UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems

UCD Health Sciences Centre,
University College Dublin,
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
www.ucd.ie/nmhs

Scoil na hAltrachta, an Chnáimhseachais agus na gCóras Sláinte UCD

Ionad Eolaíocht Sláinte UCD
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath,
Belfield, Baile Átha Cliath 4, Eire

Information for
PhD Students 2017-18

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This booklet is designed to assist you in understanding the policies and requirements that apply to PhD students in the UCD School of Nursing Midwifery and Health Systems. For further details on the regulations covering PhDs in the University please consult the UCD General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at: http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/pol_regs.htm

Please note that university policies are updated regularly, including during an academic year, and links to policy documents given here are subject to change. To ensure that you have the most up-to-date version, please go to the web page of the UCD Academic Secretariat and follow the links to 'Academic Policies'.

Should you require clarification about these policies you should discuss them with your supervisors and other members of your Doctoral Studies Panel or the School's Director of Graduate Research (Dr Kate Frazer).

Additional useful information is available at the UCD Graduate Studies Webpage**:**
http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/

Or http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentstudents/incoming_students/

Queries about non-academic matters such as fees, registration, procedures and policies should be addressed to Research Degrees Administrator at: researchdegrees.nmhs@ucd.ie

Introduction
Welcome to the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems PhD Programme. As the largest and oldest university school of nursing and midwifery in Ireland we have played a leading role in the development of nursing and midwifery education, practice and research nationally. The School's Research Unit is located within the Health Sciences Centre, a purpose-built education and research complex containing a range of state-of-the art facilities, including lecture and seminar rooms, clinical laboratories, a library and information centre, and extensive computer facilities.

As a graduate student in the School your work also forms an important part of the School's research activities. The School's research programme provides the context for comprehensive research training for masters and PhD-level graduate research students, and it provides students with a basis for life-long engagement with research conduct and utilisation. The programme aims to produce a cadre of clinical and academic researchers with the expertise to research topics relevant to health and social care, and who will contribute to knowledge development in the fields of nursing, midwifery, health systems, and related health and social services in Ireland and internationally.

Aims of PhD programme
The aim of the PhD programme is to provide students with the opportunity to undertake a focused and critical examination of a particular problem through a research traineeship. The PhD provides the context for a deep intellectual engagement with a topic, so that the student will develop the intellectual skills and related critical capacities for academic research and related scholarly activities. Through the process of research supervision and where appropriate, attendance at taught modular courses, the student undertakes formal research training, and it is expected that the product of PhD research will contribute to the development of knowledge in the field of study.

Overview of UCD structured PhD programme
PhD degrees may be completed on a full or a part-time basis. A full-time PhD will normally involve a registration period of not less than three (3) years and not more than four (4) years. For part-time students, the period of registration is usually not more than six (6) years. Regular attendance at school seminars and research events is expected. All students pursue a structured PhD programme in which they must progress through a Stage 1 to Stage 2 Transfer Assessment (see below). Education and training modules are required to be taken as part of this programme since September 2014.

The UCD Structured PhD Framework recognises that the essential elements of the PhD remain research, generation and dissemination of new knowledge, and progression of the candidate towards academic autonomy.

Key features of the UCD PhD include:
- A credit base facilitating the combination of taught elements and research activity
- Two stages with a formal transfer assessment
- A Research and Professional Development (RPD) Plan providing an individual student log of research progress, learning and achievement, which includes a Training Needs Assessment
- Transferable and research skills, delivered as credit-bearing modules or courses, supporting all areas of mentorship, personal development and career planning
- Doctoral Studies Panels supporting the supervision process and enhancing the quality of the doctoral student experience
- The Structured PhD Framework is underpinned by UCD regulations (2011): http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/regs_home.htm

Entrants to the PhD programme from September 2014 are required to undertake a minimum of 30 credits of taught modules as part of their doctoral training. These taught modules should be chosen because they enhance the research component of the work (the thesis) and should be identified in conjunction with your supervisor and doctoral studies panel.

Students must be available to attend the University for meetings, seminars, research training and doctoral studies panel meetings as required. Regular attendance at School seminars and research events is required unless an alternative arrangement has been approved, such as may arise in the case of overseas students.

