



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

STRUCTURED PH.D.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCES (FULL/PART-TIME)

www.ul.ie/ehs/structuredphd

INTRODUCTION

This is a novel, Structured Ph.D. which will allow the student to complete a Ph.D. within 4 years (full-time). The research project will be sited within one of the Faculty's six Departments, but the taught elements will be shared across the Faculty, maximising learning opportunities for the students. It will promote a sharing of expertise and experience, which will lead to high quality translational research in accordance with the faculty mission to advance the wellbeing of people. Students may take modules in quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods research methodology, promoting a holistic view of the participants.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

The course aims to:

- 1. To provide a programme that is academically rigorous at a level appropriate to postgraduate research and consistent with standards nationally and internationally.
- 2. To educate students in all aspects of research and critical evaluation, including research methodologies, critical review and ethics.
- 3. To provide skills appropriate for research in professional contexts.
- 4. To provide education which will allow students to deliver translational research which has significance nationally and internationally.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

- Years 1 and 2:
 - In addition to beginning their supervised research project students will take the following taught modules:
 - research methods modules (18 credits); these may be chosen from a range of research modules within the faculty.
 - elective modules (18 credits); these are chosen from the range of post-graduate modules across the university.
 - core modules in Introduction to Doctoral Studies, Research Integrity, Entering The Academic Community and Post-graduate Skills Workshops.
- Years 3 and 4:
 - In addition to completing their supervised research project students will take the following modules
 - Post-graduate Professional Portfolio
 - Post-graduate skills workshops

CORE MODULES

- The research project** (270 credits) spans all four years, and is supervised by a primary supervisor from your home department. The final thesis may be completed as a monograph or in an article-based format.
- Introduction to doctoral studies** (6 credits) is designed to induct the student into good practice with respect to carrying out their Ph.D. Lectures and workshops will include, for example, principles and regulations for a Ph.D. at the University of Limerick, expectations of the student and supervisory committee and how to maximise supervisory guidance and information on seeking research funding. Exercises in critical review will support the student's study of the literature. In addition the student will learn about ethics in theory and in practice and in terms of making an ethics application within the faculty. In addition this first module will encourage the intake of PG students across the faculty to meet and work together.



- ▶ **Research Integrity** (3 credits) builds on the previous strand looking more widely at ethics in research. This will be a workshop based module, with a small number of initial lectures on good research practice and on research misconduct. Workshops will review and debate examples of good and bad research practice; and examine how investigations into research misconduct should be undertaken using a scenario-based approach.
- ▶ **Entering the academic community** (3 credits) will equip the student with skills to network with respect to their research. A series of workshops will allow the student to explore how to develop international contacts, get abstracts accepted at conferences, prepare good conference presentations and posters, run workshops and review abstracts.
- ▶ **Postgraduate School workshops** (3 credits). This module comprises an accumulation of credits obtained by attending workshops provided by the Postgraduate School. The workshops attended must accumulate to a minimum of 3 credits.
- ▶ **Postgraduate professional portfolio** (9 credits) will be a student-centred module, guided by the research supervisory team. Students will maintain a portfolio of activities such as attendance at invited speaker programmes and presentation at a conference. The portfolio will comprise documentation of the activities and reflective work reviewing the different experiences.

ELIGIBILITY

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ 1. Applicants will normally be expected to hold an Honours degree (minimum 2.1) or equivalent in a discipline appropriate to their area of proposed research.
- ▶ 2. Entry points may differ for applicants with post-graduate qualifications. Please contact the Course Director for further information.

APPLICATION FEE

A small application fee applies to all postgraduate programmes.

HOW TO APPLY

- ▶ 1. Applicants should in the first instance discuss their application with their potential supervisor, or with the Course Director.
- ▶ 2. The post-graduate application form may be downloaded from www.graduatestudies.ul.ie or may be obtained from Postgraduate Admissions. The completed form, including a short research proposal should be returned to postgraduate admissions.

Applicants who wish to discuss detailed elements of the programme may contact the Course Director, Professor Sue Franklin

Email: sue.franklin@ul.ie

The Faculty of Education and Health Sciences has research expertise in the following subjects:

Clinical Psychology
 Counselling
 Education
 Health Education/Promotion
 Medicine
 Nursing and Midwifery
 Occupational Therapy
 Physical Activity and Health
 Physical Education
 Physiotherapy
 Psychology
 Social Psychology
 Speech and Language Therapy
 Sports Science