# Contents

**Welcome**
- Introduction ........................................................................................................... 1
- Key Contacts ....................................................................................................... 2

**Essential Information for Graduate Research Students**
- IT Services ........................................................................................................... 5
- Research Ethics ................................................................................................... 5
- Research Integrity ............................................................................................... 5

**The Research Programme**
- The Research Degrees ....................................................................................... 6
- Supervision ........................................................................................................... 6
- Research Studies Panel ....................................................................................... 7
- Research and Professional Development Plan (RPDP) ........................................ 8
- Mandatory 30 Taught Credits for PhD students ................................................ 8
- Stage Transfer Assessment (STA) ........................................................................ 9
- Leave of Absence ............................................................................................... 10
- Extensions .......................................................................................................... 10
- Working Hours and Holiday Entitlements ............................................................ 10
- Guidelines to Thesis Preparation ......................................................................... 11
- Thesis Examination ............................................................................................. 11
- Important Policies ............................................................................................... 12
- Alternative Thesis format .................................................................................... 13
- Student Welfare and Student Life ....................................................................... 14
- University Facilities and Campus Maps .............................................................. 14

**Appendix**
- Appendix 1: Checklist for Research Students .................................................... 15
- Appendix 2: Guidelines for Good Practice between Supervisors and Students ...... 16
- Appendix 3: Modules for Graduate Research Students ....................................... 19
Introduction

Welcome to UCD.

This handbook provides guidelines on research degree programmes in UCD and includes University policies and procedures. However, as we are continuously seeking to improve our programmes, these policies and procedures may be subject to change from one year to the next. Research students should consult this handbook each year, as it will be updated before the beginning of each academic year in response to evolving University regulations and ongoing programme review.

It is essential that each research student is aware of the requirements for undertaking a research degree. Moreover, it is the responsibility of each student to be proactive in relation to progressing in their research degree. If you require clarification about any of the content in this document, you should first contact your supervisor, your Research Studies Panel, the faculty member with responsibility for overseeing graduate research programmes in your School, the School Manager or the Graduate School Manager (contacts are listed in the next section).

The University has 6 Colleges containing 37 Schools. The specific requirements placed on students pursuing a research degree vary slightly from one School/discipline to the next. However, all programmes fall within the framework of this document which provides core guidelines for Schools in relation to research degree programmes. A checklist for research students is provided in Appendix 1.
Key Contacts

College of Arts & Humanities

**Director of the Graduate School**
- Associate Professor Elva Johnston
  - elva.johnston@ucd.ie
  - 716 8145

**Graduate Research Contact**
- Barbara Gannon
  - barbara.gannon@ucd.ie
  - 716 8241

**School of Art History & Cultural Policy**
- Elizabeth Varley
  - elizabeth.varley@ucd.ie
  - 716 8162

**School of Classics**
- Michelle McDonnell
  - michele.mcdonnell@ucd.ie
  - 716 8166

**School of English, Drama & Film**
- Deirdre Daly
  - graduateedf@ucd.ie
  - 716 8480

**School of History**
- Kate O’Hanlon
  - kate.ohanlon@ucd.ie
  - 716 8371

**School of Irish, Celtic Studies & Folklore**
- Michael Wallace
  - michael.j.wallace@ucd.ie
  - 716 8105

**School of Languages, Culture & Linguistics**
- Melanie Pape
  - melanie.pape@ucd.ie
  - 716 8309

**School of Music**
- Anne Hallinan
  - music@ucd.ie
  - 716 8178

**UCD Clinton Institute of American Studies**
- Catherine Carey
  - catherine.carey@ucd.ie
  - 716 1560

---

College of Business

**Director of Centre for Doctoral Research**
- Professor Ronan Powell
  - ronan.powell@ucd.ie
  - 716 8895

**Graduate Research Contact**
- Jane O’ Mara
  - jane.omara@ucd.ie
  - 716 8064
## College of Engineering & Architecture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director of the Graduate School</th>
<th>Graduate Research Contact</th>
<th>School of Chemical &amp; Bioprocess Engineering</th>
<th>School of Electrical &amp; Electronic Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Neal Murphy</td>
<td>Angela Evans</td>
<td>Aoife Carney</td>
<td>Katalin Szaszi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:neal.murphy@ucd.ie">neal.murphy@ucd.ie</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:angela.evans@ucd.ie">angela.evans@ucd.ie</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:aoife.carney@ucd.ie">aoife.carney@ucd.ie</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:katalin.szaszi@ucd.ie">katalin.szaszi@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 1940</td>
<td></td>
<td>716 1825</td>
<td>716 1757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Architecture, Planning &amp; Environmental Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frances Ashmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:frances.ashmore@ucd.ie">frances.ashmore@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 2711</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Biosystems &amp; Food Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annette Patchett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:annette.patchett@ucd.ie">annette.patchett@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 7484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Civil Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Griffiths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:andrew.griffiths@ucd.ie">andrew.griffiths@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 3201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Mechanical &amp; Materials Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katalin Szaszi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:katalin.szaszi@ucd.ie">katalin.szaszi@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 1757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## College of Health Sciences & Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director of the Graduate School</th>
<th>Graduate Research Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Helen Gallagher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chas.graduate@ucd.ie">chas.graduate@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:helen.gallagher@ucd.ie">helen.gallagher@ucd.ie</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 6726</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Agriculture &amp; Food Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:catherine.byrne@ucd.ie">catherine.byrne@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 7192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Medicine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:medicine.research@ucd.ie">medicine.research@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 6600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Nursing, Midwifery &amp; Health Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicola Berry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:researchdegrees.nmhs@ucd.ie">researchdegrees.nmhs@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 6409</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Public Health, Physiotherapy &amp; Sports Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christine Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.ridge@ucd.ie">christine.ridge@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 3429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Veterinary Medicine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Mulholland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:vetresearch@ucd.ie">vetresearch@ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716 6202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# College of Science

**Director of the Graduate School**  
department-associate-professor paul mccabe  
 paul.mccabe@ucd.ie  
 716 2251  

**Graduate Research Contact**  
Ciara Cloak  
science.graduate@ucd.ie  
716 2633  

**School of Biology and Environmental Science**  
Rachael Reenan  
rachael.reenan@ucd.ie  
716 2395  

**School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science**  
Geraldine Neylan  
geraldine.neylan@ucd.ie  
716 2130  

