



Post Specification

Post Title:	Assistant Professor in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies
Post Status:	Replacement Post for a staff member on leave till from 1 st January 2014 to 31 st August 2016
Department/Faculty:	Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Location:	Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2
Salary:	This appointment will be made on the Department of Education and Skills Lecturer Scale in line with current Government pay policy
Closing Date:	12 Noon on Thursday 24 th October 2013

The successful candidate is expected to be in position on 1st January 2014.

Post Summary

The Irish School of Ecumenics seeks to appoint an Assistant Professor in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies – a temporary replacement to cover a career break from 1st January 2014 until 31 August 2016, to teach mainly at postgraduate level on the Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies course, under the overall direction of the Head of Department and in consultation with the Course Coordinator. Candidates should hold a Ph.D in a relevant area, and have a demonstrable expertise in the field of Ecumenics and World Christianity/Comparative Theology; Interreligious Ethics in Global Civil Society; Interreligious Histories, Theories and Methods of Peacebuilding; and with specialisations (including relevant languages) in Buddhism and Buddhist-Christian Relations and/or Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations, and/or Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations.

The post holder will supervise postgraduate students (M. Phil., M.Litt. and Ph.D) in her or his specialised field and in a range of cognate areas beyond their immediate specialisation. The successful candidate will be expected to produce work of international significance in her or his field and will be research-active according to the research strategy of ISE and the Confederal School, in accordance with the vision, norms and criteria of Trinity College Dublin. He/she will be based at Trinity College, in ISE's Dublin campus.

Historical context and Background to the Post

The Irish School of Ecumenics (ISE), Trinity College Dublin is a department within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, forming with two other departments (Dept of Religions and Theology and Loyola Institute) the Confederal School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics. The *Irish School of Ecumenics*, founded in 1970, exists to promote through research, teaching and social engagement, the study and methods of intercultural and interreligious studies, international peace and development, conflict resolution and reconciliation within Ireland, Northern Ireland, internationally, and geo-politically. The School brings this broad interdisciplinary field of theory and practice into relationship with the changing historical realities of conflict, religions and peace building, within the spheres of academy, faith communities and society. Persons appointed should be willing to respect and accept the vision statement of ISE (stated elsewhere) and be willing to work within the Christian ethos of ISE, engaged with different religions and the plurality of cultures and traditions in the university and beyond.



Standard duties of the Post

The successful candidate will be expected to engage in the following standard duties in teaching/supervision, research, examining, and administration by

- teaching at postgraduate (mainly) level within an interdisciplinary environment students from a range of cultural and international backgrounds and ages, according to normative pedagogical modes and practice; including module coordination and delivery of lectures and seminars;
- contributing to collaboratively taught modules at Semester Abroad (Dublin), undergraduate, and postgraduate levels;
- assuming appropriate teaching-related responsibilities of course and module assessment and administration, curriculum development, and pastoral duties;
- supervising of M. Phil., M. Litt. and Ph.D. dissertations;
- assuming the responsibilities of preparation of accurate for Court of Examiners for IT&IS course as required;
- contributing to the research ethos, strategy and policies of college and of the Confederal School of Religions Theology and Ecumenics and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in which ISE is located, collaborating as appropriate;
- presenting papers at national and international conferences and cooperate in organising workshops, conferences and lecture series;
- publishing scholarly works with renowned publishers and journals;
- establishing and sustaining links with other academic institutions and departments within and beyond Trinity College, and with government, civic, and international bodies and publically representing the School to such bodies;
- contributing to ISE's wider administrative duties, viz., attending meetings, taking on Departmental and Confederal School roles, serving on College sub-committees and assuming specific responsibilities as determined by the Head of Department;
- participating in recruitment initiatives (e.g., open days, college visits);
- assisting with department web development.
- contributing fully to the research culture of the School (offering research seminars, inviting speakers, etc.).

The above duties are not exhaustive and will be reviewed and revised as deemed necessary. As most posts undergo change, it will be necessary for the job specification to reflect such change.

Person Specification:

Qualifications

PhD in the relevant Theological and Interreligious field.

