



## Post Specification

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| <b>Post Title:</b>                            | PhD Studentship   |
| <b>Post Status:</b>                           | Fixed-term Contract or Specific Purpose Contract – Full-time.   |
| <b>Department/School/<br/>Research Group:</b> | School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies,<br>Centre for Digital Humanities/The Long Room Hub<br>Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin |
| <b>Location:</b>                              | Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin<br>College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland  |
| <b>Reports to:</b>                            | Nicole Basaraba, Assistant Professor in Digital Humanities  |
| <b>Terms &amp; Conditions:</b>                | Annual stipend of 25,000 Euros + tuition fees for 48 months   |
| <b>Hours of Work:</b>                         |   |
| <b>Closing Date:</b>                          | 12:00 (GMT), <b>26 June 2026</b>  |

## Post Summary

**PhD-4:** Sonic Narrative Approaches to Cultural Heritage - The Long Room's Digital Twin

**Part (4 of 4) of group project:** From Silence to Story: Revisiting TCD's Long Room through Acoustics and Immersive Storytelling

**Core Principal investigators:** Nicole Basaraba (Digital Humanities); Jennifer O'Meara (Film Studies); Gareth Young (Computer Science); Nils Peters (Engineering)

**Supporting Principal Investigators:** Fionnuala Conway; John Kennedy; Francis Boland

**Funding provided by:** Trinity Doctorate Research Award (Group) 2026

### About the group project:

The renovation and public closure of Trinity College Dublin's (TCD) Long Room of the Old Library present an unparalleled opportunity to conduct pioneering research "on", "through", and "for" this iconic space. This initiative will redefine how we preserve and enhance one of Europe's premier cultural heritage landmarks. This project will delve into aspects of the Long Room that have been largely overlooked: its acoustic experiences and sonic architecture. This project will use state-of-the-art robot-aided acoustic measurements and employ advanced computational and acoustic modelling techniques to create a versatile Acoustic Digital Twin, which will be combined with existing 3D image data.

This approach allows for an unprecedented exploration of Long Room's physical properties, enabling new acoustic experiences for both physical and virtual visitors. Previous related research includes the ["Jonathan Swift in VR/AR Long Room Project"](#) in 2018. The *From Silence to Story* project



will create immersive XR experiences that preserve and reimagine the library's significance through site-specific media art and storytelling. This research will set a precedence for future heritage preservation efforts by developing a preservation-by-design strategy accompanied by experts at TCD's digital library and the Digital Repository of Ireland. This project addresses the Trinity College's research themes on "Identities in Transformation" and "Digital Humanities" by preserving and innovating the Long Room through state-of-the-art acoustic and digital technologies. By creating immersive and interactive experiences, we aim to foster meaningful connections between visitors and the cultural significance of the Long Room. Furthermore, this project aims to promote inclusiveness by enabling personalised experiences for vision-impaired and hearing-impaired visitors and for those with diverse linguistic backgrounds and neurodivergent needs. We aim to create a resilient digital preservation system for sustainable long-term inclusive access.

The project comprises four work packages including the training of four PhD researchers in four different disciplines under one unifying project goal: To preserve, enhance, and reimagine the Long Room Library's unique acoustic and cultural heritage by creating a pioneering Digital Acoustic Twin that integrates advanced acoustic measurements with immersive storytelling tools, fostering innovative interdisciplinary research and transformative cultural experiences.

#### **The project's interdisciplinary PhD Team:**

Four doctoral students will be funded under this award with specialisations across the domains of: engineering (PhD-1: "A data-driven Acoustic Digital Twin for Heritage Preservation and Interactive Experiences"), computer science (PhD-2: "Advanced Computational Models and Digital Tools for Immersive Storytelling"), creative arts (PhD-3: "Audiovisual Media Experiences using the Long Room's Multimodal and Acoustic Digital Twin"), and digital humanities (PhD-4: "Sonic Narrative Approaches to Cultural Heritage - The Long Room's Digital Twin"). This unique multidisciplinary approach will provide the students with invaluable experiences and skills extending far beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries, preparing them to become leaders in academic and/or industry settings.

The recruited PhD-4 student in Digital Humanities (DH) will be registered with the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies (SLCS) under the primary supervision of Nicole Basaraba, who is also affiliated with: [Trinity Centre for Digital Humanities](#); [Trinity Long Room Hub Research Institute](#); and the new Trinity Science & Society Research Centre. PhD-4 will also be supported by the Group's collective faculty team from different disciplines to ensure a rich, interdisciplinary mentorship experience. The thesis committee for PhD-4 includes Jennifer O'Meara (Film Studies) and Fionnuala Conway (Electronic Engineering).

#### **Funding Information**

Trinity Doctorate Research Award for Group-based Research Projects 2026-27



## Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

### PhD-4: Sonic Narrative Approaches to Cultural Heritage - The Long Room's Digital Twin

#### Theoretical Context:

This PhD will draw upon transmedial narratology with a contribution to knowledge aimed at 'audio narratology' (and/or similar specialisations) for cultural heritage case studies. The PhD will draw upon concepts and methods from digital humanities and analyse datasets / case studies related to creating 'digital twins' and 3D models of heritage infrastructure to answer a research question that drives this interdisciplinary research forward.