**School of Chemistry**  
Susan Wilson  
susan.wilson@ucd.ie  
716 2132  

**School of Computer Science**  
Rosemary Deevy  
rosemary.deevy@ucd.ie  
716 2909  

**School of Earth Science**  
Sarah Procter  
sarah.procter@ucd.ie  
716 2331  

**School of Mathematics and Statistics**  
Marian Woods  
marian.woods@ucd.ie  
716 2560  

**School of Physics**  
John Brennan  
john.brennan@ucd.ie  
716 2361  

---

# College of Social Sciences & Law

**Director of the Graduate School**  
Associate Professor Nuala Brady  
nuala.brady@ucd.ie  
716 8247  

**Graduate Research Contact**  
Aoife Redmond  
aoife.redmond@ucd.ie  
716 8268  

**School of Architecture**  
Angela McAteer  
arheology@ucd.ie  
716 8312  

**School of Economics**  
Helen Kenny  
heLEN.kenny@ucd.ie  
716 8272  

**School of Education**  
Sarah Conroy  
sarah.conroy@ucd.ie  
716 7965  

**School of Geography**  
Cari Burke  
cari.burke@ucd.ie  
716 8179  

**School of Law**  
Niamh McCabe  
niamh.mccabe@ucd.ie  
716 4111  

**School of Philosophy**  
Gillian Johnston  
philosophy@ucd.ie  
716 8186  

**School of Politics & International Relations**  
Cathrina Gaffney  
cathrina.gaffney@ucd.ie  
716 8670  

**School of Psychology**  
Mary Boyle  
mary.boyle@ucd.ie  
716 8369  

**School of Social Policy, Social Work & Social Justice**  
Elizabeth Hassell  
elizabeth.hassell@ucd.ie  
716 8419  

**School of Sociology**  
Veronica Barker  
veronica.barker@ucd.ie  
716 8510
Essential Information for Graduate Research Students

IT Services
UCD IT Services provide virtual and/or face-to-face support for set up and ongoing computing requirements, including registration of new laptops/PCs to the UCD network, email addresses, research servers, device and file encryption etc. For more information, please visit the IT Services website www.ucd.ie/itservices

UCD E-MAIL ADDRESS
Any official UCD e-mail sent to students will be addressed to their UCD Connect address. UCD registered students are automatically given a UCD network username and password when registering with the University. Contact the Helpdesk at extension 2700 or ithelpdesk@ucd.ie for assistance.

The official email address will be maintained in each student’s record, from which distribution lists are compiled. Students can arrange to have their UCD Connect account redirected to another address or service provider, but it is their responsibility to ensure that this alternate mailbox is viable and that all emails are redirected. Students are responsible for regularly checking their UCD Connect email account and, where necessary acting upon emails in a timely manner.

UCD IT Services will never ask for your username and password, or any personal credentials by email. Visit the IT Services security pages for more information on ‘phishing’.

Research Ethics
Research ethics applies to all members of the UCD community who conduct research that involves human and/or animal subjects. Prospective researchers must read the policies and guidelines on the research ethics website www.ucd.ie/researchethics

Research Integrity
UCD is committed to promoting the performance of research to the highest standards of professionalism and rigour by its staff and students, and to the accuracy and integrity of the research record in publications and elsewhere. To this end, an online Research Integrity Course covering every stage of the research process, highlighting the complex issues that can arise while planning, conducting and reporting your research, is available. This training is compulsory element of all research degree programmes for those students registered from September 2019 onwards. More information on how to access and complete this course can be found here: www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/researchphdsupport/researchintegritytrainingforphdstudents
The Research Programme

The Research Degrees

A research degree such as Masters by Research or PhD involves the sustained and in-depth study of a specific topic, which is then written up as a thesis for examination. Research degrees involve students carrying out their own research and academic study under supervision of a Principal Supervisor and Co-Supervisor(s) if relevant.

THE RESEARCH MASTER’S PROGRAMME

The research master’s degree award is a coherent programme of supervised research which requires that the student successfully completes a master’s-level research, the principal outcome of which is a submitted thesis in acceptable form and deemed to be of a satisfactory standard. The primary purpose of master’s level research is to develop in the student skills and competencies required to conduct research.

THE PhD PROGRAMME

The PhD enables students to achieve the best possible experience of graduate research and training. Making a substantial and original contribution to knowledge, normally leading to peer-reviewed publications remains the core objective of doctoral studies. Our structured PhD includes several innovative measures designed to support you in achieving your academic and professional objectives. Assessment for the award of a PhD is made on the basis of a thesis and viva voce (oral) exam.

Supervision

Supervision is a crucial part of research training. The relationship between supervisor and graduate research student is an essential feature of graduate education. The role of the supervisor is to encourage, challenge and support the student to ensure they develop the relevant skills and attributes. Both the student and the supervisor contribute to this relationship - good, open communication is the key to managing the relationship between them. At the beginning of the research programme, both parties should negotiate how the relationship will function. For more information on this please see Appendix 2.

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The main duties and responsibilities of the Principal Supervisor are as follows:

• Act as the main source of research supervision, provide mentoring, guidance and advice for the student throughout their research degree;
• Meet regularly with the student;
• Participate in the research studies panel.

For further information, please refer to the Policy Document ‘Code of Practice for supervisors and research degree students’
Research Studies Panel

PURPOSE OF THE RSP PROCESS:
The purpose of the Research Studies Panel is to support and enhance the supervisor-student relationship, to monitor the progress of the student through their research studies, and to provide advice and support to student and supervisor(s). The members of the panel are nominated when the student is approved for admission.

MEMBERSHIP OF RSP:
The RSP comprises of:
- the Principal Supervisor,
- any Co-Supervisor(s),
- and a number of advisers (at least two but normally no more than four). One of these will be Chair.

MEETING FREQUENCY:
The Code of Practice for supervisors and research degree students states that:
- The RSP should normally meet within 3 months of the student’s initial registration, to review the student’s Research and Professional Development Plan - the supervisor should initiate this meeting.
- In addition to the first meeting at least one additional RSP meeting should be held in year 1 of the student’s registration and for PhD students a RSP meeting should normally be held at least 2 months before the Stage Transfer Assessment - scheduling of these RSP meetings should be the student’s responsibility.
- The student or another member of the RSP may convene a meeting of the panel at any stage (with appropriate notice to all concerned) if it is considered desirable or necessary to address any relevant issue that may arise.

SCOPE:
- Ensure quality, rigour and equity of the supervision process.
- Advise the student on their professional and personal development training and monitor progress against their Research and Professional Development Plan at least once a year.
- Provide appropriate academic expertise and where appropriate facilitate an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Provide temporary support to the student in the case of the unforeseen absence of the Principal Supervisor.
- In the event of difficulties arising in the supervisor-student relationship the Panel will seek to resolve such difficulties. RSPs can be convened without the supervisor at the request of the student. Where matters are unresolved, they will be referred to the faculty member responsible for graduate research students in the School or the Graduate School Director.
- Where issues arise in relation to progress, ensure that the student and Principal Supervisor are fully aware of the issues and have had an opportunity to address them in a timely fashion.
- To ensure that the student is familiar with the assessment criteria well in advance of the assessment and knows what is required for Stage 1 to Stage 2 assessment (i.e. required reports, presentations, interview etc.).
- To offer additional specific support for students or supervisors which the College Graduate School Board may request.

MEETING REPORTS
www.ucd.ie/graduatesudies/currentgradstudents/researchphdsupport/researchandprofessionaldevelopmentplanrpdp
The RSP should ensure that the student is developing and maintaining their RPDP in consultation with their supervisor(s) and RSP members.

