

Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City University



Research at the DCU  
Institute of Education

# Research at the DCU Institute of Education

DCU's vision is to transform lives and societies through education, research and innovation, and to be recognised internationally as a research-intensive University of Enterprise with a focus on translating knowledge into benefits for society and for the economy.

From 2016 the strengths and expertise of four of Ireland's leading institutions of education and training will be incorporated into one as the new Dublin City University (DCU) Institute of Education.

Together the School of Education Studies at DCU, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra (SPD), the Mater Dei Institute of Education (MDI) and the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE) will combine to create the **largest critical mass of education expertise in Europe**, spanning the **full education continuum** from Early Childhood through Primary and Second Level to Third and Fourth Level.

The Institute of Education's **internationally significant** scale will build on the **pioneering research in priority areas for 21st Century education** previously undertaken by the four partner institutions, who collectively house multiple authoritative sources of influence on education policy development.

In the Institute of Education, students will enjoy the energy and sense of community for which the colleges are renowned, while benefiting from the dynamism and award-winning facilities that the new entity brings.

While maintaining its secular context, the Institute will include two Denominational Centres in the Roman Catholic Church and Church of Ireland/Reformed Christian traditions and will engage with schools and educational communities across Ireland and beyond.

The establishment of the DCU Institute of Education heralds a new era for education in Ireland. The process to bring the four institutions together (known as the DCU Incorporation Programme) has already commenced. In addition to establishing the new DCU Institute of Education the Incorporation Programme includes an enlarged Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at DCU that will incorporate the combined wider strengths of the four institutions in the Arts and Humanities.

One of the most important milestones in the Incorporation process will come in September 2015 when all incoming SPD



and MDI first year postgraduate research students will register as DCU students.

These students will study in an **innovative centre of excellence in education** which will provide a stimulating environment for postgraduate and postdoctoral research. That centre will combine the long and distinguished academic tradition of the older institutions with the ambition of DCU, one of Europe's best 'young' universities.

**World-class research** at DCU stems from the academic excellence of its Faculties (DCU Business School, the Faculty of Science and Health, the Faculty of Engineering & Computing, the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences and following completion of the incorporation process, a fifth faculty, the Institute of Education). DCU has an emphasis on translating knowledge into innovations for societal and economic benefit. Beyond specific disciplinary research, DCU's activities focus on all aspects of education, health technologies and aging, the digital society, sustainability, and democratic and secure societies. The outputs of research in these areas are **translated into innovations and deliver societal, economic and cultural impact**.

DCU postgraduate research students benefit from a **University that is engaged with 'real-world' challenges** and that prepares them for success throughout their lives. DCU has achieved an eight-fold increase in research expenditure since 2000 and has published approximately 2600 peer-reviewed papers in the last five years. Our current research expenditure is in the region of €40m p.a. and over €100m has been invested to date in the capital development of our research facilities. Our resources enable researchers to **collaborate across disciplines** and to **interact with partners in educational, commercial, social and cultural enterprises**. DCU is a dynamic and ambitious University and is currently ranked in the **top 4% of universities worldwide** and in the **world's top 'young' universities**.

# Research Programmes

DCU's higher degrees by research, including the Ph.D. and Ed.D., are among the highest academic qualifications conferred by the University. They are awarded to successful candidates on the strength of a body of original work of scholarship prepared and presented in accordance with internationally accepted academic standards.



- The University's higher degrees by research include: Master's by Research, Doctor of Philosophy, Ph.D. and Professional Doctorate, including Ed.D. Doctor of Education.
- Candidates for a postgraduate research degree follow a programme of research and training, the duration of which depends on the particular degree and mode of study (full-time or part-time):
  - The DCU Ph.D. Programme is normally completed over 4 years if undertaken on a full-time basis, and 5-6 years part-time.
  - The DCU Ed.D. Programme, which is usually part-time, is normally 4 years.
  - The DCU Master's by research programme is 2 years full-time, and 3 years part-time.
- DCU's research programmes are governed by the University's Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis.
- Research candidates' progress is formally monitored, and progression is dependent on compliance with the relevant regulations.
- Research degrees are awarded, without classification, to successful candidates on the strength of a body of original work of scholarship prepared and presented in accordance with internationally-accepted academic standards - the submitted thesis is examined by external and internal examiners, and all doctoral candidates undergo a viva voce (oral) examination.

