

Doctoral Studies Programme (PhD)

What is the course about?

This is one of the leading programmes of its type in Europe. It attracts students from all over the world and from a diverse range of backgrounds.

The course is completed over four years in full time study but can also be taken in part-time mode with a minimum registration period of five years.

Our 'ivy league' campus setting is home to around 100 doctoral researchers, making it one of the largest doctoral programmes in Europe. To us our doctoral students are less 'students' and more young professionals who are partaking in a research education of the highest quality. Doctoral students are encouraged to develop their own research ideas and to choose their own preferred methodological approaches under the close guidance of a senior academic colleague.

We offer excellent taught programmes in the first and second years of the PhD programme so as to properly equip students with the skills to undertake their own research. Guided by the Research and Professional Development Programme, which is specifically designed to aid students, participants can plan and organise their coursework and research activities over the course of their studies.

Curriculum

The PhD seeks to strike a balance between the essential advanced taught component of the programme (which is necessary to equip students to undertake advanced research) and the research dissertation pursued by the student.

The PhD degree is awarded on successful completion of a structured programme of research, study and personal and professional development, prescribed by the student's supervisor(s), with the advice of the student's Doctoral Studies Panel.

There are three module sets.

Set 1 includes modules in research methods and associated courses. Students will select these courses following consultation with their supervisor and Doctoral Studies Panel. Some modules are, however, mandatory.

The modules for the coming academic year include the following :

- Research Principles
- Methodological Journeys and Techniques
- Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods 1
- Paradigms of Social Enquiry
- Approaches to Qualitative Research
- Philosophy of the Social Sciences
- Theory and Methods of Rules and Rulemaking
- Advanced Quantitative Techniques

Set 2 includes modules which are discipline specific. Such courses will be taken by the student in consultation with their supervisor and Doctoral Studies Panel.

Set 3 includes modules in generic transferable skills. These modules will be taken over the period of study for the PhD. Such modules include, for example, Core Research Transferable Skills:

- writing skills
 - research ethics
 - intellectual property rights
 - communication
 - presentation skills
 - information and communication technologies
 - interview skills and techniques
 - career planning
- and Advanced Research Transferable Skills:
- competitive research funding
 - proposal development
 - project management
 - funding your research
 - how to get published
 - technology transfer/entrepreneurship
 - module design for teaching
 - large/small group teaching strategies

Doctoral Studies Programme

Subject areas

Applications are welcome from candidates with an interest in the following broad subject areas.

- Accounting
- Banking and finance
- Management
- Management of Information Systems
- Marketing
- Industrial Relations and Human Resources

Entry requirements

A minimum of a 2.1 primary degree or evidence of an equivalent level of academic achievement is required. Degrees should be in Commerce, Business Studies, or an area related to the student's PhD subject area. English requirements see page 63.

There are three application review dates for the PhD Programme for the coming year. They are 31/01/2008, 31/03/2008 and 31/06/2008.

Subsequent applications may be accepted on an ongoing basis over the year.

Students also enjoy excellent study facilities and an opportunity to avail of our very attractive Ad Astra Scholarship Scheme, the value of which is in excess of €100,000 over a four year period of study.

Director of Doctoral Studies, Professor John Geary

Professor John Geary MA DPhil (Oxon.) is Director of Doctoral Studies and Post-Doctoral Training at the UCD College of Business and Law. His subject area is Industrial Relations and Human Resources. He has published widely in leading international journals and books across a range of topics, including developments in Irish and European employment relations, labour law, work organisation and employee voice; and industrial relations and Human Resource Management practices in multinational companies. John was formerly Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence (2001-2002) and Research Fellow, at the Industrial Relations Research Unit, Warwick Business School (1990-1993).



Doctoral Studies Programme

'I was very fortunate to be awarded an Ad Astra Scholarship. The Ad Astra Scholarship offers students both financial and developmental assistance during the PhD process. It afforded me the opportunity to leave full-time employment to pursue my PhD. As an Ad Astra scholar, I have participated in the Research and Professional Development Plan (RPDP). The RPDP has provided me with a roadmap for planning my research project over the duration of my PhD programme. This roadmap was developed with my supervisor and contains research objectives to be achieved and a number of milestones that I hope to reach during the course of my work. The RPDP gave me a clear focus and strategy for conducting my work.'

Margaret Mary Cullen, Ad Astra Scholar 2006