• The student should complete a report of each RSP meeting, using the RPDP document as a template, and should submit a copy of this, signed by the members of the RSP and indicating the approximate date of the next meeting, to the designated Administrator in the School; these reports should also be uploaded to the student record by the student.
• The Chair of the RSP should write a report on the key recommendations of RSP meetings. Copies of this should be forwarded to the student, supervisor and the School/Programme Office, as appropriate. In most cases the reports should be brief but, where there are issues relating to student’s performance/progress, the report should document the issues/weaknesses and the advice given to the student to address the problems. In such cases a follow-on RSP meeting should be arranged. If a problem is detected at the RSP meeting, the School Head of Graduate Studies should be notified. These reports should also be uploaded to the student record by the Chair.

For more information on research studies panels, go to: www.ucd.ie/t4cms/dstudies_tor.pdf
Research and Professional Development Plan (RPDP)

Research and professional development planning is an integral part of the structured PhD programme and valuable for graduate research students. 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 research, and in your training and development as a researcher. Your plans will form the basis of discussions at your meetings with your supervisor and your research study panel and will be central to the preparation of the mandatory reports from these meetings. Forms and guidelines to assist you in producing Research and Professional Development Plans are downloadable from the Graduate Studies RPDP page.

There are three main components to the RPDP:

1. **The Research Plan** – This provides the student with a clear research focus and a coherent research plan.
2. **The Professional Development Plan** – This enables the student to identify the skills important to their research and career.
3. **The Research Studies Panel Meeting Record** – A mandatory outcome of the RSP meetings will be a formal record of the student’s research and professional plans and progress to date. This will also inform the transfer assessment.

Mandatory 30 Taught Credits for PhD students

UCD operates a credit-based system for accrediting taught modules acquired during the structured PhD programme. All PhD students are required to take a minimum of 30 taught credits to be accumulated throughout their doctoral studies programme. The aim of these taught modules is to facilitate research as well as to provide you with important transferable skills enhancing your career development. Your School or Programme may recommend or require certain modules, please check with your supervisor. Unless your School or programme stipulates specific courses, you may choose from the full range of modules available throughout the University in consultation and agreement with your Principal Supervisor and your RSP.

The modules designed specifically for research students are managed by your School or Graduate School; details are given in Appendix 3.

Further modules that can be taken by graduate research students can be found at [www.ucd.ie/graduatesudies/researchstudenttrainingsupport](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatesudies/researchstudenttrainingsupport).

Please note that UCD’s policy on Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) applies to graduate research students. Further details can be found on [www.ucd.ie/governance/resources/policypage-rplpolicy](http://www.ucd.ie/governance/resources/policypage-rplpolicy). Any application for RPL would need to be discussed with your RSP and be approved at School and Governing Board.

To register for modules, you must complete a module registration form which is available from either your School or Graduate School (this differs by College) after agreement with the module co-ordinator and your supervisor. This form should be returned to your Graduate School office or School office as appropriate, who will register you to your chosen modules.

Details of each College’s method for module registration can be seen at the below links:

- **College of Arts & Humanities**
- **College of Business**
- **College of Engineering & Architecture**
- **College of Health & Agricultural Sciences**
- **College of Science**
- **College of Social Sciences & Law**

Being fully registered to a module means that you must attend classes, complete assignments and assessment and you will earn credits for this which will be shown on your final transcript. Students can undertake modules for audit which means attending classes but not doing the assessment or assignments, but you **DO NOT** receive credits for this.

Please note that once registered for a module, if for any reason you do not complete and have not officially withdrawn from this module within 12 weeks, a withdrawn grade W will be entered onto your university record and will appear on your transcript. To withdraw from a module, please contact your School office within 12 weeks of the commencement of the module. **NO RETROSPECTIVE CHANGES CAN BE MADE.**

For detailed information on any module, including assessment strategies, please follow these instructions:

- Go to [www.ucd.ie/students/course_search.htm](http://www.ucd.ie/students/course_search.htm)
- Select/find 2019/20 Modules + ‘Keyword Search’ options
- Check “All Information” and Level 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 filters.
MODULE LEVELS
The first number of the module code indicates module level. Most research students find Level 4 and 5 (Masters and PhD level) academic and research skills modules most useful. However, a limited number of Level 1-3 modules may be appropriate in certain cases, for example if you need to up skill in a discipline from outside your undergraduate degree. Students must consult with their supervisor before signing up to modules.

MODULE REGISTRATION
Please make sure you register for every module you participate in; you will not be able to register retrospectively for any modules. As it is not possible to register to modules yourself, you must complete the module registration form and return it to your School office or Graduate School office. Your Principal Supervisor must sign the module registration form and if the module is provided outside of your School, permission must be sought in advance of registration from the module coordinator for its suitability, and also out of courtesy. For more details, see Appendix 3.

MODULES AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS (EXTERNAL CREDITS)
With prior approval from their supervisor, research students may register to modules outside of UCD for credit. As with modules taken within UCD, supervisors must sign off on the module being appropriate for the academic development of the student. The institution must also provide official confirmation of successful module completion. The School will then make a recommendation to the Graduate School Board that the student receives appropriate credit toward their mandatory 30 credit requirement. If a student or School is in any doubt about whether the Governing Board will sanction credit for a specific external module they must check in advance before proceeding with undertaking the module. Details of these modules will appear on your UCD record.

Please note that conference presentation/attendance will not be considered for credit; this is a normal part of ongoing doctoral student activity. For similar reasons, research visits/lab work at another institution will not normally be considered for credit unless they are specific assessment associated. Students should use their RPDp to record details of any courses or modules they take outside of UCD.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS
UCD offers short courses and workshops on transferable skills which are targeted at students’ professional development. These are listed on your Certificate of Participation that is downloadable via SISWeb, but they do not count towards the mandatory credits of the PhD programme. Topics include data management, career development, innovation and entrepreneurship, project management, ethics approval amongst many others. In addition, UCD Careers Network has career consultants who are able to provide advice and support. More information is available at: www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/researchstudenttrainingsupport www.ucd.ie/careers

Stage Transfer Assessment (STA)
All students are required to undergo a formal assessment step in order to progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of the PhD programme or to transfer from a Research Masters Programme to a PhD Programme. Stage 1 is an initial period of advanced education, training and research. Stage 2 is largely dedicated to carrying out a body of original, publishable research, required for the award of a PhD. In order to transfer to Stage 2 students are assessed by a Stage Transfer Assessment Panel (STA) which makes a decision as to whether a student has made sufficient progress towards completion of the PhD research. The STA panel will be convened by the School and will contain at least three members of faculty; however, it will not include the supervisor(s). Stage 1 doctoral studies must be completed within five trimesters by a full-time student or within seven trimesters by a part-time student from the date of registration or as approved by the Graduate School Board.