## [The DCU Ph.D. / research Master's Programme:](#)

The core component of the Ph.D. or research Master's Programme is the advancement of knowledge through original research. Students have an option to undertake graduate training modules in addition to their research project to enhance the development of their generic and disciplinary skills, although the Ph.D. or research Master's degree is awarded solely on the basis of the final thesis. In some cases modules are mandatory. Students may also have the opportunity to develop teaching skills within their discipline.

## [The DCU Ed.D. Programme:](#)

The Ed.D. is a research degree for experienced professionals from education and related fields who would like to extend their professional understanding and develop skills in research, evaluation and high-level reflection on practice. The Ed.D. Programme aims to foster professional development through research as well as meeting the requirements of rigour and originality expected of a doctorate. It includes assessed taught courses, research-focused workshops and supervised original research. The intention is to educate an existing and emergent educational leadership in the Irish context to the highest possible international standards. The next intake on the DCU Ed.D. will be in 2016.

## [DCU strongly supports its research students:](#)

- Each research candidate is assigned a member of academic staff to act as Principal Supervisor. The Principal Supervisor will lead the candidate's Supervisory Panel whose role is to supervise and advise the candidate and monitor his/her progress throughout the Programme.
- Orientation and induction programmes are run each year by the Graduate Studies Office to help research students quickly become familiar with their environment and effective researchers.
- DCU offers its research students:
  - A multi-campus environment focused on innovation, internationalisation and interdisciplinarity.
  - A suite of training options in advanced disciplinary and transferable skills, specifically designed for research students.
  - Access to world-class resources and the best support and training to ensure that students develop creative mind-sets, and are equipped to become leaders in their chosen fields.

# Applying to DCU

## Minimum Entry Requirements

In order to be admitted directly to the Ph.D. register in DCU, candidates must hold a Master's by Research degree.

Candidates with a taught Master's degree, or an honours primary degree grade I or II.1, may be admitted to the Ph.D.-track register in the first instance, and progress to the full Ph.D. register in Year 2 of their studies following successful completion of an oral examination and submission of a report.

In order to be admitted to the research Master's register, an honours II.2 primary degree is required.

The Ed.D. Programme is cohort-based and has specific entry requirements and an application process open at specific times. The next intake to the Ed.D. Programme will be in 2016, and relevant application information will be published on our website in advance.

For more details on DCU's entry requirements, see: [www.dcu.ie/registry](http://www.dcu.ie/registry)

## English Language Entry Requirements for non-native speakers of English

**IELTS** - Overall score of 6.5 or above, with no less than 6.0 in any one component

**Toefl iBT** - Total Score of 92

For more information on the language examinations accepted, see: [www.dcu.ie/registry](http://www.dcu.ie/registry)

## Application Procedure for Ph.D. / research Master's programme entry:

1. **Check that the DCU entry and English language requirements are met:** Please see above or visit the DCU Registry website for full details.

2. **Define a project, find a supervisor and explore funding options:**

Before making a formal application to DCU, candidates must first agree a research project with a member of academic staff. Candidates should contact the relevant academic staff member in St Patrick's College Drumcondra, Mater Dei Institute of Education or Dublin City University School of Education Studies to discuss the project and their candidature.

3. **Assessment of application:** Once a member of academic staff is willing to supervise the project, it is usual for a research proposal to be submitted to the appropriate unit for assessment. The assessment process may also involve an interview and/or the submission of written work. Applicants are notified of the outcome by email and if successful, are invited to make a formal application to DCU.

