Overview and Criteria
This document presents the structured PhD pathway for the Institute of Education. The pathway consists of a suite of modules and other development opportunities, to ensure that post-graduate research students registered in the Institute will be supported in conducting their research.

In line with DCU regulations, the student’s original research, presented in thesis format, will continue to be the sole basis for the award of the PhD. However, during their period of registration, students will also avail of a mix of credited modules (Graduate Training Elements - GTEs) and non-accredited educational opportunities to provide education-specific and generic knowledge and skills to augment and support their postgraduate research. The structured PhD in Education builds on the traditional PhD supervision approach, while at the same time endeavouring to develop students’ research capacity through the completion of a bespoke series of taught elements.

The Structured Pathway for each PhD student should be discussed and agreed in the first instance with the Supervisor. Full time students will normally take 10 credits each year for years 1-3, with year 4 most likely focused exclusively on research. Part-time students will normally take 5-10 credits during years 1 to 4. However, discretion about the number of annual credits is permitted to suit the work programme of each student. All research students in their first year of registration should complete the self-directed online (via Loop) research integrity module RI-S801. It is envisaged that students will engage with a mix of formalised taught modules on advanced specialist, professional and transferable skills. In recognition of students’ prior educational and life experiences, the precise nature of this mix will be agreed with their supervisory panel and/or Head of School and module coordinator.

The agreed plan for a particular year is captured by signing the GTE registration schedule. A copy of the signed GTE Registration Schedule should be retained by the candidate and the supervisor as proof of pre-registration approval for Graduate Training. It will not be necessary to submit the GTE Registration Schedule to Registry.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the student to get the Supervisor’s approval and to register for GTEs correctly. Students must register for GTE modules via their Portal page through the Faculty’s GTE programme.

Progress (including confirmation of completion of RI-S801 and other modules) is recorded on the annual PGR2 form.

Induction and Non-Accredited Training
Research students are advised to take advantage of additional training opportunities offered by the Graduate Studies Office or Institute 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. These non-accredited workshops and seminars are communicated to students via GSO at the beginning of each semester.

A PhD student may register for alternative modules than outlined on this structure if the original module(s) are not available. The alternative must meet the required research/graduate training objective as agreed with the Supervisor. Along with level 9 modules, appropriate level 8 modules may be taken following discussion with the Supervisor or Head of School and module coordinator. NOTE: there is an administrative process associated with adding additional modules. The Faculty Office must be notified in these circumstances.
Institute of Education

Structured Pathway 2016-17

Extended Induction Programme:
Coordinated by GSO over semester 1, including sessions in:
- Writing in the 1st year
- Citing, referencing and library skills
- Navigating and planning your PhD
- Research integrity training programme

Choose from these modules:
- MED511: SPD M.Ed Research Methods Quan. (10 Credits)
- MED212: SPD M.Ed Research Methods Qual. (10 Credits)

Required:
- RI-SB01: Research Integrity - Online via Loop (Non-credit)

Choose from these modules:
- LG602: Quantitative Methods for Social Sciences (5 credits)
- NS5055: Qualitative Methods Summer School (5 credits)
- LG600: Research Design (10 credits)
- GS608bs: Strategies for Academic Writing (5 credits)
- HR610: Personal and Professional Planning & Development (5 credits)

Choose from these learning opportunities:
- Writing in the first year of the PhD
- Tell it Straight communications competition
- Nvivo Training Level 1
- SPSS Training Level 1
- Other relevant workshops and seminars organised by GSO, School and Institute