The STA panel will review student progress in deciding whether the student should transfer from Stage 1 to 2 of the programme. The Assessment Panel will base its judgement on:
1. written statement of progress and a research plan from the candidate;
2. review of the student’s RPDp
3. a written progress report from the Principal Supervisor; and
4. an interview with, and presentation by, the candidate

The assessment panel will make one of the following recommendations to the Governing Board:

a. that the student should progress to the next stage or year of the doctoral programme;

b. that the student should not progress to the next stage or year of the doctoral programme, and that:
   i. the student should re-submit for assessment within six months (with an indication of the month/year in which the subsequent formal assessment of progress will take place);
   ii. the student should apply to transfer to another graduate programme utilising, where appropriate, any credits already accumulated within the doctoral programme;
   iii. a recommendation be made in line with the University’s continuation process to Academic Council or its relevant committee that the student’s registration be discontinued

After the STA, the assessment panel will make a recommendation via the School to the relevant Governing Board in relation to the transfer. Students will be notified shortly hereafter of the outcome. If the recommendation is to progress to Stage 2, you will progress to the next phase of your PhD. If the recommendation is other than that, the options recommended by the assessment panel, and the potential for another presentation to the assessment panel, will be discussed with your RSP. Students have the right to appeal a decision of the STA. For more information on the appeals process, go to www.ucd.ie/appeals
Leave of absence

Students who need to take time out of their programme for any reason, can apply for a leave of absence (LoA). A student on LoA is not fully registered to the university so cannot be active on the programme i.e. they cannot meet with supervisor(s), attend lectures, access the library or receive grants/scholarships. However, students will continue to have access to their UCD Connect account, including email, during this time.

It is recommended that a LoA does not exceed a maximum of one-third of the length of the programme (six trimesters for full time and nine trimesters for part-time students) must be a minimum of trimester length. Leave of Absence can be applied for online - for more information and guidance on the leave of absence policy, go to www.ucd.ie/students/leaveofabsence/index.html

Extensions

There are two types of extension:

1. PERMISSION TO CONTINUE

Students who are entering Year 5 FT or Year 7 PT PhD or Year 3 FT or year 5 PT for Masters by Research must apply for Permission to Continue in the programme because they have exceeded the maximum registration period stated in the academic regulations. There are no extenuating circumstances with this extension. These are for a period of trimester(s) and fees are payable. The student must apply for this at their School Office.

2. EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

These requests are for a specific period (does not need to be trimester length) where the student was unable to attend the programme due to extenuating circumstances and no fees are paid. Supporting documentation must be provided and confirm the period of time you were unable to work on your programme for. Common examples of this are medical issues or bereavement.

Before applying for an extension please first discuss the matter with your supervisor(s). After discussions with your supervisor(s), the student must apply for an extension in advance of the thesis submission deadline at the School Office with supporting documents and it must be approved by the relevant School and Graduate School Board. A student is not normally liable for fees. There will be no additional stipend for this period. See the Policy on Extenuating Circumstances for further information www.ucd.ie/t4cms/extcstudent_g.pdf

Working Hours - Holiday Entitlement

WORKING HOURS

Due to the range of disciplines across the College, there is no such thing as an ‘average research week’ and how a research student’s week is arranged will depend on a number of factors including:

- Subject area (very different work patterns will emerge if you work in a lab or do fieldwork for example),
- Learning style,
- The stage of the research programme: the week will be structured very differently when you are writing up and there will be peak times in activity,
- What you have agreed with your supervisor.

It is recognised that graduate students are not paid employees and therefore do not have contractual working hours; however, students should bear in mind that a public servant’s standard working week is 37 hours. Note that this applies to full-time students. Part-time students are typically expected to complete 2/3 of the amount of work of their full-time counterparts per week.

A research student should be self-motivated to work such hours as are necessary to achieve their objectives over the course of 3-4 years. In cases where a student is funded, there may be additional obligations required by the funding agency in relation to meeting certain milestones that must be taken into consideration when working hours are agreed.

In consultation with the supervisor(s) it is the student’s responsibility to decide the appropriate working structure for them as early as possible in their programme so that a plan can be agreed that suits everyone. Students are expected to develop a professional approach by attending all meetings and other relevant activities that are advised by their supervisor and/or beneficial to their programme/research.

ANNUAL LEAVE

Holidays can be taken at any time in each year but must be agreed in advance with the supervisor(s), bearing in mind a student’s individual funding terms and any teaching or research commitments. The normal holiday entitlements should be no more than 4 weeks in one calendar year.

In the case of part-time students in paid employment, supervisors should be informed of the student’s annual leave arrangements that impact on the research programme.

SICK LEAVE

If a student feels unwell and needs to stay at home for a day or two, the supervisor(s) should be informed. If a student is unwell for a longer period of time, they should try to maintain regular email contact with their supervisor(s) to keep them informed of their health and they must provide a medical certificate for the period of illness. In cases where students may be requesting a ‘no-fees extension’ due to illness, relevant supporting documentation must be provided. In some serious cases, it may be advisable for the student to apply for a leave of absence.
**MATERIALTY LEAVE**

Where possible, students should apply for a Leave of Absence during their maternity leave. It is recommended that a LoA does not exceed a maximum of one-third of the length of the programme (six trimesters for full time students and nine trimesters for part time students). If this causes issues with funding, students can apply for a no fees extension for the period of maternity leave but must be aware that there is no provision for payment of stipends during this additional time.

**Guidelines for Thesis Preparation**

To produce their thesis, student should work closely with supervisor(s) to ensure that the research and presentation meets the standards expected of the University. Before submission, the Principal Supervisor is required to sign a statement that the thesis is ready for submission. If you are of the opinion that such a statement is being unreasonably withheld, you can appeal in the first instance to the relevant School Committee and the Graduate School Director. [www.ucd.ie/t4cms/Theses%20in%20Graduate%20Research%20Programmes%20Policy.pdf](http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/Theses%20in%20Graduate%20Research%20Programmes%20Policy.pdf)

All theses submitted must include a statement on plagiarism in accordance with UCD’s policy on plagiarism: [www.ucd.ie/governance/resources/policypage-plagiarismpolicy](http://www.ucd.ie/governance/resources/policypage-plagiarismpolicy)

Research theses can only be submitted if fees are paid in full and student registration is current. For information on submitting your thesis, visit UCD Assessment: [www.ucd.ie/students/assessment](http://www.ucd.ie/students/assessment)

**Thesis Examination**

In order to submit a thesis, all PhD students must have transferred into Stage 2 of the structured PhD programme and have completed the mandatory 30 credits of taught modules satisfactorily. Research integrity training is also a compulsory element of all Research Degree programmes for students first registering to their programme from September 2019. PhD theses are always examined by *aviva voce* (oral examination) whereas Research Master’s theses are normally examined without *aviva voce* examination although the Head of School or Examination committee can request one. In that instance, the procedure will be similar to that for the PhD.

**ORGANISATION OF THE THESIS EXAM**

Your Principal Supervisor and School will organise the nomination and approval of your Examination Committee about three months in advance of you submitting the thesis for examination.