#### Research Objectives:

1. Investigate sensory-based opportunities for indoor spatial narratives to enhance visitor understanding of physical in-situ sonic/audio and multimodal narrative experiences.
2. Develop a narrative framework focused on audio modalities for heritage XR storytelling using the Long Room's Digital Twin as a case study.
3. Collaborate with PhD-2 (Computer Science) and PhD-3 (Creative Arts) to integrate storytelling elements with film, soundscapes, and XR technologies based on the digital twin (PhD-1).

#### Expected Results:

1. Create a multimodal framework of narrative techniques that communicate the Long Room's cultural heritage significance.
2. Advance theory in digital narratology for heritage sites, with emphasis on indoor spatial and acoustic narratives.
3. Produce a set of user-centred design principles for heritage-based XR Digital Twin experiences (with the possibility of developing a digital prototype)

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Produce a PhD thesis according to Trinity College Dublin's criteria
2. Attend/organise interdisciplinary group project research meetings
3. Identify and participate in research dissemination activities including conference presentations and writing academic papers (in consultation with supervisor(s))
4. Identify and participate in public outreach activities (e.g., public lectures; workshops)
5. Be an active affiliate researcher of the Trinity Centre of Digital Humanities and The Long Room Hub (e.g., attending networking and researcher development events)
6. Engage with professional development opportunities (e.g., teaching assistance)

## Person Specification

### Minimum eligibility requirements (i.e., for PhD entry to SLLCS):

- A minimum 2.1 (Upper Second Class Honours) achievement in an undergraduate degree, equivalent to Ireland's National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 8. A master's degree (level 9) in a related subject is strongly recommended, ideally with a distinction classification.
- English-language competency at Band B is essential.



**Skills and competencies (Essential & Desirable):**

Essential:

1. Commitment to interdisciplinary research approaches
2. Strong academic writing skills in the English language
3. Excellent research and project management skills
4. Knowledge of digital media including audio and XR software

Desirable:

1. A master’s degree in a related subject (e.g., digital humanities; digital media/cultural studies; game studies; comparative literature; literary studies), ideally with distinction.
2. Software skills (e.g., digital media editing software; basic python programming; AI tools; game engine prototyping)
3. English language proficiency at band C
4. Experience in a cross-cultural or dynamic workplace/environment

**Application Procedure**

Applicants must submit:

1. PhD project proposal according to SLLCS TCD template, based on above description: <https://www.tcd.ie/media/tcd/langs-lits-cultures/docs/SLLCS-PhD-Proposal-Form.doc>
2. English-language competency (see accepted supporting documents here: <https://www.tcd.ie/study/english-language-requirements/>)
3. Academic transcript(s)
4. Academic writing sample in English (2,500 words – can be an extract of a longer work)
5. Curriculum Vitae
6. Names and email addresses of two referees (at least one should be an academic reference).

Please submit the above-mentioned application documents **by 26 June 2026 12:00 (GMT)** to:

**Name:** Nicole Basaraba, Assistant Professor in Digital Humanities, Trinity College Dublin

**Email Address:** [n.basaraba@tcd.ie](mailto:n.basaraba@tcd.ie)

**Further Information for Applicants**

Online (Zoom) interviews will likely take place between 6-10 July.

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| URL Link to PI profile:             | <a href="https://www.tcd.ie/research/profiles/?profile=nbasarab">https://www.tcd.ie/research/profiles/?profile=nbasarab</a>   |
| SLLCS PhD entrance criteria:        | <a href="https://www.tcd.ie/langs-lits-cultures/programmes/postgraduate/how-to-apply/">https://www.tcd.ie/langs-lits-cultures/programmes/postgraduate/how-to-apply/</a> |
| Link to TDRA Group Project webpage: | <a href="https://dh.tcd.ie/projects-2/from-silence-to-story/">https://dh.tcd.ie/projects-2/from-silence-to-story/</a>   |
| URL Link to Human Resources         | <a href="https://www.tcd.ie/hr/">https://www.tcd.ie/hr/</a>   |



## **Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin**

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 75th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2026). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.

With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

## **Rankings**



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 75th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2026). Full details are available at: [www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings](http://www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings).



**The Selection Process in Trinity**

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee will only be available on the specified date, the University 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.

The Selection Committee will conduct interviews online via video call, likely between 6-10 July 2026. The University’s selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, References, and Supplementary Documents.

Applications are open to EU and Non-EEA applicants. This PhD Award will cover tuition fees of EU/Non-EEA applicants. Applicants must have been resident in an EU member state for three out of the last five years to be eligible for EU fees. Non-EEA candidates should note Ireland's requirements of study visas.

**Equal Opportunities Policy**

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to 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. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity’s Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

**Application Procedure**

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| <b>Application Deadline: 26 June 2026, 12:00 (GMT)</b>  |
| Applicants should submit a completed application package to:<br><b>Name:</b> Nicole Basaraba, Assistant Professor in Digital Humanities |
| <b>Email Address:</b> <a href="mailto:n.basaraba@tcd.ie">n.basaraba@tcd.ie</a>  |