The ideal candidate will strongly demonstrate

- research and teaching expertise in Intercultural Theology, World Christianity/Comparative Theology; Interreligious Ethics in Global Civil Society; Interreligious and Ethical Histories, Theories and Methods of Peacebuilding;
- specialisations (including relevant languages) in Buddhism and Buddhist-Christian Relations and/or Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations and/or Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations;
- textual and linguistic and practical capabilities in the designated research field;



- proven expertise in teaching students to postgraduate level in lecture and seminar settings, with timely and systematic preparation and delivery of courses, and development of fieldwork or internship opportunities;
- experience of/willingness to developing alternative modes of teaching delivery, such as Distance Learning and E-learning;
- the capacity to inspire students to pursue in depth study and research;
- experience of supervising postgraduate dissertations and fulfilling assessment requirements on a wide range conceptual, historical and praxis-related themes and methodologies;
- the capacity to supervise Ph.D students across a broad interdisciplinary area;
- a track record in attracting students and willingness to play an active role in the development and implementation of ISE's recruitment strategy;
- participation in prestigious academic and policy-making conferences and the delivery of significant research papers at such events, nationally and internationally;
- the proven or potential ability to secure research funding;
- proven or potential ability to organize and deliver international academic conferences;
- commitment to the service of the relevant disciplines through active involvement in professional bodies, strategic partnerships with academic, governmental and civic institutions, nationally and internationally;
- the ability to contribute to the administrative requirements of the School;
- readiness to work enthusiastically and collegially in a thoroughly interdisciplinary environment and willingness to contribute to other courses offered by the School;
- excellent communication skills.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential

- Evidence of research achievement and potential, including publications in leading international peer-reviewed journals or equivalent;
- Evidence of progressive research, and a publishing plan;
- Proven ability in providing lectures and practical classes of high quality to postgraduate and undergraduate students;
- Readiness to contribute to teaching, and to develop and coordinate new courses and modules, internships and fieldwork in both traditional and innovative modes (including appropriate technical expertise in such applications as Powerpoint, Blackboard and Turnitin);
- Ability to contribute innovatively and collaboratively within and across ISE, the Confederal School, the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and College-wide initiatives in research, teaching (such as Distance- and E-learning), and in social engagement and public policy development;
- Willingness to represent the discipline at Departmental, Confederal School and College committees;
- Capability in organising public conferences, lectures, seminars and recruitment events;
- Track record or potential to attract external funding for significant research initiatives, relating to both personal and institutional/inter-institutional research interests;

Desirable

- Competence in large and small group teaching of undergraduates, postgraduates and other adult learners;



- Competence in supervising research essays and dissertations;
- Experience of developing new courses, teaching methodologies and teaching modalities;
- Effectiveness in working in an interdisciplinary environment;
- Versatile capacity for supervision of students' research on a range of theological, ethical and interreligious topics;
- Experience and success in obtaining research funding;
- Demonstrable capacity within a collegial style, for collaborative and interdisciplinary teaching and research, and for strategic partnerships and networking, nationally, regionally and globally.

Skills & Competencies

- Ability to work effectively as a team-member, collaborating with colleagues at an inter-disciplinary level and in School, Faculty and College-wide committees and research alliances;
- Capacity to inspire a love of learning, as well as normative and practical commitment in students as pertains to their courses;
- Demonstrated potential to manage and develop courses in a University setting.
- Outstanding communication skills;
- Proven organisational skills geared to smooth and efficient academic administration.

Informal enquiries to Ms Aideen Woods, School Administrator, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin: isedir@tcd.ie

General Department Information – Irish School of Ecumenics

- ISE is a constitutive school of the Confederal School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics, within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. As a Trinity College Dublin department, ISE also has a cross border dimension with a small campus in Belfast, where a Masters course in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation is provided for approximately 18 students each year, additional to a doctoral programme and a range of social and ecumenical educational outreach programmes sponsored by the ISE Trust. ISE has recently moved from its location at Milltown Park and is now located in a handsome building at Trinity College Dublin in its historical city centre campus.

Number of Lecturers

- There are eight core teaching staff, one other currently in the role of Vice Provost and Chief Academic Officer at Trinity College; four Adjunct Assistant Professors and five full or part-time administrative support staff.

Number of Researchers

- There are two senior Research Fellows; two post-doctoral Fellows (teaching and research); and ISE currently holds the Rotational Chair in Indic Studies (sponsored by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations). AIDEEN CHECK

Number of Students

- 100 students on average each year including those on the above named M. Phil courses; 30 Ph.D and M.Litt students; and Postgraduate Evening Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution (P-T).



