

School of Communications

Structured Doctoral Pathway 2021-22

This overview proposes a 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 taken is permitted to suit the work programme of each student.

A student may register for alternative modules other than those 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.

Along with Level 9 modules appropriate Level 8 modules may be taken following discussion with the Supervisor and module coordinator.

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

All research students in their first year of registration must also complete the relevant stream of the self-directed 'Online Research Integrity Training Module'.

Students should register for their approved GTEs during the online registration process.

The Structured Pathway work plan for each student should be discussed and agreed in the first instance with the Supervisor and progress (including confirmation of completion of the Online Research Integrity Training Module 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. Year One students are expected to attend orientation sessions, the GSO- and library-run programme and other relevant induction sessions at the time of initial registration.

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Core Discipline - Specific

Year
1-3

Media & Communication Theory

- Understanding Social Media (**CM5002**) (10 ECTS)
- Media Audiences & Consumption (**CM536**) (10 ECTS)

Journalism & Political Communication

- Social Media, Journalism & Democracy (**CM563**) (5 ECTS)
- Media & Politics in Ireland (**CM569**) (10 ECTS)
- Political Communication: Concepts & Issues (**CM548**) (10 ECTS)

Science & Health Communication

- Science & Health in the Media (**CM534**) (10 ECTS)
- Strategic Communications in STEM, Environment & Healthcare (**CM5032**) (10 ECTS)
- Data Communication (**CM5033**) (10 ECTS)
- Climate Change & the Media (**CM5028**) (10 ECTS)

Core Transferable Skills

Year
1

- Extended Induction Programme
- Online Research Integrity Training Module (Social and Behavioural Sciences Stream) (non-credit)

Year
1-3

- Postgraduate Tutoring Principles & Practice (**GS602**) (5 ECTS)
- Research Methods (**LG608**) (5 ECTS)
- Research Methods (**CM570**) (10 ECTS)
- Strategies for Academic Writing (**GS608BS**) (5 ECTS)
- Advanced Academic Writing in the Humanities (**TP600**) (5 ECTS)
- Conference / Academic Event Organisation (**TP601**) (5 ECTS)

Elective Modules & Training

Year
1-3

- Qualitative Research Methods Summer School (**NS5055**) (5 ECTS) (Delivered by School of Nursing) (Limited places). Students must also register for summer school sessions separately).
- Quantitative Methods for Social Science 1 (**LG602**) (5 ECTS)
- Intellectual Property & Commercialisation (**GS601**) (5 ECTS)
- Research Ethics (**TP602**) (5 ECTS)
- Engaged Research (**CM602**) (10 ECTS)



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