An academic principal supervisor is appointed for each graduate research student (may have additional co supervisor appointed if required). Additionally a doctoral studies panel is appointed to monitor supervision and progress and to advise as appropriate.

PhD degree supervision

Supervisor (s)
As a graduate research student you will receive support, mentoring, guidance and advice throughout your programme of study from your supervisor(s). Prior to registration, you will already have been assigned your principal research supervisor. You may also be assigned a second supervisor during the course of your studies. While your principal supervisor takes responsibility for your overall supervision, your secondary supervisor (if assigned) may engage jointly in all supervisory activity, attending meetings and providing progress reports and feedback on draft chapters.

Doctoral Studies Panel
In addition to your supervisor(s), a *Doctoral Studies Panel* will be established for you. This panel will consist of the supervisor(s) and at least two other members of academic staff. The role of the *Doctoral Studies Panel* is to assist in monitoring and assessing your progress and to provide technical expertise and advice as appropriate.

The *Doctoral Studies Panel* (DSP) will have their first meeting within the first 3-4 months following registration, and again in the second half of the first year. Thereafter there should be a meeting at least once a year and more frequently if required. It is your responsibility as a student to be pro-active in engaging with the supervision process, including initiating a DSP if you need additional support.

For further information please refer to the P*olicy Document Code of Practice for Supervisors and Doctoral Students* for details on the role of the Principal Supervisor and the role of the second and additional supervisors (where these have been assigned), available to download at:
http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/researchs_code.pdf

PhD degree registration
Once accepted onto the PhD programme, you must confirm your registration online. Once registered online you can obtain a student card, which provides you with access to the wide range of facilities available to students at UCD.

In cases where fees are paid by a third party, it is expected that you pay these fees directly yourself by the specified date, and enter into a separate arrangement with the funding body to recoup the fee.

If you have not completed the accommodation and/or fees section it will appear that your registration is incomplete. You will not become fully registered until the full fees have been paid. For queries about registration, please contact Research Administrator at researchdegrees.nmhs@ucd.ie

Plagiarism policy

On being offered a place on a research degree, students are requested to complete a *Plagiarism Declaration Form* that applies to all drafts and final submissions of graduate work. For further information, please contact Research Degrees Administrator at researchdegrees.nmhs@ucd.ie

The School plagiarism policy can be located via the following link
http://www.nmhs.ucd.ie/sites/default/files/currentstudents/School%20Plagiarism%20Policy.pdf

The UCD plagiarism policy can be located via the following link and use A-Z index:
http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/pol.htm

PhD degree requirements for candidacy

The structured PhD Programme has two stages. 'Structured' components, as required, designed to broaden student learning are normally concentrated in the first stage. The first stage also involves the development of a research proposal. This stage must be completed satisfactorily before upgrading to Stage 2. The bulk of the research work is undertaken in the second stage. In order to progress to the second stage each PhD student must satisfy Candidacy Requirements A, B, C, D and E below. It is anticipated that full-time PhD students will have submitted their thesis within four years and part-time PhD Students will have submitted within six years.

Candidacy requirement A: Research and Professional Development Planning

You will be required to complete an Induction Programme and a Research and Professional Development Plan (The RPDP). Research and Professional Development planning is an integral part of your PhD programme. The purpose of such planning is to ensure that your work is clearly focused on achieving your research and professional 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 plan will also help you develop key skills that will be invaluable for both your current research and your future career prospects.

Each RPDP is specific to the student in question; it includes a training needs assessment of both generic and specific skill sets as required by each student during his/her PhD candidacy period. The RPDP is a set of tools designed to assist students in the planning and progress of their research and professional skills. The student will tailor the RPDP to his/her own needs by utilizing the aspects found to be most relevant. The RPDP is the property of the student, but is intended to be beneficial to both the student and the supervisor.

Your Research and Professional Development Plan will form the basis of discussions at your meetings with your supervisor and your Doctoral Studies Panel. A mandatory outcome of the meetings of your Doctoral Studies Panel is a formal record of your research and professional plans and your progress to date. Reports based on these plans will also be primary inputs to your Transfer Assessment, which determines whether you progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of your doctoral studies. Following each Doctoral Studies Panel meeting, you must return an electronic signed and updated copy of your RPDP to the Administrator at the SNMHS Office. **Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that your RPDP is completed and brought to each DSP meeting and is presented to your supervisor for his/her signature.**

Guidelines to assist you in producing your Research and Professional Development Plans are downloadable from http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentstudents/rpdp/
These should be used in conjunction with input and advice from your supervisor in preparing your plan.