4. **Make a formal application to DCU:** All formal applications to undertake postgraduate research in DCU must be made online through the Postgraduate Applications Centre ([www.pac.ie](http://www.pac.ie)). It is expected that the PAC system will be open in early 2015 to applicants intending to study with Principal Supervisors in St Patrick's College, Drumcondra or Mater Dei Institute of Education. PAC applications require:

- Evidence of qualifications
  - A project proposal
  - Agreement of at least one Principal Supervisor to supervise the project
  - Approval of the appropriate unit to which the application is being made
  - Payment of a non-refundable application fee
- DCU Graduate Studies Office 'How to Apply' webpage has further details on making a PAC application [www.dcu.ie/graduatestudies](http://www.dcu.ie/graduatestudies)

5. **Notification of outcome:** If successful, applicants will receive a formal offer from DCU Registry and can then register with the University. Most students begin their studies in September.





**DCU has a tradition of highly collaborative research, and our external partnerships with national and international bodies are continually growing in all areas relating to education.**

# DCU Institute of Education research programmes

## [St Patrick's College, Drumcondra](#)

[www.spd.dcu.ie/site/research](http://www.spd.dcu.ie/site/research)

St Patrick's College offers a Professional Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.), and M.A., M.Phil., M.Ed., and Ph.D. research degree programmes

in all areas of:

- Education
- Human Development
- Special Education

It has specific research expertise in:

- Assessment
- Curriculum and Professional Studies
- Digital Learning
- Early Childhood Education
- Educational Leadership
- Ethics and Education
- Intercultural Education
- Language and Literacy (in English and Irish)
- Mathematics Education
- Physical Education
- Science Education
- Special and Inclusive Education
- Teacher Education

Its research centres include:

- The Centre for Human Development
- The Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship Education
- The Educational Disadvantage Centre

### Contact:

St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9  
[research@spd.dcu.ie](mailto:research@spd.dcu.ie) / +353 1 884 2149

## [Mater Dei Institute of Education](#)

[www.materdei.ie/research](http://www.materdei.ie/research)

The Mater Dei Institute offers a Religious Education pathway in the DCU Professional Doctorate (Ed.D.) programme, and M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. research degree programmes in:

- Education
- Religious Education

The School of Humanities and the School of Theology in Mater Dei Institute have specific expertise to enable interdisciplinary research between education and the following disciplines:

- English
- Ethics
- History
- Irish Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Theology

The Research Centres of the School of Education at Mater Dei Institute include:

- The Centre for Excellence in Post-Primary Teacher Education
- The Irish Centre for Religious Education

### Contact:

Mater Dei Institute of Education, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3  
[postgraduateoffice@dcu.ie](mailto:postgraduateoffice@dcu.ie) / +353 1 808 6517

## [Dublin City University School of Education Studies](#)

[www.dcu.ie/education\\_studies](http://www.dcu.ie/education_studies)

[www.castel.ie](http://www.castel.ie)

DCU offers a Professional Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.), and M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. research degree programmes in:

- Equality, Inclusiveness and Human Development
- Teacher Education, Youth & Professional Studies
- Educational Quality, Innovation and Evaluation
- Technology, Innovation and Society
- Sustainable Futures
- Higher, Adult, Further and Vocational Education

It has specific research expertise in pedagogy in science and mathematics subjects

### Contact:

Dublin City University, Glasnevin, Dublin 9  
[joe.ohara@dcu.ie](mailto:joe.ohara@dcu.ie) / +3531 700 5351

### [For more information:](#)

For further information on research at St Patrick's College, Mater Dei Institute and Dublin City University please see:

[www.spd.dcu.ie/site/research](http://www.spd.dcu.ie/site/research)

[www.materdei.ie/research](http://www.materdei.ie/research)

[www.dcu.ie/research](http://www.dcu.ie/research)

[For full information on international study at DCU please see:](#)

[www.dcu.ie/international](http://www.dcu.ie/international)