

# School of Law & Government

## Structured Doctoral Pathway

This overview proposes a new structured 4-year PhD programme for the School of Law & Government that will act as the umbrella programme for graduate students registered in the School with a focus on 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 and develop 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 will 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 to 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. 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 and Practice.

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.

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### Core Discipline-Specific

Year  
1

- Research Design (LG600) (10 Credits)
- Quantitative Methods for Social Sciences 1 (LG602) (5 Credits)
- Qualitative Methods (LG603) (5 Credits)

### Core Transferable Skills

Year  
1

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

Year  
1-3

- Postgraduate Tutoring Principles & Practice (GS602/A) (5 Credits)
- Personal & Professional Planning & Development (HR610) (5 Credits)

### Elective Modules & Training

Year  
1-3

- Advanced Writing Support for International Students (LC602) (5 Credits)
- Summer Schools / Marie Curie ETN's (5 to 20 credits)

Methodological techniques training may require students to attend half day workshops on different techniques from a range offered at school/faculty level



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