

All Hallows Trust PhD Scholarships

Department of Theology & Religious Studies

Mary Immaculate College

The Department of Theology & Religious Studies is delighted to announce two PhD Scholarships as part of the Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education (GRACE) project which has been developed collaboratively with Boston College (USA) and University of Notre Dame (Australia).

The All Hallows' Trust (Dublin) has granted the GRACE project four PhD scholarships, two each to be located at Mary Immaculate College (Limerick) and at St Mary's University, (London). The awardees will be known as All Hallows' Scholars and the research undertaken by each will serve to advance the aims and objectives of G.R.A.C.E.

The scholarships are worth €20,000 p.a. and are available for fulltime students for up to four years.

G.R.A.C.E.

Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education (G.R.A.C.E) is an international research-based project between the University of Notre Dame Fremantle, Australia, Mary Immaculate College Limerick, Ireland and Boston College, United States. As an emerging community of practice (Wenger, 2000), G.R.A.C.E. provides an original opportunity for scholars of theology and Catholic education in their respective countries to affirm, study, collaborate, and respond meaningfully to challenges we face in the field.

GRACE is designed to influence three domains of the field of Catholic education:

- 1) cognitive: the theoretical and conceptual base of Catholic education;
- 2) affective: the formative qualities and experiences that shape the Catholic educator and scholar;
- 3) behavioural: the adoption of new understandings which influence the practice of being a Catholic educator and scholar in promoting social justice, while enhancing one's capacity to foster a 'culture of dialogue' towards a global common good.

The cognitive domain is strengthened, in part, through the community's persistent, critical and constructive engagement with points of tension in the provision of Catholic education, its commitment to ecumenical and interfaith collaboration, and its conviction for stronger, more persuasive arguments for the place of Catholic education in the public sphere.

GRACE affects the formation of the scholar and educator, honouring the primary role of the Christian faith in the life of scholarship. Members will be encouraged to reflect on their spirituality and their work in integrated ways, to attune their abilities to notice and respond to the presence of grace in the world, and strengthen their ability to witness to the beauty, energy, and attractiveness of Christian faith. The members of GRACE, formed in this way, will demonstrate a meaningful integration of scholarship and faith to the field of Catholic education.

GRACE contributes to the behavioural domain of the field of Catholic education by introducing new theories and structures to influence practice. Collaborative research, joint production of articles, and socializing across the community network will expand members' capacity for strategic action with the state and other agencies, foster the promotion of social justice in the public arena, and prepare a pipeline of leaders, ready and responsible for Catholic education for the 21st century.

In these particular ways, GRACE hosts a 'culture of encounter' (Pope Francis) where people gather, learn from and grow together to ensure the present and future Church.

Terms & Conditions of the Award

Awardees at Mary Immaculate College will hold a departmental assistantship in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies in support of the work of GRACE currently valued at €6900 p.a. and will be required to comply with the Terms & Conditions attaching to College departmental assistantships. In addition they will receive a scholarship of €8697 p.a. and a PhD fee waiver valued at €4403 (total value: €20,000 p.a.). The assistantship stipend and the scholarship will be co-terminus and continuing payment will be dependent upon satisfactory performance in respect of the departmental assistantship as well as PhD progression.

Each awardee will belong to a scholarly support group made up of the two All Hallows' Scholars from St Marys, the two scholars from Mary Immaculate College, and their respective supervisors as well as other PhD students associated internationally with the GRACE project. There is an expectation that the Scholars will participate fully in the GRACE project and make themselves available for conferences, publicity events and other activities that serve GRACE and the All Hallows' Trust. Such engagement will involve, for example, attendance at seminars or conferences at either St Mary's University or Mary Immaculate College to formally present work in progress and to discuss research projects within the group. Costs associated with mandated events will be met by the GRACE project. Any bridging studies and/or research methods development required by Scholars in order that they can progress their projects will be decided by their supervisors and undertaken during the term of the award.

As already detailed above, the award entitles the recipient to €20,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years during which they will complete the PhD at Mary Immaculate College.

How to Apply

Candidates should follow the usual procedures for application for PhD Studies at Mary Immaculate College - for more information click [here](#).

Candidates must

- (1) Satisfy requirements for admission to the PhD register and be fulltime engaged in their studies;
- (2) Satisfy requirements for the award of a departmental assistantship (see [here](#))
- (3) Demonstrate in a letter of application addressed to the Head of Theology & Religious Studies how their proposed dissertation research will contribute to the goals of the G.R.A.C.E Project (GLOBAL RESEARCH ADVANCING CATHOLIC EDUCATION) to be evaluated by a three person-panel appointed by the Head of Theology & Religious Studies that will decide on the extent to which candidates satisfy this criterion.
- (4) Not hold any other bursaries or awards associated with this programme of studies.

Candidates may be called for an online interview as part of final selection.

Final submission date is November 20 2020

Further information:

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