This overview proposes a new structured 4-year PhD programme for the School of Communications that will act as the umbrella programme for candidate graduate students registered in the School with a focus of conducting discipline-based research. The student’s original research is presented in thesis format and this thesis is the sole means of assessment for the award of the PhD.

In addition, during their period of registration students can avail of a mix of modules to provide discipline specific knowledge, generic skills and autonomy to augment and support their postgraduate research. These will include:

- Up to 20 credits of core-discipline specific modules;
- 10 credits of core-generic and transferable skills;
- Up to 20 additional credits for selected elective modules.

Students would normally take 10 credits each year for years 1-3, with year 4 most likely focused exclusively on research, but discretion about the number of annual credits is permitted to suit the work programme of each student.

A student may register for alternative modules than outlined on this structure if the original module(s) are not available, provided the alternative meets the required research/graduate training objective as agreed with the Supervisor. Early notification of any change should be provided to the Research Administrator in the Faculty Office to ensure approval in the first instance by the Faculty Research Committee.

Along with level 9 modules appropriate level 8 modules may be taken following discussion with the Supervisor, Head of School and module coordinator.

It is policy in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences that all research students who are assigned any teaching-related responsibilities must complete GS602/A Postgraduate Tutoring Principles & Practice Module.

All research students in their first year of registration must also complete the self-directed online research integrity module RI-SB01 ‘Research Integrity Online Training - Social and Behavioural Science Stream’ (available via Loop).

Students should register for these modules via their Portal page through the Faculty’s GTE programme.

The Structured Pathway workplan for each student should be discussed and agreed in the first instance with the Supervisor and progress (including confirmation of completion of RI-SB01 and other modules) recorded on the annual PGR2 form.

Induction and Training
Research students are also encouraged to take advantage of additional training opportunities offered by the Graduate Studies Office as appropriate throughout their period of study. In year one at the time of initial registration new students are expected to attend orientation sessions, the GSO & library run programme and other relevant induction sessions.
School of Communications

Structured Doctoral Pathway 2016-17

Core Discipline-Specific

Year 1-3

Media & Communication Theory
- Theories of Communication (CM515)
- Understanding Social media (CM5002)
- Communication Theory and New media (CM556)
- Media Audiences & Consumption (CM536)

Journalism & Political Communication
- Social Media, Journalism & Democracy (CM563)
- Media & Politics in Ireland (CM569)
- Political Communication: Concepts & Issues (CM548)
- Political Economy of the Media (CM525)

Cultural Studies / Film & TV
- Sex, Sexuality & Popular Culture (CM587)
- Film Theory + History (CM524)
- Television Drama (CM581o)
- Visual Culture (CM585)

Science Communication
- Science in Media: Representation & Practice (CM5001)
- Science & Society (CM582)
- Philosophy, Ethics & Responsible Innovation (CM535)

Core Transferable Skills

Year 1

- Extended Induction Programme
- Research Integrity Online Training - Social and Behavioural Science Stream (RI-SB01) (Non-credit)

Elective Modules & Training

Year 1-3

- Qualitative Research Methods Summer School (NS5055) (Delivered by School of Nursing)
- Quantitative Methods for Social Science 1 (LG602)
- Personal & Professional Planning & Development (HR610)
- Intellectual Property & Commercialisation (GS601)
- Media Innovation & Enterprise (CM565)
- Uaneen Non-Contributing Module (UM405)

Students are also encouraged to engage with centrally offered workshops and seminars which align with their development needs at a given time.