Candidacy Requirement B: Coursework

If you entered the PhD programme from September 2014, you are *required* to undertake 30 credits of taught modules. (Students who entered prior to this date may be advised to undertake taught modules). In consultation with your supervisors, you will identify the modules most appropriate to your needs.

You may select from the advanced modules offered by the School, including modules associated with the School's taught master's programme, professional doctoral programme, or modules offered by other Schools within UCD. You are responsible for ensuring that you complete the requirements of the selected modules.

Once registered on a module, you will be expected to attend planned lectures, seminars and tutorials associated with the module, and to undertake all assessment components in order to be attain the credits for the module.

In the event of failure to complete a module your supervisor(s) may require that the module be repeated, or an alternative module undertaken. A module can be audited whereby you are required to attend the lectures but there will be no assessment component or credits awarded on completion. Further information on modules available can be located at http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/researchstudenttrainingsupport/

Candidacy Requirement C: Research seminar participation
You are required to participate in the School's research seminar series. You will be required to attend planned seminars and in consultation with your supervisor(s) you will be expected to present on an aspect of your research or on seminal work in your field (details will be provided following your registration). In addition to the School's seminar series, from time to time you will be advised to attend other seminars which may be relevant to your topic and/or your research method.

Candidacy Requirement D: Research Proposal
Students must actively engage in the development of a research proposal incorporating the production of substantive written materials supporting the case for the proposed study. This incorporates thesis chapters setting out aims, objectives, critical review of the literature and research design. This work is undertaken with the guidance and support of the supervisor(s).

Candidacy Requirement E: Transfer Assessment
A student should be in a position to prepare and defend his/her thesis proposal at a formal 'Transfer Assessment' normally following 12-18 months registration for full-time students and 18-24 months registration for part-time students.

In order to progress to Stage 2 of the PhD Programme you will be required to undergo a transfer assessment, involving the submission of written work followed by an oral defence of your work to a panel of assessors.

Before presenting for transfer assessment you should have demonstrated evidence of having completed a critical review of the literature. The work that you present must be substantive and written to a high scholarly standard.

Typically, you will be required to write a substantive piece of work incorporating a number of thesis chapters containing information on background to the problem, literature review, a statement of the problem, research questions, rationale, aims and objectives, and proposed research design. You will also be expected to include directions for future work and a completion plan. In addition you must submit your RPDP and reports from DSP meetings.

Your supervisor(s) will advise you on structure of the written work and will provide you with feedback on your work.

Your supervisor(s) will in advance of the transfer assessment submit a report on your progress to date, containing a recommendation on your progression from Stage 1 to Stage 2. Please see the University Policy on Progression in Doctoral Programmes at: http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/doctoralp_po.pdf

The assessors will submit a report as set out in Appendix 1. The Assessment Panel will, subject to review by the Head of School, normally make one of the following recommendations to the College Graduate School Board (http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/doctoralp_po.pdf Appendix 2)

 (i) that the student should progress to Stage 2 of the doctoral programme;

(ii) that the student should not progress to Stage 2 of the doctoral programme, and that:
      a) 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);
      b) the student should apply to transfer to another graduate programme utilising, where appropriate, any credits already accumulated in Stage 1 of the doctoral programme;
(iii)
      c) a recommendation be made to the University Programmes Board that the student's registration be terminated.

PhD by Publication

PhD theses can be presented for examination in either monograph style or in an article-based format (by peer reviewed journal articles). Monograph style is the conventional style in which theses are presented, where the work is laid out as a series of chapters, typically having the following structure: introduction, literature review, method, results and conclusions.

A PhD by publication refers to the format in which a number of research articles (usually between 3 and 5 articles), produced by the PhD candidate while a registered research student, are published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

The document submitted should include:
1)   an introductory chapter, including an explanation of the research question(s), the research subject, relevant literature and methodology,
2)   the published articles,
3)   a concluding chapter, in which the results of the research are summarised and discussed in the context of the literature.