- **Courses Delivered – modules of the two multi-track MPhil courses in Dublin.** Belfast-based Masters course information available on ISE website, www.tcd.ie/ise.

Research Methods I and Research Methods II; Ethics in International Affairs; Politics of Peace and Conflict; International Politics; Religions and Ethics in a Pluralist World; Conflict Resolution and Non-Violence; Human Rights in Theory and Practice; United Nations and Peacekeeping; Gender, War and Peace; Armed Conflict, Peacebuilding and Development; World Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue; Translating God(s): Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies; Issues in Buddhist Christian Dialogue; Christian Seeds on Hindu Soil; Muslim God, Christian God: Islam and Muslim Christian Comparative Theologies; Authority, Judaism and Jewish Christian Relations; Ecumenics as Intercultural Theology; Nature, Grace and the Triune God; Northern Ireland – Conflict, Religion and the Politics of Peace; Engaging Religious Fundamentalism; The Politics of Religion in the US; Arabic language modules (I, II, III) – in process of approval. A new Semester Abroad course in ISE Dublin will soon complement that already in operation in ISE TCD Belfast.

Current and Recent Research Fields

- Religions, Ethics and Cultural Engagement; Identities in Transformation; Visioning Ecumenism for the 21st Century; Post-Conflict Justice. Within these diverse research initiatives staff and students develop research on such themes as – politics of conflict and peace; Asian Religions and Peacebuilding in geo-political political perspective; the challenge human trafficking; engaging religious fundamentalism; theological and political constructions of reconciliation; theories of non-violence; the role of churches and faith communities in reconciliation; post-conflict justice and peace in the global sphere – Europe, Southern Africa, Latin America, South Asia – India and Sri Lanka, for example. Buddhology and Christology; the enhancement and resourcing of global ethics scholarship in the Catholic tradition.

Domestic or International Recognition

- ISE is known worldwide as a pioneering institution for scholarship in Ecumenics, International Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation. Its staff and graduates have acted as consultants on such bodies as the World Council of Churches, World Conference of Religions, EU Educational Research Bodies and Irish Government Commissions. Staff members take leadership roles in a range of international and European professional bodies in the fields of Ecumenics, Intercultural Theology, Buddhist-Christian Scholarship, and UN Peacebuilding bodies. Current staff are invited regularly to act in significant inter-institutional research partnerships and to act as academic programme assessors and Ph.D External Examiners in leading academic institutions in Europe and further afield.

Outstanding Scholars

- Michael Hurley SJ; Robin Boyd, Gabriel Daly, John D’Arcy May, Linda Hogan are among ISE’s teachers and scholars who have gained world level recognition for their academic publications and innovative research development in key fields of study with which ISE continues to be strongly associated. ISE alumni are to be found in leadership roles in the UN, national government positions, in international NGOs and worldwide ecumenical bodies.



ISE within the Confederal School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics

The Confederal School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics brings together three distinct academic units: the **Department of Religions and Theology**; the **Irish School of Ecumenics** (Dublin and Belfast); and the **Loyola Institute**. Located in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Confederal School engages with such diverse areas as, theology, biblical studies, ethics, religious and interreligious studies; international peace studies, conflict resolution and reconciliation – as independent but dynamically interrelated disciplinary fields.

In the spheres of Biblical Studies, Theology, Ethics, Religious Studies, and Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies, approaches within the Confederal School are at once distinctive and intersecting; non-denominational (ecumenical-interreligious, and from the particular perspective of the Catholic tradition). The Confederal School's undergraduate and postgraduate courses explore the origins and the encounters between religions and with the cultures and political systems of different eras, from their roots in antiquity to the present day. They investigate the intellectual, linguistic, institutional and ethical resources developed in historical and current interactions and conflicts, and apply them to the challenges and opportunities societies face in a global age. ISE's International Peace Studies, Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation courses operate according to different and, at times, overlapping disciplinary approaches and interests in the broader disciplinary domains associated with Peace Studies and the Social Sciences – embracing International Relations, Human Rights Theory and Practice; Non-Violence Theory; Politics and Gender Studies; Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation; as well as in the broad field of Arts and Humanities – embracing Philosophy, History, Ethics and Intercultural Studies.

It is precisely this uniquely intercultural and wide-ranging research and learning environment makes attracts students worldwide who are committed to creative learning within a dynamic research environment characterised by theoretical, dialogical and practical approaches, and further enhanced by internship opportunities.

