



## DIPLOMA IN PHILOSOPHY

### AIMS OF PROGRAMME

- Have you ever thought about such questions as: How do I know what the right thing to do is in this situation? Does God exist? How do we explain the presence of evil and suffering in the world? Is there life after death? Am I free or is freedom an illusion? Is there not a better way to organise society?
- Would you like to make better sense of debates in contemporary society?
- Would you like to be able to defend your beliefs and opinions better?
- Would you like to think clearly?
- Would you like to make more rationally informed choices in life?

If your answer to any of these questions is 'yes', then the *Diploma in Philosophy* at the Milltown Institute is the programme you have been waiting to do! Why wait?



### ADMISSIONS AND PROGRESSION

No previous study of philosophy is required. The Diploma is aimed at those who wish to enter the world of philosophy but who do not wish to follow a third-level degree programme. Application forms are downloadable from the website. The NUI Diploma in Philosophy is awarded to those who successfully complete all 16 modules. The modules can be taken in any order, except for Introduction to Philosophy, which is a prerequisite for all other modules. Every module carries 5 ECTS. Each module consists of one double session per week and runs for one semester (12 weeks). Students can take up to four modules per semester. *Those wishing to graduate must complete the Diploma in two years, in other words by summer 2010.*

### PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Students will be exposed to core areas in philosophy as well as to the history of thought. They will encounter a variety of philosophical traditions and ways of doing philosophy. On completion of the programme students will have:

1. A familiarity with the history of philosophy

2. An understanding of the main subject areas in philosophy
3. An ability to think critically and reflect more deeply about one's own life
4. An ability to construct logical arguments and engage in constructive debate
5. An appreciation of the intellectual forces that are shaping society
6. An ability to engage in a rigorous manner with debates in contemporary society
7. An appreciation of philosophy as engaging one's whole existence, something that is not simply a game of ideas

## MODE OF DELIVERY

Assessment is on the basis of satisfactory attendance and written projects. Applicants can also choose to attend lectures only (course-audit with no academic credits).

## TOPICS IN PROGRAMME

The programme consists of 16 modules, including: Introduction to Philosophy; Ancient and Medieval Philosophy; Modern Philosophy; Contemporary Philosophy; Philosophy of the Human Person; Ethical Theories; Political Philosophy; Metaphysics; Theories of Knowledge; Philosophy in Literature; Philosophy and Ecology; Critical Thinking; Aesthetics; Philosophy of Religion; Special Topic.

## PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Dr Kevin E. O'Reilly holds a doctorate in philosophy from NUI, Maynooth, as well as possessing other higher qualifications in languages, music, and theology. His academic interests include the thought of St Thomas Aquinas, the human person, and ethics. He has published in international journals such as *Nova et Vetera* and *The Modern Schoolman*. He has published one book, *Aesthetic Perception: A Thomistic Perspective* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2007) and is currently working on another book, dealing with the nature of moral reason.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr Kevin O'Reilly,  
Faculty of Philosophy,  
Milltown Institute,  
Milltown Park, Sandford Road,  
Dublin 6, Ireland  
Telephone: + 353 1 277 6336  
Fax: + 353 1 269 2528  
Email: [koreilly@milltown-institute.ie](mailto:koreilly@milltown-institute.ie)