) Dr Ryzard Bobrowicz, Dr Francesca Cadeddu, Nick Spencer and Loyola Institute's Dr Michael Kirwan SJ.

---

## MPhil in Christian Theology

---

This Masters in Christian Theology will enable participants to gain an in-depth knowledge of core issues in contemporary Christian theology. Students are introduced to historical scholarship and to rigorous contemporary theological investigation.

A written dissertation is a key part of the MPhil. This enables participants to engage in advanced study of a particular topic of interest in the field. In the process of writing, participants are offered one-to-one academic supervision.

Participants in this MPhil will learn research skills, as well as analytic, written and verbal communication skills. These are highly valued and effective in a great variety of careers.

---

## Course Structure and Assessment

---

The course incorporates both taught and research components. Students must take six taught modules (10 ECTS each) comprising three core and three optional modules, and write a 15,000 word dissertation (30 ECTS). Students are assessed via written contributions for each module.

### Modules on offer may include:

Jesus of Nazareth: Son, Christ, Word  
Violence and Grace in the Human Narrative  
The First Words: Theology/ies of the Bible  
Readings in Classical Theological Texts  
Theology and the Arts

Christianity of the Celtic World (600-1000 AD)  
Political Theology  
Authority, Tradition and Experience:  
Ecumenics as Intercultural Theology\*  
Nature, Grace and the Triune God\*

*\* Modules shared with the MPhil in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies.  
Note: Not all modules are offered each year*

---

## Who is this course for?

---

For graduates in theology (or other related disciplines), the MPhil offers a structured programme of study at an advanced level.

- For those who have an interest in theological questions, this degree will help them become better informed and more articulate in Christian theology;
- For chaplains, pastoral workers, and others engaged in Church ministry, the MPhil will serve as an ideal opportunity for further in-depth reading, writing and study of the core disciplines of theology, in a way that furthers professional development;
- For teachers of religious education, this degree provides an excellent opportunity to explore theological issues at a deeper level so benefiting you and your students.

“Studying at Trinity, with its world renowned reputation for scholarship, intellectual rigour, and the opportunity to tap into the rich spiritual and theological traditions of Christian theology has provided me with possibilities to grow intellectually as a reflective thinker, engaging with questions of faith in a critical, reasoned way.”

**Shannon Campbell**  
MPhil Student 20-21





“The diversity in the presented approaches to the questions that echo throughout history allows for accessible entry into dense discourse. The course has encouraged resonant engagement and cultivated fertile conversation with material that considers both theory and practice and their relation in theology.”

**Robert Black**  
MPhil student 20-21



## Introducing Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Christian Theology

Some people have expressed an interest in studying Christian theology at postgraduate level, while being unable to commit to the demands of the MPhil work load (six modules and a dissertation). Others, based outside of Dublin, have stated that they would find it difficult to travel twice a week.

In the light of this, we now offer a Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Christian Theology. The same modules are studied, for the Postgraduate Diploma the student studies six modules (four core and two elective); for the Postgraduate Certificate the student studies three modules (two core and one elective).

It is possible to complete the Certificate by attending lectures one evening a week. Students are assessed via written contributions for each module. On successful completion of the Certificate it is possible to continue to the Diploma; similarly, students who complete the Diploma may apply to continue to a Masters.

## Admission Requirements

Admission to these courses is at graduate level. Applicants will normally hold a good honours degree in theology from a recognized university. Applicants who have a primary degree in other disciplines will be considered.

Exceptional cases, where applicants do not fully meet the above criteria, but make a reasonable case for admissions otherwise, will be considered by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

## Course Times

The MPhil is delivered full-time over one year (12 months) or part-time over two years. The Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate are delivered over 8 months (September – April). Lectures are normally held on Monday and Thursday evenings. Some elective modules may be held during the day.

## Course Director

Dr Michael Kirwan SJ, Interim Director of the Loyola Institute, is Course Director of the MPhil. He leads the team of academics who deliver the programme. Dr Kirwan can be contacted by email at kirwanm6@tcd.ie.

Michael Kirwan SJ with Nick Spencer of UK based Think-tank Theos at Loyola Institute Conference on Religious Literacy, Jan 2020.



## How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for this programme please apply online at: [www.tcd.ie/courses](http://www.tcd.ie/courses). The closing date is 31st July 2021.

For details of scholarships available for the various programmes, see our website.

Email: [Loyola@tcd.ie](mailto:Loyola@tcd.ie)

Ph: +353 1 896 4790

W: [www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute](http://www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute)

The Loyola Institute is grateful for the generous support of the Loyola Trust [Augustinians, Carmelites (O.Carm.), Columbans, Jesuits, Loreto Sisters, Marists, Oblates, Society of African Missions]