Information is set out below about the three academic entities of the Confederal School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics at Trinity College Dublin, beginning with the Irish School of Ecumenics, as the academic homebase of the advertised post

Irish School of Ecumenics

The Irish School of Ecumenics was formed under a Trust in 1970. The vision of its founder – Michael Hurley SJ, was to bring the academic discipline of ecumenics to bear on the changing historical and theological realities of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and on the critical interaction of the academy, faith communities and the public sphere. As the name suggests, 'Ecumenics' points to theological, political and ethical research on relationships within the 'whole inhabited earth'. Postgraduate degrees in Ecumenics were originally awarded by the University of Hull, and since the early 1980s, by Trinity College Dublin. At this time a second and now world-leading Trinity M.Phil in International Peace Studies was also introduced. ISE became fully integrated into Trinity in 2000, continuing as a multi-disciplinary, cross-border graduate school committed to scholarly education at the intersection of theology, politics and social research. M.Phil. courses are now offered in three main areas: Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies (Dublin); International Peace Studies (Dublin); and Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (Belfast), as well as a part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies (Dublin) as well as Semester Abroad courses. The ISE Trust supports the academic, social and ecumenical vision of ISE, in its scholarly and practical research outreach, as for example, in resourcing such projects as on *Moving Beyond Sectarianism*, or on *Human Trafficking*, or educational, social and ecumenical initiatives especially in Northern Ireland. The ISE Trust is represented as appropriate on some of Trinity's governance bodies and appointment committees of ISE. The School also has a campus in Belfast where staff have been involved over decades in projects



such as Education for Reconciliation, and since 2002, with an M.Phil. course in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation. ISE embodies a unique cross-border institutional aspect of Trinity College life.

The Department of Religions and Theology

The history of the teaching of the Department's subject areas goes back to the foundation of the College. Originally dedicated to the education of future clergy of the Church of Ireland, it was established as the non-denominational School of Hebrew, Biblical and Theological Studies in the early 1980s, teaching both Arts/Humanities students and ordinands for the Church of Ireland. Its first Chair, the New Testament scholar Prof. Sean Freyne, the Erasmus Smith's Professor of Hebrew, Prof. Andrew Mayes, and theologians such as Werner Jeanrond, Gabriel Daly and Vincent MacNamara established its international reputation.

Renamed as the Department of Religions and Theology in 2004, it includes teaching in Islam, in theoretical approaches to the study of religion, and in world religions, alongside its established teaching and research in biblical studies, theology and ethics. Its degree programmes (Single Honors as well as Joint Honors) study religion both as a cultural force that influences worldviews, practices, and institutions, and as particular traditions. The variety of approaches to religion and the study of biblical texts, including their origins and their histories of translation and reception from antiquity to the present age, are core areas of enquiry. The study of religious and cultural encounters within Mediterranean and European history in which biblical traditions contributed to the transformations of Western self-understanding can offer intellectual resources for the current challenges of multi-cultural societies. The Department's staff and students represent a wide variety of backgrounds. It enjoys many international contacts and welcomes both visiting scholars and visiting students each year.

The **Loyola Institute** is the newest member of the Confederal School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics, established in 2011 by the Board of Trinity College Dublin, is dedicated to education and research in theology in the Catholic tradition and will begin teaching its undergraduate programme in 2013/14. The core mission of the Loyola Institute is to engage in considered academic reflection on Christian faith, social justice and contemporary culture in the context of the Catholic tradition. Its first cohort of students begin a four-year undergraduate degree from September 2013.

Further information on the Confederal School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics and its component academic units can be found at the following web page: <http://www.tcd.ie/religions-theology-ecumenics/>

Trinity College Dublin

Founded in 1592, Trinity College Dublin is the oldest university in Ireland and one of the older universities of Western Europe. On today's campus, state-of-the-art libraries, laboratories and IT facilities, stand alongside historic buildings on a city-centre 47-acre campus.

Trinity College Dublin offers a unique educational experience across a range of disciplines in the arts, humanities, engineering, science, human, social and health sciences. As Ireland's premier university, the pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education. TCD has an outstanding record of publications in high-impact journals, and a track record in winning research funding which is among the best in the country.

TCD has developed significant strength in a broad range of research areas including the 18 broadly-based multi-disciplinary thematic research areas listed below.



