

School of English

Structured Doctoral Pathway 2021-22

The School of English offers a graduate training pathway for students undertaking a four-year PhD. The structured doctoral programme will support and develop students' research skills and knowledge as well as assist in their acquisition of transferable skills that might be applied in a range of career pathways. The School of English's doctoral assessment continues to be based primarily on the examination of a written thesis based on original research and its defence at a viva voce examination. The School also supports students who wish to complete a PhD by Artefact, allowing for submission in a format that includes two substantial elements: a written document of at least 20,000 words and a substantial artefact or portfolio of artefacts. Irrespective of the format for submission, the standard by which the work is evaluated remains the same as doctoral awards through other formats: a significant and original contribution to knowledge in the field.

Graduate Training Elements (GTEs) support the students' research and writing by providing a range of opportunities to develop the necessary skills and understanding of postgraduate study. The GTE modules available include both credit and non-credit courses. Students who complete credit-bearing modules will receive a separate transcript of their courses.

The graduate training pathway provides a mix of modules that includes discipline-specific knowledge, generic skills and wider offerings that encourage students' autonomy in research. Modules selected by students should be relevant to and support their research and writing. They should discuss their needs with their principal supervisor who must approve the selected modules prior to registration. The School recognises that individual student needs may vary because of the distinct nature of individual research and writing. Students may follow the pathway overleaf or use it as a template to structure an individual pathway, to 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 normally take 10 credits each year for Years 1-3, with Year 4 most likely focused exclusively on research, but students can tailor their work programme to suit their needs. Students may include non-credit bearing courses in their pathway that, in discussion with their principal supervisor, are deemed appropriate to their needs. The Graduate Student Office provides a number of non-credited courses available to all students, including orientation and extended induction. Courses are also available through DCU library.

Mandatory modules

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 will be invited to complete this by an email from the Research Innovation Support office. All students who are assigned teaching-related responsibilities are strongly encouraged to complete the module GS602 Postgraduate Tutoring Principles and Practice.

Registration

Students should register for their approved GTEs during the online registration process. Along with level 9 modules, appropriate level 8 modules may be taken by students following discussion with their Supervisor and module coordinator. GTE modules taken should be noted in the student's annual progress report (PGR2), which should also include confirmation that mandatory courses are completed.

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Core Discipline - Specific

Year
1-3

- *Histories & Contexts (**EL501**) (10 ECTS)
- *Theories Critics Research Methods (**EL502**) (10 ECTS)

*Provisionally scheduled for 2021-22

Core Transferable Skills

Year
1

- Extended Induction Programme
- Online Research Integrity Training Module (non-accredited)

Year
1-3

- Postgraduate Tutoring Principles & Practice (**GS602**) (5 ECTS)
- Strategies for Academic Writing (**GS608BS**) (5 ECTS)
- Advanced Academic Writing in the Humanities (**TP600**) (5 ECTS)
- Conference / Academic Event Organisation (**TP601**) (5 ECTS)
- Research Ethics (**TP602**) [5 ECTS]

Elective Modules & Training

Year
1-3

- Uaneen Non-Contributing Module (**UM405**) (5 ECTS)
- *Picturebooks and Film (**EL503**) (10 ECTS)
- Engaged Research (**CM602**) [10 ECTS]

*Provisionally scheduled for 2021-22



Students are also encouraged to participate in suitable centrally-offered workshops/ seminars and to attend conferences.