The *viva voce* examination will normally be held within two months of receipt of the thesis by the examiners. It is the responsibility of the chairperson of the *viva voce* to make all the arrangements for the examination. *Viva voce* examinations are normally held on campus.

PhD theses are examined by a PhD Examination Committee comprising of an external examiner, one internal examiner and an independent chair. The external examiner must be a recognised expert in the disciplinary field.

For Research Master’s theses, the internal examiner generally acts as chair of the Examination Committee. All Examination Committees are nominated by the School and then approved by the Graduate School Board and the Academic Council Committee on Examinations (ACCE).

**PREPARING FOR YOUR VIVA**

You will need to be prepared for a general discussion of your research area and a detailed explanation of your research and its conclusions. You also must be prepared for the examiners to approach the thesis from a different starting point than you and to emphasise different aspects of the thesis than you have considered. You will be given the opportunity to defend your thesis in every respect. You should enlist some help from your supervisor in your preparation.

**PHD EXAMINATION**

*A viva voce* oral examination is compulsory for doctoral degrees. The *viva voce* provides you with an opportunity to defend your thesis and it assists the examiners in deciding whether or not you have met the requirements for the PhD degree. The Examination Committee will examine:

- The originality of the work described and the theories developed in the thesis
- Your familiarity with the published work of other authors in related areas
- Your ability to summarise the work of other authors and to synthesise a theoretical framework within which to position the work described in the thesis.

The thesis is assessed in accordance with UCD guidelines [www.ucd.ie/t4cms/Theses%20in%20Graduate%20Research%20Programmes%20Policy.pdf](http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/Theses%20in%20Graduate%20Research%20Programmes%20Policy.pdf)

Once the *viva voce* is completed you will be invited by the chairperson to withdraw from the room so that the examiners can deliberate.

In most cases you will invited through the chairperson to hear the examiners’ provisional recommendation which is subject to approval by of the Academic Council Committee on Examinations (ACCE).

Where a Research Masters is examined through a *viva voce* examination this will be conducted in the same way as a PhD viva.
OUTCOMES OF RESEARCH PROGRAMME EXAMINATION

The Examiners will generally compile a joint report which is submitted to the ACCE. The thesis will either be deemed:

i) Award Degree – no corrections required
ii) Award Degree – revisions required
iii) Revise thesis and submit for re-examination.
   In this case the student must register for the period (at least one trimester) necessary to re-submit the thesis for examination.
iv) Do not award Degree – recommendation that the candidate transfer to an appropriate graduate programme. In practice this recommendation is generally used for PhD candidates who are recommended to transfer to a Research Masters programme and students submit the thesis for examination for this award.
v) Do not award Degree

In case (ii), the student is registered as “for assessment”, there is no fee implication, and students continue to have access to UCD facilities such as the library and UCD email. Once the corrections have been completed, the student should contact the internal examiner (or whoever has been charged with overseeing the corrections) to arrange for the revised thesis to be reviewed. Once it has been established that all necessary corrections have been made a thesis correction sign off form will be completed by the person responsible for overseeing the corrections and given to the student, who can proceed to submit the final thesis.

SUBMISSION OF FINAL THESIS

The ACCE will not consider the award of the degree until a hard-bound copy of the thesis, incorporating any changes, corrections or revisions required by the examiners, and accompanied by a completed Research Degree Submission Form, has been lodged by the candidate with the Student Desk, UCD Registry.

---

List of important policies

Graduate Studies Documents and Policies for staff
www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/infoforstaff

Graduate Studies Documents and Policies for students
www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents

General regulations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
www.ucd.ie/governance/resources/policypage-academicregulations

Progression in Doctoral Programmes including Stage 1 Transfer Assessment
www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/forstaff/regulationpolicies

Code of Practice for Supervisors and Doctoral Students
www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/forstaff/regulationpolicies

Split-site Arrangements for PhD and other Graduate Research Students
www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/forstaff/regulationpolicies

Code of Practice for Conflict Resolution for supervisors and Research Students
www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/forstaff/regulationpolicies

Student Complaint Policy and Procedures
www.ucd.ie/complaints

Policy on Plagiarism
www.ucd.ie/governance/resources/policypage-plagiarismpolicy

Policy on Leave of Absence
www.ucd.ie/students/leaveofabsence/index.html

Policy on Dignity and Respect
www.ucd.ie/equality/support/dignityrespect
Alternative Thesis format

*Note that this is only available in some Schools.*

Peer reviewed papers may be incorporated into a thesis submitted for the award of a research degree, to avoid any duplication of effort, if the following conditions are met:

- The work described in the papers is substantively that of the candidate and has been carried out during the period that the candidate has been registered for the research degree. Work published, accepted for publication, or submitted for publication prior to candidature cannot be included in the thesis.
- The thesis contains
  - A general introduction that incorporates an independent, original and up-to-date review of existing work in the field which contextualises the candidate’s research in relation to the present state of knowledge in the fields;
  - Chapters containing the published work in a cogent sequence that support the main findings of the thesis;
  - Independent and original general discussion that draws together the main findings of the thesis in the context of their original contribution to current knowledge, establishes the significance of the work and outlines the needs and prospects for future research.
- The candidate is the sole author of the thesis, is fully responsible for everything contained in it and, where necessary, has obtained permission regarding copyright from the copyright holders. A statement to this effect must be included in the thesis.

Work that has been submitted but not yet accepted for publication or work in preparation for publication may be included in the thesis, but must be clearly distinguished from work that has been published or accepted for publication and the level of readiness of the papers must be stated.

Where the papers presented in the thesis have been jointly authored, the nature and extent of the candidate’s contribution must be precisely identified in a statement that delineates the nature and extent of the candidate’s intellectual input to each paper and their direct contribution to the work reported (e.g. which figures or passages of text represent the original work of the candidate). This should be done in each chapter that is based on work that is published or to be published.

**THESIS STRUCTURE:**

The thesis incorporating publications must read as a coherent whole and indicate that the candidate is able to produce written work that is of the standard accepted for a traditional thesis. Each section should be referenced separately. Where papers have been published with different fonts and formats, the original manuscripts should be re-formatted so that the format throughout the thesis is uniform providing an easily read, professional appearance. Any work that is published, accepted for publication or submitted that is referred to should be referenced clearly.
Student Welfare and Student Life
Apart from your Principal Supervisor, Co-Supervisor(s) if relevant, Research Studies Panel and School/College, there are additional supports available to you.