Alternatively, the introductory and concluding chapter content (detailed above) may be combined into one introductory chapter followed by the published articles. Regardless of the style adopted, the overarching critical document should set the published work in the context of existing literature and should evaluate the contribution that the research in the submitted publications makes to the advancement of the research area. It should stress the coherence of these publications, linking them to the methodology adopted and the research question(s).

The published articles submitted must all relate to the same research question or set of research questions. Only publications based on work which was undertaken during the student's period of registration can be included. The publications included in the thesis may include jointly written papers, although the candidate must normally be the first author. Although, the number of articles required will depend on the scope of the work and on the candidate's contribution to them, it is expected that a minimum of 3 articles will be included (with 3-5 being the usual range). Where a candidate includes jointly-authored publications in their submission, they should declare the extent to which the publication is their work and this should normally be certified by all authors concerned. This statement should be bound with the other submitted materials.

Students are required to seek and obtain copyright permission with regard to their published work and will be required to include in the appendix a declaration stating that such permission has been given. Candidates must agree the final content of thesis, including the number of published papers and any related matters such as IP and confidentiality issues that may pertain to industrially sponsored research, with their supervisor(s).

Decision to submit using the 'by publication' format

PhD students, with the agreement of their supervisor(s), must decide as early as possible, usually by the end of year two, whether the thesis will take the form of a monograph or an article-based submission. Supervisors should provide guidance with regard to the potential duration of the peer review and publication processes, as doctoral candidates may not have a good understanding of this and be unduly delayed in submitting for the award because of lengthy peer review processes.

Candidates should indicate at a relatively early stage that they intend submitting in this format. For most students this means at transfer assessment stage. The transfer assessment provides an opportunity for the student to report specifically on the current status of publications, outline future plans for publications he/she feels are needed and to provide a summary of what the overview will contain.

Supervision of PhD by publication candidates

The candidate's supervisor(s) fulfil the same role as that of supervisor for a monograph style PhD and in addition should:
i)   guide the candidate in the selection of publications for inclusion in the submission;
ii)   guide the candidate as to whether further publications are needed;
iii)   support and advise on the development of the critical supporting document;
iv)   guide the candidate in relation to the coherence of the body of work to be submitted;

Students will be assigned a doctoral studies panel that fulfils the same function as in a PhD by monograph.
Please review Graduate School Board guidelines on PhD by publication which can be obtained from the administrator research degrees (researchdegrees.nmhs@ucd.ie)

PhD thesis examination process

Prior to thesis submission of your thesis you must have satisfied candidacy requirements and made satisfactory progress as attested by your doctoral studies panel. The thesis examination process is governed by the *Policy on Theses in Graduate Research Programmes* http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/gradthesisr_po.pdf

PhD theses may be submitted at any time providing your registration is in order and students should be aware of the deadline for submission within current registration which are outlined at:
http://www.ucd.ie/students/assessment/

The thesis is evaluated by at least one external examiner and also by one or two internal examiners appointed by the Research Degrees Committee in the School and approved by the UCD Graduate School Board and UCD Academic Council Examination Committee.   Your 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.

A student is required to defend his/her thesis through an oral examination; when the examiners agree the thesis is satisfactory the student will be awarded the degree of PhD. Should the Examination Committee recommend amendments to the thesis the student will be required to submit the suggested amendments before the degree may be awarded.

The examination process for PhD by publication is the same as for the monograph style PhD with the examiners making their decision on the basis of the written work and the student's performance in the *viva voce*. Although the student's published articles will have been subjected to a peer review process, this should not be taken as a guarantee of success in the PhD examination.

The UCD Doctoral Degree award descriptor identifies the outcomes required for a PhD degree award (Appendix 3) and in UCD Theses in Graduate Research policy
http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/gradthesisr_po.pdf

PhD thesis presentation and submission

Guidelines for the presentation of theses are available at:
http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/gradthesisr_po.pdf
In addition, the following School-specific requirements apply:

- o   The thesis should be presented in one volume
- o   A thesis submission form is required for acceptance by UCD Registry
  http://www.ucd.ie/students/assessment/thesis_forms.html
- o   Ensure you adhere to all guidelines provided by Assessment 'Assessing Graduate Research Theses'
  http://www.ucd.ie/students/assessment/index.html

Viva Voce **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 viva voce examination will **normally be held within two months of receipt of the thesis by the examiners** (this period is often extended due to the availability of all members of the examination panel).

