



M. Phil. in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation

Frequently Asked Questions 2010

1. Is financial assistance available?

Prospective full time students can apply for two Scholarships: the ISE Trust Scholarship, and the Columbanus Scholarship.

Prospective students who are resident in Northern Ireland will normally be considered for a small bursary to assist with the costs of books, reading resources and other expenses. The bursaries are made available through the generous assistance of the Columbanus Trust.

For further details of all funding opportunities open to applicants please request our factsheet “M. Phil. Programmes - Scholarships and Funding,” which also provides useful information on other possible sources of funding.

2. Where can I find Information on course fees?

Please visit the Fees Office [website](#) for the most up to date fee listings.

3. Where can I find information for international students?

For information on visas, studying in the UK, accommodation, and life in Belfast please download the Prospective Student Handbook which you can find here:

<http://www.ecumenics.ie/resources/prospective-students/belfast-courses/>

4. What kinds of backgrounds are ISE students usually from?

M. Phil. in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (Belfast-based)

Most students either work or intend to work in the reconciliation field with a focus on rebuilding community and society in post-conflict situations. **The Master in Conflict Resolution** develops skills in conflict analysis both for established practitioners and those seeking to develop new expertise. The course is tailored to the professional context with a structure designed to allow the student to combine work and study. **The Master in Reconciliation Studies** attracts students who wish to undertake the study of social reconciliation in an interdisciplinary environment. Students come from backgrounds in sociology, theology, social research and ethics. The course combines academic study and research with community involvement and life-experience. It is an excellent preparation for Ph.D. study.

M. Phil. in International Peace Studies (Dublin-based)

This programme draws on the fields of international relations, politics, human rights, sociology, philosophy, ethics, development and gender studies in the pursuit of a comprehensive understanding of war and peace. Graduates of International Peace Studies are employed in the diplomatic service, in NGOs and international organisations such as the UN, in media and education. Others continue to PhD programmes.

M. Phil. in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies (Dublin-based)

Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies is an internationally-recognized and growing field of specialisation that has emerged from scholarship in theological and religious studies. Students usually have a theological background and often want to pursue an academic career in theology or with the churches or other faith-based organisations.

5. How does the M. Phil. relate to the M. Litt. / Ph. D. degrees?

The M. Phil. course is intended to be a significant 'terminal award' in its own right, but it can also be good preparation for an M. Litt. / Ph. D. research degree. In the Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation programme we recommend that students who do not already have a taught Masters' degree in a relevant area should complete the M. Phil. before undertaking a research degree. Applicants applying for the M. Phil. with a view to pursuing a higher degree by research in the future should note that there is no automatic entry to the research degree programme from the M. Phil. programme. An application for the higher degree would need to be made at the appropriate time, and the usual application criteria for admission to the higher degree would apply.

6. How do I get to ISE in Belfast?

[Click for a map showing location.](#) For more detailed information please request the Directions factsheet from reconsec@tcd.ie.

7. How often do Belfast students need to travel to Dublin, and can they take courses at ISE's Dublin campus?

As with all Trinity students, those on the M. Phil. in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation register at the main college campus in Dublin. A trip is usually organised in the first week of term.

Students are entitled to take modules from the two M. Phil. courses offered at ISE Dublin (International Peace Studies, and Intercultural Theology & Interreligious Studies). Students can travel to Dublin or where there is sufficient demand a video link can be arranged. Belfast students are encouraged to make full use of the facilities at TCD, and to visit as often as practical. The dissertation writing period (April to August) can be spent in either Dublin or Belfast. Two of the Master in Conflict Resolution modules *Conflict Transformation* and *Conflict Resolution Lessons from Comparative Peace Processes* are likely to be taught as residential intensives at Glencree, Co Wicklow, outside Dublin. Details to be confirmed.

8. What Facilities are Available at the School?

Trinity's cross border school (the Belfast campus of the Irish School of Ecumenics) is housed in an attractive building in a quiet residential area in the north of the city. It is set against the spectacular backdrop of Cave Hill Country Park which has forest walks and panoramic views over Belfast Lough. There are shops and cafes about 15 minutes walk away where sandwiches etc. can be bought.

There is a large kitchen where students can prepare their own lunch, and a pleasant 'atrium' with lovely views of the garden, and this is the focal point for students and staff alike, at coffee break and lunch times. There is no on-site residential accommodation. (See the Prospective Student Handbook on www.ecumenics.ie for information on student accommodation.)

Facilities include a student computer room, a reading room, and Wi-Fi access throughout the building. A video link to ISE Dublin is installed in the lecture room. Skype is available for the convenience of students wishing to make long distance calls. Scanning, printing and photocopying facilities are available.

There is a specialist library at the school which houses a collection on Conflict Resolution, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation Studies.