STUDENT ADVISERS
Your Student Adviser is here to help you make your time at UCD as fulfilling and enjoyable as possible. Student advisers work with chaplains, the Student Health Service, faculty and administrative staff to ensure the best outcomes for you. You can visit/consult/contact your student adviser in relation to any personal, social or practical issues you are having. More information and contact details: [www.ucd.ie/studentadvisers](http://www.ucd.ie/studentadvisers)

UCD CHAPLAINS
Chaplains offer personal support and advice in complete confidence to students who come to them. To find a UCD chaplain visit [www.ucd.ie/chaplaincy](http://www.ucd.ie/chaplaincy)

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES
The Student Health Service in UCD - Telephone: (01)7163134 - is located in the Student Centre on the Belfield campus. If a student is worried about a health problem, they may call to the Student Health Service, where the receptionist will make an appointment for them to see the appropriate officer. For more information, go to [www.ucd.ie/stuhealth](http://www.ucd.ie/stuhealth)

There is no dental service attached to the Student Health Service. If dental treatment is required, the Student Health Service can recommend a local dentist.

STUDENTS’ UNION REPRESENTATIVES
Conor Anderson is the Graduate Officer for UCD Students Union for academic year 2019-20. The role of your Graduate Officer covers all non-academic issues that you may face in your day-to-day life throughout your time here in UCD. You can contact by e-mail at graduate@ucdsu.ie or call at (01)7163113, UCD Students Union Welfare Officer, Una Carroll (01)7163112 or email welfare@ucdsu.ie. More useful information is available from [www.ucdsu.ie](http://www.ucdsu.ie)

UCD SPORTS, CLUBS AND SOCIETIES
The environment of UCD provides a vibrant social life to all members of the university. For a gateway to some key social and sporting information sources at UCD as well as other useful links, visit [www.ucd.ie/studentcentre/studentexperience](http://www.ucd.ie/studentcentre/studentexperience)

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS
Student Desk
For fees, transcripts, queries/admissions, registration, student records etc, you can call into the Student Desk which is located on the ground floor of Tierney building, or call (01)7161555 or use the Student Desk Connector.

Programme difficulties
Students who are experiencing difficulties with their research are encouraged to address these as soon as they arise. If your difficulty cannot be resolved by your RSP (which can be convened without your supervisor), you can approach those in your School responsible for graduate research students or your College’s Graduate School.

Student Complaints
Students may make complaints about any unit, function or service provided by the University or on behalf of the University. The definition of a complaint is necessarily broad and therefore the list provided is intended to guide users and is not intended to be exhaustive.

A complaint may relate to the following issues:
- the quality or standard of any service provided or failure to provide a service
- the quality of facilities or learning resources
- the failure of the University to follow an appropriate administrative process
- unfair treatment or inappropriate behaviour by a student or a staff member (isolated incident)
- an alleged action or inaction by the University or a member of its staff.

Further details can be found at [www.ucd.ie/complaints](http://www.ucd.ie/complaints)

Complaints of repeated bullying/harassment behaviour are dealt with through UCD’s Dignity and Respect Policy, further details can be found at [www.ucd.ie/equality/support/dignityrespect](http://www.ucd.ie/equality/support/dignityrespect)

University Facilities and Campus Maps
UCD Belfield campus has several shops, restaurants, cafes, a bank and post office.

JAMES JOYCE LIBRARY
The modern and well-stocked central library is located in the James Joyce building which is opposite the main lake in Belfield. Please note that you need your student card to enter. There are also smaller libraries around the campus. The library catalogue can be searched online at [www.ucd.ie/library](http://www.ucd.ie/library).

CAMPUS MAPS
Visit [www.ucd.ie/maps](http://www.ucd.ie/maps) for a high resolution map of the campus and its app.

SECURITY AND SAFETY AWARENESS ON CAMPUS
UNICARE is a University service designed to enhance the security of property and the personal safety of students, staff and visitors on campus. The programme operates through the combined efforts of students, staff, the local Gardaí, the Estates Services and various groups within UCD. For urgent assistance, go to [www.ucd.ie/students/support](http://www.ucd.ie/students/support)

24 Hour Confidential Emergency Line
Internal telephone No: 7999
External telephone no. (01)716 7999

You should use the UNICARE number to call for emergency assistance or to report any issues regarding personal safety and security of property on campus eg. an accident/emergency, fire, theft, reporting suspicious or troublesome persons or an incident you may have witnessed.

The UNICARE emergency line is operated 24 hours a day and assistance will be provided immediately in response to your call. UNICARE red emergency phones are located throughout the Belfield campus.
Appendix 1: Checklist for Research Students

Year 1

REGISTRATION
To register go online, confirm details and pay fees. Failure to do so might cause your account to be deactivated and incur a penalty.

RESEARCH STUDIES PANEL (RSP)
Ensure that your school/supervisor has set up your Research Studies Panel (RSP)
Remind your supervisor to organise your 1st RSP meeting within first 3 months (supervisor’s responsibility)
A 2nd RSP meeting should be held within the first year (student’s responsibility)
Ensure you complete the relevant Research and Professional Development Plan forms.

OTHER
Ensure you are aware of your supervisor’s expectations such as working hours, meeting schedule, holidays, absences and also be fully up-to-date with regulations, policies and research ethics
Discuss with your supervisor your options on relevant taught modules to improve your research skills.
Make yourself aware of your School Graduate Administrator and School Director of Graduate Studies and attend the college orientation event and school events.
Ensure that you are aware of email policy and understand that communications from the University will be delivered via your UCD Connect account.
Ensure you complete online Research Integrity Training

Year 2

REGISTRATION
To register go online, confirm details and pay fees. Failure to do so might cause your account to be deactivated and incur a penalty.

RSP
Ensure an RSP meeting is held at least 2 months before the Stage Transfer Assessment (STA)

STAGE TRANSFER ASSESSMENT (STA)
Prepare STA which should be held within 5 (FT) and within 7 (PT) trimesters from the date of registration.

OTHER
Meet with your supervisor on a regular basis.

Subsequent Years

REGISTRATION
To register go online, confirm details and pay fees. Failure to do so might cause your account to be deactivated and incur a penalty.

RSP
Ensure at least one RSP meeting is held annually.

OTHER
Meet with your supervisor on a regular basis.

Final Year

REGISTRATION
Ensure your registration is fully up to date and that you’re fully fees compliant.

CREDIT COMPLIANCE
Ensure that you will meet the 30 taught credits requirement for your programme

EXTERN EXAMINERS
Check with your supervisor that an extern and examination committee (viva voce) have been submitted for approval approximately 3 months before the thesis is submitted.

SUBMISSION DATE /VIVA
Check submission deadlines, registration and fees are fully up to date
Review www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/policiesregulations for advice
Registration extension (if necessary) – speak with supervisor and School

Make yourself aware of your School Graduate Administrator and School Director of Graduate Studies and attend the college orientation event and school events.

Ensure that you are aware of email policy and understand that communications from the University will be delivered via your UCD Connect account.
Ensure you complete online Research Integrity Training
Appendix 2:
Guidelines for Good Practice between Supervisors and Students

This document supplements the Regulations for Research Degrees and relevant policy documents. The combined effort of graduate research students and their supervisors is essential if you are to achieve excellence in graduate education. Because conflict and /or tension can arise in situations where expectations are unclear or mismatched, a thorough understanding of each person’s role is critical to productive learning and successful outcomes. The guidelines here are intended to be advisory rather than prescriptive and may evolve over time.

