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 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.

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

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