Sustainable Environment	Next Generation Medical Devices	Identities in Transformation
Smart and Sustainable Cities	Creative Technologies – Digital Media, Arts and Entertainment	International Development
Cancer	Neuroscience	Immunology and Infection
Nanoscience	Telecommunications	Creative Arts Practice
Inclusive Society	Mathematics of Complexity	Intelligent Media and Human Communication
Ageing	International Integration	Digital Humanities

Its current flagship interdisciplinary research institutes are in areas such as biomedical science, arts and humanities, neuroscience, international integration studies, and nanostructures and nanodevices. The construction of Ireland's first purpose built nanoscience research institute, CRANN, was opened in January 2008, which houses 150 scientists, technicians and graduate students in specialised laboratory facilities.

The building also includes an innovative public venue, the Science Gallery. In 2011, it received the Shorty Award for Best Cultural Institution on Twitter globally and the Irish Web Award for Best Education and Third Level Website. These joined a list of awards that includes European Museum of the Year Award – Special Commendation 2010 and National IT award for best use of technology in education, 2009.

The recently opened Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI) is an unprecedented development for Biomedical Research in Ireland, both in terms of scale and ambition. It

provides a facility for TCD to continue its upward trajectory in both basic and translational research programmes, notably in the areas of Immunology, Cancer and Medical Devices.

The Library of Trinity College is the largest research library in Ireland and is an invaluable resource to scholars. In addition to purchases and donations accrued over four centuries, the College has had 200 years of legal deposit. By this right Trinity can claim a copy of every book published in Ireland the UK. The Library has over 4.25 million books, 22,000 printed periodical titles and access to 60,000 e-journals and 250,000 e-books. The Library's research resources also include internationally significant holdings in manuscripts (the most famous being the Book of Kells), early printed material and maps. Its collections and services support the College's research and teaching community of 15,000+ students and academic staff.

Trinity continues to attract intellectually strong students from Ireland and abroad. More than half of its incoming undergraduates have earned in excess of 500 out of a maximum 600 points in the national Leaving Certificate examination. The accessibility of a Trinity education to all students of ability is also very important. Trinity College was the first university in Ireland to reserve 15% of first year undergraduate places for students from non-traditional learning groups – students with a disability, socio-economically disadvantaged students as well as mature students. The College has met its target in this respect. There is also an exciting international mix of its student body where 16% of students are from outside Ireland and 40% of these students are from outside the European Union. TCD students also



have an opportunity to study abroad in other leading European universities through Trinity's partnership agreements.

Students also benefit from a scholar teacher model where they have the opportunity of being taught by world-leading experts in their field. Interdisciplinarity forms a key element in the College strategy in increasing Trinity's international standing as a research-led university.

Many of Trinity College Dublin's alumni have helped shape the history of Ireland and Western Europe. They include author, Jonathan Swift, philosopher, George Berkeley, political philosopher, Edmund Burke, wit and dramatist, Oscar Wilde, historian, William Lecky, religious scholar, James Ussher, scientists, John Joly, George Johnstone Stoney, William Rowan Hamilton and physicians, William Stokes and Denis Burkitt.

Two of Trinity College's alumni have won Nobel prizes – Ernest Walton for Physics in 1951 and Samuel Beckett for Literature in 1968. The first President of Ireland, Douglas Hyde was a graduate as was the first female President of Ireland, Mary Robinson.

The Selection Process in Trinity

- The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) will include members of the Academic community together with an External Assessor who is an expert in the area.
- Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not have confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please get in touch with us 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 College 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 College's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following:
 - Interviews
 - Presentations
 - Psychometric Testing
 - References
- It is the policy of the College 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.



Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity College Dublin is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to the 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.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

Application Procedure

Candidates should submit a cover letter together with a full curriculum vitae to include the names and contact details of 3 referees (email addresses if possible), your list of publications and a research plan (summarising research to be carried out in the next two years and including details for funding to be sought - 2 pages), and a teaching statement (summarising teaching experience and approach - 2 pages) and 2 relevant articles/book chapters [by e-Recruitment:](#)

Please note candidates who do not submit the additional information above will not be considered

APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED BY [E-RECRUITMENT](#)

If you have any query regarding this, please contact:

Christine Devlin, Recruitment Officer, Human Resources, House No. 4, Trinity College Dublin

Tel: +353 1 896 3366

Email: christine.devlin@tcd.ie