

Post Specification

Post Title:	PhD Studentship in Environmental Ethics (2 Positions)
Post Status:	Two 4-year Full-Time PhD studentships <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project 1 The Ethics of Consumerism2. Project 2. The Ethics of Agriculture and Food Production in an Irish context
Research Group / Department / School:	School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Professor Linda Hogan
Terms & Conditions:	Each of the PhD studentships will be 4 years in duration. Funding for each of the successful PhD applicants comprises an annual stipend of €22,000 per year with academic/tuition fees paid by the project (EU and non-EU), subject to satisfactory progress assessed annually including the PhD transfer report in year 2.
Closing Date:	17:00 (Irish Standard Mean Time), 31 July 2024

NOTE: Applicants must have been resident in an EU member state for 3 out of the last 5 years to be eligible for EU fees

Post Summary

Climate change presents humankind with one of its greatest challenges. The earth is experiencing global warming and its consequences will be dramatic. There is a strong scientific consensus about what should be done to mitigate climate change – reduction in the emission of Green House Gasses (GHG), particularly those associated with burning fossil fuels for electricity generation and transport. To reduce GHG emissions people will need to modify their behaviours and lifestyles, particularly people living in countries where the per-capita emissions are highest. However, we are not doing so, or at least not sufficiently to ensure global warming is kept at safe levels for future generations. The reasons for this are complex and involve geopolitical and social factors, but key among the reasons is that environmental ethics has not become embedded in the discourse of how people consider climate change and its effects.

These two PhD projects aim to understand the ethical challenges for human behaviour in the Anthropocene and to develop responses based on ethical principles.

Each project addresses the question of how to establish right living in a world in a context where economic models of continued growth and consumerism dominate. One project focuses on the ethics of consumerism, the other focuses on the ethics of production.

Each successful applicant will work on their own PhD project but will also be required to engage collaboratively with one another and with the wider supervisory team as part of the overall programme of work in the Environmental Ethics Initiative.

Project 1 The Ethics of Consumerism

We live in a world where the consumption of products and services are the basis of economic growth, and this in turn is believed to be as a sine qua non for a stable, successful society. Moreover, advertising and marketing, particularly through social media, have created a form of hyper-consumerism, with its attendant problems of resource depletion, waste and pollution. It has become apparent that the increased consumption by the world's human population has dire consequences for planetary health because of its impact on climate change and the risk of exceeding 'planetary boundaries.'

The aim of the project is to conduct a rigorous ethical investigation of this challenge. It will begin with an ethical assessment of the state of the global dialogue on consumerism, taking account of various proposed solutions, including the economic (e.g. 'degrowth economics') and the technological (e.g. 'new renewable technologies'), and will analyse the ethical challenges and prospects raised in these approaches. It will then develop a comprehensive ethical framework, based in specified human values, that will provide a basis for ethical and environmentally sustainable consumption.

Project 2 The Ethics of Agriculture and Food Production in an Irish context

In Ireland agriculture plays a dominant role in national discourse. Historically this was because of the numbers employed on farms as owners or labourers. While this has diminished, a new and increasingly important factor in Ireland is the industrial production of food (agri-business) where multinationals and state/semi-state agencies (e.g. Teagasc, Bord Bia, BIM, IDA Ireland) act together with farmers to promote the industry in new markets. This transition has been beneficial for the economy, and for rural communities, however it comes with a host of ethical dilemmas. On the one hand the likely continued growth of global demand for Irish food products will increase state revenues (for investment in public services) and the incomes of investors, employees and primary producers, thereby enhancing economic well-being. On the other hand increased food production in Ireland risks degrading further the natural environment, reducing biodiversity and contributing to climate change.

This project examines Irish agriculture as an exemplar of the ethical issues arising in food production in the context of climate change. It will begin with an examination debate about the ethics of agriculture and food production globally and analyse the salience of the economic, political, environmental, and ethical principles implicit in current Irish (and EU) policy and practice. It will then develop a comprehensive ethical framework, based in specified human values, that will provide a basis for ethical and environmentally sustainable agriculture and agri-food production in Ireland.

Funding Information

Each of the PhD studentships will be 4 years in duration. Funding for each of the successful PhD applicants comprises an annual stipend of €22,000 per year with academic/tuition fees

paid by the project (EU and non-EU), subject to satisfactory progress assessed annually including the PhD transfer report in year 2.

Person Specification

Qualifications

Applicants should have a primary degree that includes ethics, or in another project-relevant discipline and must meet Trinity College Dublin requirements for a PhD by research which are detailed in <https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/>.

Knowledge & Experience

Essential Knowledge and Experience of Applicants

- Experience of conducting academic research
- Excellent English language writing skills.
- Excellent verbal communication skills.
- Strong organisational skills and the ability to set and adhere to research goals.
- The ability to work as a team.
- An understanding of the complexities of undertaking research with vulnerable populations.

Desirable Knowledge and Experience of Applicants

- Evidence of research dissemination (e.g., conference papers/presentations, journal articles, published abstracts, etc).
- Prior experience of conducting research in life-limiting illness.
- An appreciation of the range of skills relevant to the conduct of research for people with life-limiting illness

Skills & Competencies

Expected skills of applicants

- Excellent research skills.
- Excellent English language writing skills.
- Excellent verbal communication skills.
- Strong organisational skills and the ability to set and adhere to research goals.
- The ability to work in a team.

Desirable skills of applicants

- Evidence of research dissemination (e.g., conference papers/presentations, journal articles, published abstracts, etc).

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit the following by email to Ms Sinead Browne at Sinead.Browne@tcd.ie by 17.00 July 31st, 2024.

1. A full Curriculum Vitae (including the names and contact details of two academic referees).
2. A Cover Letter (no longer than 2 A4 pages) outlining: a) The applicant's profile and skills relevant to the PhD they are applying for b) A statement of motivation to pursue the PhD.

Informal enquiries are encouraged and may be made to: Professor Linda Hogan at lhogan2@tcd.ie and Professor Patrick Prendergast at patrick.prendergast@tcd.ie

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 98th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is 1st in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook 2021-2022).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of

every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals. With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity College Dublin is the top ranked university in Ireland. Using the QS methodology we are ranked 98th in the world and using the Times Higher Education World University Ranking methodology we are 146th in the World.

- Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's No.1 University (QS World University Ranking 2023, Times Higher Education Rankings 2022)
- Trinity is ranked 98th in the World (QS World University Ranking 2023)
- Trinity is ranked No.1 in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row Pitchbook 2021-2022

Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Application Procedure

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