The main aims of this document are to briefly outline the responsibility of the different stakeholders, help graduate research students and supervisors reach an agreement on expectations and establish good communication between the parties.

Clarifying Expectations and Establishing Good Communications

Good, open communication is the key to managing the relationship between the supervisor and graduate research student. At the beginning of the research programme, both parties should negotiate how the relationship will function on issues such as:

**MEETINGS**
- The time and frequency of the supervision meetings
- What is expected at these meetings?

**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEETINGS**
- Does your supervisor prefer to communicate by telephone or e-mail?
- How quickly do you expect a response to an email or phone message?
- Times when the supervisor will be away (e.g. on research leave, teaching abroad or at conferences) so you can plan for this and agree how you will keep in touch.
- Times when the student will be away (e.g. at conferences etc) so you can plan for this and agree how you will keep in touch.

**RESEARCH DIRECTION AND TIMELINE**
- An overall plan and timeline for the research, as well as how agreement will be reached on interim deadlines.
- How much direction do you expect from your supervisor?
- How much direction does your supervisor expect to exert over your research?

**EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK**
- Does your supervisor expect to receive your work all at once, or in smaller chunks?
- Do they expect drafts to be “works in progress” or fairly polished pieces almost ready for publication?
- At what intervals does your supervisor expect you to submit work?
- Would your supervisor prefer to receive documents in hard copy, or electronically?
- How long will the supervisor take to give feedback?

**SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT**
- What kind of skills and training does the student need (e.g. health & safety, statistical or research methods, IT training, language support etc).
- Which intellectual property and ethical issues are relevant (e.g. if you are working as part of a research team or on human/animal research).
- The student’s expected involvement in School research activities, seminars, and other School commitments such as demonstrating.
- The student’s career development – e.g. availability of teaching opportunities and conferences.

**HOUSEKEEPING**
- Expectation on the number of hours the student should complete on a daily/weekly basis.
- Number of annual leave days the student can take / any specific period that the student cannot take holidays.
- Expectation of the student on desk and lab space within the School.

**FUNDING**
- How long is the funding duration?
- What does the funding cover?
The Responsibility of the:

Supervisor:
The Principal Supervisor takes overall responsibility for the student’s research training, the conduct of the student/supervisor relationship and management of the student’s research progress. The Principal Supervisor provides the necessary intellectual and pedagogical advice and support for the student. Supervisors should endeavour to make the student aware of all relevant regulations, policies and codes of practice [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/policiesregulations](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/policiesregulations)

Student:
In undertaking a graduate programme, graduate research students make a commitment to devote the time, effort and energy necessary to engage in the programme. Students should demonstrate initiative in their research, recognise that their supervisors are responsible for providing guidance as well as evaluating their performance, and be receptive to suggestions and criticisms about their academic performance. Specific responsibilities are as follows:

- to gain the background knowledge and skills needed to pursue the research project successfully;
- to work with the supervisor on the establishment of a realistic timetable for the completion of the various requirements of the program of study, and to adhere to the timetable and to meet deadlines;
- to meet with the supervisor and RSP when requested and to report fully and regularly on progress and on results, and to consider and respond to advice and criticisms received from the supervisor and the other members of the supervisory committee. The frequency of meetings with the supervisor will vary according to the discipline and the nature and stage of the project, but normally interaction, which may be electronic, should occur at least once per month;
- to work with the supervisor to ensure that appropriate ethics approval is obtained prior to conducting research on animals or humans;
- to provide accurate and honest reporting of research results and to uphold ethical norms in research methodology;
- to bring to the attention of the supervisor any matters of conflicting advice or expectations on the part of members of the RSP;
- to recognise that the supervisor and other members of the RSP may have other teaching, research and personal obligations which may preclude immediate responses;
- to work with the supervisor to meet agreed performance standards and deadlines of the funding organisation when financing has been provided under a contract or grant;
- to acknowledge the contributions of the supervisor and others in presentations and in published material, including joint authorship, if appropriate;
- to help ensure that the research environment is safe, healthy and free from harassment, discrimination and conflict;
- to act responsibly upon conclusion of the project by leaving a clean work space, returning borrowed materials, and providing the supervisor with appropriate documentation of software, data, experimental procedures so that others may continue the research.

Research Studies Panel:
The role of the Research Studies Panel (RSP) is to enhance the student-supervisor relationship and to ensure the quality of the graduate research student experience in the context of structured graduate research programmes. The RSP comprise the Principal Supervisor and any Co-Supervisor(s) or advisors who are appointed by the Governing Board. The purpose of the RSP is to:

- Enhance the supervisor-student relationship by the provision of advice;
- Ensure quality, rigour and equity in the supervision process;
- Advise the student on their professional and personal development training and monitor progress against their Research and Professional Development Plan (RPDP);
- Review on a regular basis, at least twice in the first year and annually thereafter, the progress of the student against an agreed research plan;
- Provide appropriate academic expertise and where appropriate facilitate an interdisciplinary perspective;
- Provide temporary support to the student in the case of the unforeseen absence of the Principal Supervisor;
Conflict Resolution Strategies for When Things Go Wrong

Given the close and sometimes intense nature of the supervisory relationship, problems are likely to arise from time to time. Ideally, attempts to resolve problems or concerns happen as early and informally as possible, with that guiding principle in mind don’t wait for things to get out of hand. Failing to address problems in their early stages will often lead to increased feelings of frustration which will make the problem(s) more difficult to resolve. It is often useful to think of conflict resolution as a step by step process. [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/policiesregulations](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/policiesregulations)

STEP ONE - DISCUSS YOUR CONCERNS WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR

Before the Meeting:
Make an in-person appointment with your supervisor to discuss your concerns. Avoid the temptation to try to deal with issues over email. Face to face meetings usually generate better resolutions and miscommunications are less likely to occur.

Allow sufficient time for your meeting. Effective problem solving takes time so make sure you block off enough time to have a good discussion. If your supervisor says they are only available for a short time, re-schedule your meeting for another mutually convenient time.

Prepare for the meeting by making notes beforehand. Ask yourself the following questions: What are the specific obstacles in the way of my progress? What steps have I taken to overcome these obstacles? What do I need from my supervisor to enable me to move forward with my work? If your list of issues is very long prioritise your concerns - what issues do you need to resolve right away?

During the Meeting:
Be prepared to state your needs. Remember, your supervisor isn’t a mind reader. It is your responsibility to clearly tell your supervisor what you need from them to be able to move forward.

Listen to the other person’s side carefully and respectfully. Don’t argue your position without knowing “why” your advisor is asking you to do certain things that you think are unfair. Asking “why” and “why not” will help you to understand where they are coming from and can help develop a common incentive for resolution based on having both sets of interests satisfied.

