

Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight: report of the monitoring visit of Trinity College Dublin at Belfast, May 2024

Outcome of the monitoring visit

1 From the evidence provided in the annual return and at the desk-based monitoring visit, the review team concludes that Trinity College Dublin at Belfast (the College) is making commendable progress with continuing to monitor, review and enhance its higher education provision since the [May 2023 monitoring visit](#).

Changes since the last QAA monitoring visit

2 There have been no substantive changes since the previous monitoring visit to the College. No new programmes have been added in the last year, and there have been no staff changes. Recruitment to the MPhil Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation with eight international students is the same as in the previous year, and there are three MLitt/PhD students, down from five the previous year.

Findings from the monitoring visit

3 This annual monitoring visit was undertaken via a desk-based analysis and involved scrutiny of documentation including external examiner reports; minutes of Trinity College Dublin meetings within the School of Religion, Theology and Peace Studies; minutes of Postgraduate Studies Committee meetings; data on retention and achievement; internal and external quality reports; and evidence of the student voice. This evidence confirms that the College consistently monitors, reviews and enhances the quality of its higher education provision. Findings confirm that the College continues to develop the three features of good practice identified in the 2021 Higher Education Review (Foreign Providers) (HER(FP)) (paragraph 4) and continues to address

by the Postgraduate Studies Committee in October 2021 and implemented in September 2022. Student

schemes were implemented, and a new system was put in place to ensure more timely access to materials for external examiners.

11 Clear complaints and appeals procedures continue to be provided to students in the MPhil Handbook, the Postgraduate Research Handbook, and online in the Trinity College Dublin Calendar Part III. Further advice and guidance are available from the Postgraduate Advisory Service, whose role and function are explained to students during their orientation.

12 Students continue to have access to appropriate support and resources to facilitate their achievement, including online student support services and in-person access to academic and support staff in Belfast. A specialist library and a librarian are available in Belfast, as well as access to online resources and databases through the Trinity College Dublin library. Additional information and research guidance are provided through the Research Skills module, which assists MPhil and PhD students in conducting their research. Learning resources and support are comprehensively discussed during induction and orientation.

13 PhD research students continue to be allocated an appropriate supervisor and are required to undertake a minimum of 10 ECTS credits of taught modules, covering research ethics and integrity. The Research Handbook sets out clear regulations and opportunities to connect with research centres and networks, and to access appropriate guidance and support.

14 Students benefit from being taught by well qualified and experienced lecturers, supported by eminent guest speakers, alumni and field trips, and are enabled to participate in international conferences, events and community placements. The Mediation and Peacebuilding Skills module plays a crucial role in supporting the Community Learning and Reflective Practice module, as well as meeting the 96-hour placement requirement. These modules collectively help students further develop their practice-based learning, and reflective practice skills, thus supporting their continuous professional development.

15 The course continues to evolve academically. For example, in 2023-24 additional ethnographic field trips were scheduled for the Conflict and Peace in Northern Ireland module, and a new podcast assessment introduced in Transitional Justice. Furthermore, the Community Learning and Reflective Practice module offers students the chance to gain contemporary practice-based experience, working alongside practitioners in the local conflict resolution field. An annual School careers evening has also been established involving alumni and recent graduates to benefit current students.

16