It is the responsibility of the Chairperson of the *viva voce* to make all the arrangements for the oral examination. Viva voce examinations are normally held on campus. The School has facilities to complete a remote viva voce examination if required. Permission is required from Graduate School Board.   Further details are available on graduate webpage using following link:
http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/researchprogrammes/assessmentexamination/

Appeals process
A student who wishes to appeal a decision of an examination committee may do so through the procedures for a formal assessment appeal determined in the UCD Policy on Assessment Appeals. Information relating to Assessment Appeals can be found at: http://www.ucd.ie/appeals

Dissemination of graduate research

Research students are encouraged to publish from their thesis, and to present their research work at conferences and other appropriate sites for dissemination. In view of the intellectual input of supervisors in shaping the thesis, it is expected that supervisors will normally be named on publications and presentations arising from the work, with the research student (or graduate) as the first author. However, supervisors may decline from being named. **Discussion between the graduate student and the supervisor about the dissemination plan for the study is encouraged as part of the supervision process.**

Contribution to the School

All research students may be required to contribute to tutorials/clinical skills teaching for undergraduate students. This is useful experience and may be an important addition to your CV. Students should ensure that they are properly prepared and familiar with materials if contributing to teaching.

Student welfare

If students find themselves in any difficulties, be it personal, medical or financial, help should be sought from the supervisor or any other member of staff. The university also has a wide range of support services. Please see:

> http://www.ucd.ie/advisers/
> http://www.ucd.ie/stuhealth/
> http://www.ucd.ie/chaplain/

Requests for leave of absence and extensions.

For any requests please contact the SNMHS research degrees' administrator in the first instance and to clarify procedures and submission of documentation via email address: researchdegrees.nmhs@ucd.ie

There are University policies pertaining to the above, details for leave of absence are available on the website of the UCD Academic Secretariat
http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/loa_po.pdf

Requests must be made formally in writing to the Chairperson of the Research Degrees Committee (Dr Kate Frazer) and they will be brought to the Research Degrees Committee (RDC) for consideration.

Following the RDC meeting, the recommendation of that Committee is brought to the Graduate School Board at the College of Health Science Graduate School for approval.

The student is made aware of the outcome by the research degrees administrator.

University facilities

Library

The modern and well stocked central library is located within the building opposite the lake in Belfield. There are also other libraries, such as the health sciences library, Health Sciences Centre, located around the campus. The library catalogue can be searched online at www.ucd.ie/~library

Computing Services

IT Services handle all computing procedures, including email accounts and the university network. Once registered, students will be supplied by computing services with an email user name and password. **Any official UCD e-mail sent to students will be addressed to their UCD Connect address.** (Please consult the UCD *Student Email Protocol* on the webpage of the UCD Academic Secretariat). It is the student's responsibility to ensure time-critical e-mail is accessed, read and acted upon in a timely fashion. The official email address will be maintained in each student's record, from which distribution lists are compiled.

Useful contacts

Administrator Research Degrees
Dr Asmahan McCambridge
Email: researchdegrees.nmhs@ucd.ie
Tel: 01 716 6490

Director Graduate Research
Dr Kate Frazer
Email: Kathleen.frazer@ucd.ie
Tel: 01 716 6479

Graduate Seminars Coordinator:
Dr Kate Frazer
Email: Kathleen.frazer@ucd.ie
Tel: 01 716 6479

The Graduate School Webpage
http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/

Appendix 1

Related Approved Policies should be accessed from this link:
http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/pol.htm

Alternatively link to http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/
and click on '*policy*' tab and click on '*more*'.