Identify solutions. Once you and your supervisor have articulated the problem(s), try to come up with some problem-solving strategies that work for both of you. For example, if receiving timely feedback is an issue in your relationship, what are some of the options for addressing this: Can the supervisor provide more frequent but less detailed feedback? Can you revise your schedule for submitting work? Finding an appropriate solution may require some negotiation, but both you and your supervisor will be more committed to the resolution if each of you has had a hand in creating it.

STEP TWO - SEEK OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR RESOLVING THE PROBLEM

Sometimes, despite everyone’s best efforts problems remain unresolved after Step One. If your conversation with your supervisor didn’t go very well, or you are afraid to approach your supervisor for whatever reason, it is a good idea to seek help in addressing your concerns. Depending on your situation (where you are in your research, etc.) you may want to consider the following options.

Make an appointment to see your Research Studies Panel (without the supervisor) who will listen to your concerns and help you identify specific problem-solving strategies. They may be likely to provide you with a fresh perspective and suggest different ways for you to approach the situation.

Also approach the School Graduate Co-ordinator who may have some insight in the problem you are experiencing and be able to suggest solutions.

If you are experiencing a lot of stress in dealing with the situation make sure you seek out sources of support.

STEP THREE - CONSULT THE HEAD OF SCHOOL / GRADUATE SCHOOL

Consult the University’s policies and procedures for handling disputes and the reporting structure. The College’s Graduate School Manager may be able to direct you if this information is not readily available.

Make an appointment with firstly the Head of School and if problems remain unresolved the Graduate School Director to discuss what options are available to you. Prepare for this meeting in the same manner that was discussed previously in this document. You should expect that whomever you consult will ask you if you have discussed your concerns with your supervisor, and what, if any, steps you have taken to resolve them. At this stage you may need to make a decision about whether you wish to continue with your supervisor, or whether you want to explore the possibility of changing supervisors. Whatever option you choose you will likely need to take into account your area of study and what stage you are at in your research.

After the Meeting:
Summarise the key points made during the meeting. It’s important to make sure that nothing gets lost in the discussion and that both you and your supervisor have reached some kind of agreement about how the two of you will try to resolve the issues you have identified. Some people find it helpful to put in writing a plan of action based on the conversation. Ask your supervisor if they would mind if you did this, to again, clarify the options/steps towards resolution that you have identified. If you and your supervisor have made some progress on the issue, but you still have more to discuss, determine a date for a follow up meeting.
Appendix 3: Modules for Graduate Research Students

There are a number of modules and workshops available to research students. A comprehensive listing of these can be found on the Graduate Studies website.

Your School or Programme may recommend or require certain modules. Please check with your supervisor. Unless your School or Programme stipulates specific modules, you may choose from the full range of modules available throughout the University in consultation and agreement with your Principal Supervisor and your Research Studies Panel (RSP).

The list of discipline specific modules can be found here: [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/researchstudenttrainingsupport/disciplinespecific](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/researchstudenttrainingsupport/disciplinespecific)

Module registration varies by College – see below links for details of how to register for a module in your College:

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES**
To register for modules, students are required to complete the module registration form which is available from your School Office after seeking the agreement of the module coordinator(s) and your Principal Supervisor. The completed module registration form, containing all the relevant signatures is then returned to your School Office which will arrange to register you to your chosen modules.

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**
To register for modules, students are asked, after agreement with the module co-ordinator(s) and their Principal Supervisor, to complete and have signed the module registration form. This form should be returned to the Centre for Doctoral Research, Smurfit School for processing.

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE**
To register for modules, please complete a module registration form which is available from your School Office or on the College of Engineering & Architecture website. This form, approved by your supervisor and the relevant module co-ordinator(s), should be submitted to the Graduate School Office (Room 126, Engineering) where your registration will be completed.


**COLLEGE OF HEALTH & AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**
To register for modules, you must complete a module registration form which is available from your School after agreement with the module co-ordinator(s) and your Principal Supervisor. This form should be returned to your School Office which will register you to your chosen modules.

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**
To register for modules, you must complete a module registration form which is available from your School after agreement with the module co-ordinator(s) and your Principal Supervisor. This form should be returned to your School Office which will register you to your chosen modules.

[www.ucd.ie/science/study/collegeofsciencegraduateschool/currentgraduateresearchstudents/#d.en.394548](http://www.ucd.ie/science/study/collegeofsciencegraduateschool/currentgraduateresearchstudents/#d.en.394548)

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW**
For module registration, students must complete the module registration form which is available at the CSSL Graduate School website and return it to the CSSL Graduate School for registration purposes.

[www.ucd.ie/socscilaw/graduateschool/informationforcurrentphdstudents/#d.en.316607](http://www.ucd.ie/socscilaw/graduateschool/informationforcurrentphdstudents/#d.en.316607)

Appendix 3: Modules for Graduate Research Students

There are a number of modules and workshops available to research students. A comprehensive listing of these can be found on the Graduate Studies website.

Your School or Programme may recommend or require certain modules. Please check with your supervisor. Unless your School or Programme stipulates specific modules, you may choose from the full range of modules available throughout the University in consultation and agreement with your Principal Supervisor and your Research Studies Panel (RSP).

The list of discipline specific modules can be found here: [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/researchstudenttrainingsupport/disciplinespecific](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/researchstudenttrainingsupport/disciplinespecific)

Module registration varies by College – see below links for details of how to register for a module in your College:

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES**
To register for modules, students are required to complete the module registration form which is available from your School Office after seeking the agreement of the module coordinator(s) and your Principal Supervisor. The completed module registration form, containing all the relevant signatures is then returned to your School Office which will arrange to register you to your chosen modules.

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**
To register for modules, students are asked, after agreement with the module co-ordinator(s) and their Principal Supervisor, to complete and have signed the module registration form. This form should be returned to the Centre for Doctoral Research, Smurfit School for processing.

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE**
To register for modules, please complete a module registration form which is available from your School Office or on the College of Engineering & Architecture website. This form, approved by your supervisor and the relevant module co-ordinator(s), should be submitted to the Graduate School Office (Room 126, Engineering) where your registration will be completed.


**COLLEGE OF HEALTH & AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**
To register for modules, you must complete a module registration form which is available from your School after agreement with the module co-ordinator(s) and your Principal Supervisor. This form should be returned to your School Office which will register you to your chosen modules.

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**
To register for modules, you must complete a module registration form which is available from your School after agreement with the module co-ordinator(s) and your Principal Supervisor. This form should be returned to your School Office which will register you to your chosen modules.

[www.ucd.ie/science/study/collegeofsciencegraduateschool/currentgraduateresearchstudents/#d.en.394548](http://www.ucd.ie/science/study/collegeofsciencegraduateschool/currentgraduateresearchstudents/#d.en.394548)

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW**
For module registration, students must complete the module registration form which is available at the CSSL Graduate School website and return it to the CSSL Graduate School for registration purposes.

[www.ucd.ie/socscilaw/graduateschool/informationforcurrentphdstudents/#d.en.316607](http://www.ucd.ie/socscilaw/graduateschool/informationforcurrentphdstudents/#d.en.316607)
Notes: