



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Applications are invited for a **fully-funded PhD studentship in modern Irish history** to commence in September 2025.

The studentship will be based in the Department of History, School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin, and will enrol in the School's structured PhD programme.

Commencing in September 2025, the successful applicant will work on a collaborative research project funded by Taighde Éireann / Research Ireland entitled **'TÚS: Pregnancy and Giving Birth in Ireland, 1950-2020'** led by Dr Deirdre Foley.

The PhD studentship will consist of fees and a stipend of €25,000 p.a. for four years. There is an additional budget for research expenses and equipment connected to the project. Further costs associated with a residency permit and mandatory health insurance will also be covered should the student be a non-EU/EEA resident.

**The Project:**

TÚS ('beginning' in Irish) is the first comprehensive historical investigation into the experience of pregnancy and childbirth in the Republic of Ireland, 1950-1990. This is the most transformative period on record in terms of where, when, and how often women gave birth. State provision of maternity care expanded dramatically in this period, but this remains under-examined by historians. TÚS recovers and highlights women's voices and experiences of pregnancy and childbirth, from detection to delivery. Employing an intersectional methodology, the project analyses the differing experiences of women in a network of maternity institutions historically dominated by Catholicism.

**The Studentship:**

The PhD studentship will undertake a key strand of the project under the co-supervision of Dr Deirdre Foley and Professor Lindsey Earner-Byrne. In carrying out this work, the student will be encouraged to develop their own research interests within the scope of the TÚS project.

The student will be required to commit to a focus on women's experiences of maternity care and giving birth in Dublin during a period between 1950-2020. They should undertake at least ten oral history interviews in addition to archival research.

For further details of the project or any inquiries about this studentship, please contact Dr Deirdre Foley at [dfoley6@tcd.ie](mailto:dfoley6@tcd.ie)

**Applications should consist of the following:**

- A brief cover letter (1 page).
- A research plan outlining how you would approach this project. Paying close attention to the parameters outlined above, this plan should identify and

explore sources and methodology relevant to the PhD project (max. 2 pages including footnotes).

- A brief curriculum vitae, with educational history, and degree results (max. 2 pages).
- The names and contact details of two academic referees.

The studentship will be awarded after interviews have been conducted with shortlisted candidates.

The successful candidate will make a formal application to TCD via the my.tcd.ie portal and will be issued with a formal offer in the same manner as other incoming PhD students.

Trinity College Dublin is committed to 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 and student body. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>

The deadline for applications is **5.00pm** on **23 May 2025**.

Applications should be sent by email to Dr Deirdre Foley at [dfoley6@tcd.ie](mailto:dfoley6@tcd.ie)