The following policies should be accessed and are **listed A to Z and by title**:

Approved policies include the following:

- Academic Regulations
- Assessment Appeals Policy
- Code of Good Practice in Research
- Code of Practice for Supervisors and Doctoral Students
- Code of Practice for Conflict Resolution for Supervisors and Graduate Research Students
- Extenuating Circumstances
- Leave of Absence Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Policy for Split-Site PhD and other Graduate Research Degree Arrangements
- Stage 1 Transfer Assessment – 'Progression in Doctoral Programmes'
- Recognition prior learning
- Student Code
- Student email
- Theses in Graduate Research Programmes Policy
- Withdrawal Procedure

Use link to UCD assessment http://www.ucd.ie/students/assessment/index.html
for information on '**Assessing Graduate Research Theses'**.

Extensions: An extension on your period of registration may be applied for either with extenuating circumstances or without extenuating circumstances.

See under: http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/

Extensions: An extension on your period of registration may be applied for either with extenuating circumstances or without extenuating circumstances.

Application for permission to continue in the programme (beyond the prescribed period of registration) must be made to the Research Degrees Committee in the first instance.

Appendix 2

Assessment Panel's Guide for Transfer Assessment Report[1]

Name of Student
Title of Project:
Date:

The review focuses on two main areas:
   A) the academic value and progress of the work to date
   B) the ability of the student to complete the research work and manage the study to completion

Reviewer's Comments (please address questions as appropriate):

1. Has the aim of the research been placed in a suitable context?

2. Is there appropriate synthesis and critique of previous work?

3. Does the research activity to date demonstrate evidence of originality?

4. Does the student show a developing knowledge of the methods to be used in the study?

5. Does the work as presented appear to offer the capacity to make a contribution to knowledge and understanding of the topic?

6. Is the proposed study suitable in scale or scope for PhD level work?

7. Does the proposed research design appear satisfactory in terms of meeting the research aims?

8. Is the proposed study feasible and practical within the time scale?

9. Is there a work plan to move from upgrade to completion?

General Comments:

Specific Actions Recommended:

Recommendations (see the latest version of Academic Regulations)

The Assessment Panel will, subject to review by the Head of School, normally make one of the following recommendations to the College Graduate School Board
(http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/docs/doctoralp_po.pdf Appendix 2)

 (i) that the student should progress to Stage 2 of the doctoral programme;

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[1] This form is intended for guidance purposes only.

(ii) that the student should not progress to Stage 2 of the doctoral programme, and that:

    a) 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);

    b) the student should apply to transfer to another graduate programme utilising, where appropriate, any credits already accumulated in Stage 1 of the doctoral programme;

(iii)

    c) a recommendation be made to the University Programmes Board that the student's registration be terminated.

Appendix 3

Doctoral degree module descriptor

Title	Doctor (MD, PhD, DN, DM, DGov, DVMS, DEdPsych)
Class of Award	Major
Purpose	This award is characterised by a significant original contribution to scholarship, based largely on a major research project which is also complemented by the development of a range of transferable and professional skills. It may be used for career progression to advanced levels of academia and research.
Level	10
Volume	Large
Knowledge – breadth	A coherent understanding of the problems at the forefront of knowledge and potential approaches and solutions, as well as in-depth knowledge of the relevant scholarship in a particular field or discipline.
Knowledge – kind	A contribution through original research which extends the frontiers of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication.
Know-how and skill – range	• The capacity to recognise and evaluate problems; • Original autonomous thinking; • Capacity for critical analysis, reflection and evaluation; • Understanding and application of basic principles of project and time management, presentation skills and working in a collaborative capacity.
Know-how and skill – selectivity	• Critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas; • Formulation and application of solutions to research problems and effective interpretation of results; • Ability to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge-based society.
Competence – context	• Make a significant contribution to the application of knowledge and skill, including in novel contexts; • Exercise personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent contexts.
Competence – role	• Communicate results of research and innovation to peers; • Engage in critical dialogue both within academia and in other relevant contexts; Lead and originate complex social processes.
Competence – learning to learn	• The ability to reflect on the process of learning and achievement and a capacity to plan for personal, educational and career development; • Learn to critique the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts.
Competence – insight	Critical awareness of the global intellectual, social and cultural implications of developments in their own and other's area of research and expertise.
Progression & Transfer	None
Articulation	The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is awarded following successful completion of a programme of supervised research and advanced education and training. This programme may include articulation with a taught or research Masters (NFQ Level 9) programme, where there are in existence formal processes to assess the progress of a candidate and their suitability for advanced doctoral research and training.