



PhD Scholarship in Contemporary European Modernisms UCD School of English, Drama and Film

The School of English, Drama and Film at University College Dublin is pleased to announce a doctoral scholarship to work as part of a funded project under the supervision of Dr John Greaney and Professor John Brannigan. The award includes a stipend of €25,000 per annum (for a maximum of four years, renewable each year subject to satisfactory progress), and a contribution to fees, including non-EU fees, up to a maximum of €5,750 per annum. A budget for conference travel and necessary equipment is also available. For more information about the School, please go to: <https://www.ucd.ie/englishdramafilm/>.

Project Description

The project 'Contemporary modernisms: the reconstitution of Europe and the fate of the avant-garde' has been funded by a Research Ireland Pathway Award. It will conduct a comparative study of the development of national canons of modernist literature in post-war and late-twentieth-century Europe. Drawing on the recent turn towards literary sociology and the study of literary institutions, the project will identify and analyse the forces mediating and shaping how modernism, once associated with avant-garde exiles, has been rewritten as a nation-based formation in contemporary Europe; today, for example, we talk about Irish, English, Italian or Russian modernisms. The project will thus produce case studies which examine how European modernism has been rewritten in nation-based terms over the past seventy years.

Scholarship Description

The PhD student will produce a case study on a particular national context of European modernism. Specifically, they will analyse how one or two international modernist writers or artists have been made central to the development of a nation-based modernist canon and discourse. They will conduct archival research and use literary sociology and heritage studies methods to generate new knowledge on the development of a nationalist modernist canon in contemporary Europe. The student's case study will complement Dr. Greaney's focus on Irish and English modernisms. Their thesis will thus analyse another European context, such as, for example, French, German, Italian, Polish, Greek, Turkish, Ukrainian, or Russian modernism. The particular national context will be proposed by the prospective PhD student in their application. The PhD thesis will be written and presented for examination in English. The student will join a vibrant interdisciplinary research community in the Humanities Institute at



University College Dublin. Support will be provided for necessary equipment, international conference participation, and international research visits.

Essential Criteria

- MA in English, a modern European language, Comparative Literature or subject equivalent (high MA result of 2:1-1:1 or GPA above 3.2; academic transcripts will be requested from shortlisted candidates)
- Evidence of a strong interest in modernist literature
- Evidence of a strong interest in literary sociology, literary institutions, heritage studies
- Fluency in a second language, namely the language relevant to the national context which will be analysed in the PhD thesis
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- IELTS score of 8 (CEFR C1/C2), if English is not your first language

Application

In order to apply, please send the following by the 1st of June 2025 to graduateedf@ucd.ie

- An academic CV
- A project application including: a proposal for the national context (including names of authors) you wish to study under the theme of the project; a personal statement outlining why you are interested in this field of research; your motivation in applying for this particular scholarship; long term career goals; and any other information you think is relevant (max. 1000 words)
- Proof of English-language proficiency if English is not your first language (minimum of 8 IELTS)
- Writing sample (e.g. an essay or section of MA dissertation) (max. 5,000 words)
- The names of two academic references. Referees of shortlisted candidates will be contacted for references prior to interview

A shortlist of candidates will be invited for interview by video conferencing at the end of June or the beginning of July 2025. The selected candidate will be required to submit a formal application to UCD School of English, Drama and Film subsequent to the interview. All awards will commence in September 2025 and it is a requirement that applicants have been awarded a master's degree before commencing the PhD studentship.