

THE UCD STRUCTURED PHD

As a UCD Structured PhD student, you are part of a programme that aims to give you the best possible experience of graduate research and training. The core objective of your doctoral studies is to make a substantial and original contribution to knowledge, normally leading to peer-reviewed publications. The UCD Structured PhD also supports you with extra resources, to help you to achieve your academic and professional objectives.

This leaflet gives you an overview of some of the key aspects of the UCD Structured PhD and provides contact details for further information.

Doctoral Studies Panel

Your School (or Thematic Doctoral Programme) will appoint a Doctoral Studies Panel for you; normally early in your first year. It will comprise your principal supervisor, any additional supervisor(s) and between two and four additional advisors. Additional supervisors and advisors may be drawn from other Schools or even other institutions, as appropriate. The Doctoral Studies Panel can be particularly beneficial when conducting inter-disciplinary or inter-institutional research. The frequency of your Doctoral Studies Panel meetings will be indicated by your School (or Thematic Doctoral Programme). The purpose of the Doctoral Studies Panel is to support and enhance the supervisor-student relationship, to monitor your progress during the course of your doctoral studies and to provide advice and support both to you and your supervisor(s). Talk to your supervisor to find out more about the Panel that has been selected for you.

Research and Professional Development Planning

Research and professional development planning is an integral part of the Structured PhD programme at UCD. The purpose of such planning is to ensure that your work is clearly focused on achieving your research and professional development goals. This will play a major part in informing the trajectory of your PhD research and in your training and development as a researcher. Your plans will also be a useful resource when it comes to writing-up and will help you to develop key skills which will be invaluable for both your current research and your future career prospects. A series of tailored guidelines have been developed to assist you in preparing your research and professional development plans. These plans will form the basis of discussions at your meetings with your supervisor and Doctoral Studies Panel. Your plans will also be the primary input to your transfer assessment that will determine whether you progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of your doctoral studies.

Visit www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies for more information.

Transferable Skills Training

During the course of your doctoral studies in UCD, you will have opportunities to acquire new skills and to further develop your existing skills. As a PhD graduate, your skillset will naturally include the advanced research and analytical techniques required to undertake high level research in your field. You will also be expected to possess a range of transferable skills, relevant to the successful completion of your research project and your broader career development. These skills include project management, time management, team working and communication skills, to name but a few. Approximately 80% of PhD graduates pursue careers outside academia - in business, industry and the public and voluntary sectors. It is important to take advantage of your time in UCD to develop an appropriate skillset for your chosen career. Your research and professional development plans will help you to identify the skills you would like to develop. Available support resources include:

- Taught modules
- Online modules
- Workshops

Visit www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/transferableskills and discuss the options with your supervisor.

Credits and Modules

The UCD Structured PhD operates within a credit-based framework, with one credit corresponding to 20 to 25 hours of total student effort. If you are undertaking a 3-year PhD programme, you can earn 30 credits by attending modules that develop your academic and transferable skills. If your PhD programme is for 4 years, a total of 90 credits can be accumulated. Your School, Thematic Doctoral Programme and/or Graduate School may require you to attend particular modules or to earn a certain number of credits from taking modules. For more details about your programme requirements, consult with your School's Graduate Coordinator (or Thematic Doctoral Programme Director) or Graduate School Manager.

A module is a unit of learning, teaching and assessment. Comprising a defined volume of learning activity, each module is associated with a credit value - typically 2.5, 5, 7.5 or 10 credits. Modules are assigned different levels, indicating the level of difficulty. PhD students normally take modules at UCD Level 4 (graduate level). Different types of module include:

- Academic modules serve to broaden and deepen your knowledge of your discipline, informing the development of the theoretical framework for your doctoral research.
- Research skills modules provide advanced training in methodological issues.
- Transferable skills modules, sometimes referred to as generic skills, provide training in the types of skills necessary for your professional development. These skills should enable you to complete your doctoral research on time and enhance your professional attractiveness for potential employers.

Progression

Doctoral studies, which are normally completed by full-time students within three to four years, comprise two stages. **Stage 1** is a period when you define your research plan, develop your research skills and initiate original research work for your doctorate. **Stage 2** is primarily dedicated to continuing your original doctoral research but may also include some advanced education and training. In order to enable your progression from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of your PhD programme, your School (or Thematic Doctoral Programme) will establish an **Assessment Panel** and a **Transfer Assessment** will take place. Your Assessment Panel may include members of your Doctoral Studies Panel, with the exception of your principal supervisor. Normally held between 12 and 18 months after starting doctoral studies for full-time students (or 24 to 36 months for part-time students), the purpose of the Transfer Assessment is to assess your progress and your competence and capacity to complete your proposed research and become an independent researcher. The Transfer Assessment will require a progress report from your supervisor and a written statement of progress and research plan from you. Other supporting documentation, a presentation and/or an interview may also be required, depending on your programme. For more details about the Transfer Assessment for your programme, talk to your supervisor and your School's Graduate Coordinator (or Thematic Doctoral Programme Director).

Regulations, Policies and Codes of Practice

The regulations, policies and codes of practice governing the UCD Structured PhD Programme are available at www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/academic_regs.pdf and include:

- General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
- Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
- Policy on PhD Stage 1 Transfer Assessment
- Policy on Leave of Absence, Extension & Withdrawal for Graduate Research Degrees
- Policy on Split-site Arrangements for PhD and other Graduate Research Students
- Code of Practice for Supervisors and Doctoral Students
- Code of Practice for Conflict Resolution for Supervisors and Research Students



UCD Mission Statement

Advance knowledge, pursue truth and foster learning in an atmosphere of discovery, innovation and excellence, drawing out the best in each individual, and contributing to the social, cultural and economic life of Ireland in the wider world.



Further Information

For further information, please contact your School's Graduate Coordinator (or Thematic Doctoral Programme Director), Graduate School or UCD Graduate Studies.

UCD Graduate School of Arts & Celtic Studies

Office: A108, Newman Building, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4.
+353 (0)1 716 8241
E-mail: gs.artsceltic@ucd.ie

UCD Graduate School of Business & Law

including the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School

PhD programmes in Business

Office: Centre for Doctoral Research, Room N305, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Phone: +353 (0)1 716 8064
E-mail: jane.omara@ucd.ie

PhD programmes in Law

Office: Programme Office, Roebuck Castle, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4.
Phone: +353 (0)1 716 8769
E-mail: niamh.mccabe@ucd.ie

UCD Graduate School of Engineering, Mathematical & Physical Sciences

Office: College Office, Engineering and Materials Sciences Centre, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4
Phone: +353 (0)1 716 1861
E-mail: gs.engscience@ucd.ie

UCD Graduate School of Human Sciences

Office: G209, Newman Building, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4.
Phone: +353 (0)1 716 8268
E-mail: gs.chs@ucd.ie

UCD Graduate School of Life Sciences

Office: Room 1.25, Science Centre (Hub), UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4.
Phone: +353 (0)1 716 2633
E-mail: gs.lifesciences@ucd.ie

UCD Graduate Studies

Office: UCD Research, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4.
Phone: +353 (0)1 716 4043
E-mail: graduatestudies@ucd.ie
Website: www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies

Doctoral Studies in UCD

The Structured PhD



UCD Graduate Studies
Staidéar na nIarchéimithe UCD
www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies