

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

Postgraduate Studies in Christian Theology

MPhil in Christian Theology
Diploma in Christian Theology
Certificate in Christian Theology



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

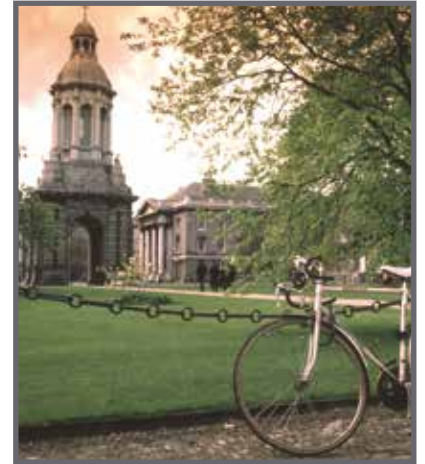
The Loyola Institute

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
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

Established in 2012, the Loyola Institute is part of the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies in Trinity College Dublin. The School continues a tradition of scholarship dating back to the foundation of Trinity College. The mission of the Institute consists of teaching and research in theology in the Catholic Christian tradition. Regular Research seminars, lectures, and other events, including international conferences, make Loyola a vibrant centre of theological reflection and discussion. The Institute situates itself creatively

at the intersection of the academy, the church, and the wider society, making a substantial contribution to debates about the role of faith in the contemporary world. At the same time, Loyola offers a unique focus upon the treasures of the Christian past, notably Celtic Christianity, with special attention to the theology of the Book of Kells. For more information on our activities, please look at our website or subscribe to our newsletter.



Many students and alumni were among the volunteers that assisted at the Congress of the European Society for Catholic Theology held in Trinity College Dublin in summer 2025.



MPhil Course Director Prof Fáinche Ryan with Dr Paul Corcoran and Prof Anna Chahoud, Dept of Classics at Paul's conferring. A Trinity College Scholar, Paul has an undergraduate degree in Classics. He next completed the MPhil in Christian Theology before undertaking a PhD at Loyola, on the theme of wonder and sacramentality in the work of the Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh.

MPhil in Christian Theology

This Masters in Christian Theology gives students a rigorous knowledge of core themes and issues in historical and contemporary Christian theological scholarship. They engage with the main figures and debates of the tradition, and reflect upon their continued relevance to contemporary discussion.

A high point of their study is the written dissertation, which enables students to engage in the advanced study of their chosen topic of interest. The research proficiency which the student acquires can make the MPhil an ideal stepping-stone to more advanced theological study.

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 elective modules, and write a 12,000 word dissertation (30 ECTS). Students are assessed via written contributions for each module.

Modules on offer in 2025 - 2026:

Readings in Classical Theological Texts
Violence and Grace in the Human Narrative
The First Words: Theology/ies of the Bible

Jesus of Nazareth: Son, Christ, Word
Christianity of the Celtic World (600-1000 AD)
Ministry and Church in a Challenging Era

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 benefitting you and your students,
- For students looking to do advanced research, the MPhil can provide a suitable route into higher study in theology.



Professor Massimo Faggioli has recently joined the Loyola Institute as Professor in Historical and Contemporary Ecclesiology. Professor Faggioli, is an internationally established scholar in the area of Vatican II and the papacy, and a renowned public commentator on church affairs.

“The MPhil in Christian Theology is a wonderful course, as it can be adapted to suit your life while still offering much intellectual rigour. I decided to do it part-time, as it allows me to continue to work as a teacher during the day and attend classes in the evenings. The academic staff are unbelievably well versed in Theology and have been very helpful to me during this programme. I really couldn’t recommend the MPhil in Christian Theology with the Loyola Institute enough.”

Grace O’Connor
MPhil student 24 – 26. Recipient of the Loyola Trust Scholarship for Teachers.



“It is an absolute joy to be part of the postgraduate programme in Christian Theology at the Loyola Institute. The teaching is first class, the syllabus is relevant and exciting, and the classes are nourishing and thought provoking. Christian Theology seeks to give answers to the biggest questions facing humanity, existential questions about truth, about what it means to be human, about our relationships with each other and our planet, and about our place in creation. The course is encouraging me to think deeply about these questions; to make connections between the thinking of yesterday and the issues of today; and to return always to the person of Jesus Christ.”

Colin Tenner

Postgraduate Certificate 2025-2026



Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Christian Theology

The MPhil programme requires the completion of six modules and a dissertation within one year (full-time), or two years (part-time). For those unable to take on this commitment because of time or other constraints, the two alternatives, Diploma and Certificate, may be more attractive. The modules are the same in all three programmes, and have the same assessment patterns. The Diploma requires completion of six modules (four core, two elective), but not a dissertation. The Certificate involves three modules (two core, one elective).

On successful completion of the Certificate, a student may wish to continue onto the Diploma, and from Diploma to MPhil.

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 modules may be held during the day.

Course Director

Dr Fáinche Ryan is Course Director of the three Christian Theology programmes.

She can be contacted at FARYAN@tcd.ie

Course Director Dr Fáinche Ryan (Centre) enjoying the sunshine outside Loyola Institute with MPhil students Sr Solange Uzoigwe and Colette Varley.



How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for this programme please apply online at: www.tcd.ie/courses.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 31st July, 2026

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

Closing date for scholarship applications is Friday, July 3rd, 2026.

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]