

The Structured PhD at NCAD

Overview

This aims to provide a two year foundation to PhD study, in addition to supervised doctoral research on a nominated topic. Completion of the doctoral modules of study will be part of the annual review of academic progress and students will have to have successfully completed all these modules (have achieved ABD status) and gained the requisite credits before proceeding from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of the programme being the full-time, research based study (or part time equivalence).

Year 1

Semester 1

INDUCTION to Stage 1.

Research methods for creative and critical practice I (10 credits T)

Thematic Seminar 1/ Presentation student work in progress

Individual supervised research / Supervised writing tasks

Semester 2

POSTGRAD SYMPOSIUM

Scholarship, and the studio/field - proposal writing and research design (5 credits T)

Individual supervised research

PROGRESS REVIEW end Year 1.

Year 2

Semester 1

Research methods II: conducting and reporting field work (10 credits T)

Subject Seminar / Presentation student work in progress

Individual supervised research

POSTGRAD SYMPOSIUM

Semester 2.

Professional Development/ Pedagogy Workshop (5 credits T)

Thematic Seminar 2: Presentation student work in progress

Individual supervised research

PROGRESS REVIEW transition Stage2

YEAR 3. (Stage 2) SUPERVISED RESEARCH AND WRITING UP

T=Education & Training modules

Year 1 = 90 credits (15 credits of education & training modules, the balance dissertation work)

Year 2 = 90 credits (15 credits of education & training modules, the balance dissertation)

Year 3 = 90 credits

Following years = 90 credits

The entire PhD programme has a nominal minimum of 270 credits total effort, including a nominal 240 credits original doctoral research.

MODULES OF STUDY

Research Methods for Creative and Critical Practice 1: an introduction to the methodological demands of doctoral research in the creative arts with the emphasis on paradigms and exemplars of practice rather than abstract epistemological argument. This is delivered to all students on an interdisciplinary basis and is concerned with the integrated field of art and design studies. Assessed by each student producing a literature review/ review of cognate creative work related to their planned dissertation (10 credits)

Thematic Seminar 1. This provides both a staff and visiting lecture programme around a designated theme, and an opportunity for students to make brief presentations of work in progress. The emphasis is on sharing research perspectives and field experience and also facilitating the development of skills of explication and presentation.

Not Assessed

Scholarship and the field, proposal writing and initial research design: This workshop provides support for students in refining their research proposals, adequately identifying their research questions, on the basis of reviews of the relevant literature and bodies of cognate art work, developing and implementing their research design, considering the project management of this. The emphasis is on the concrete discussion of exemplars of good research practice in the field of the creative arts and on analytic comment on live projects.

Assessed by submission of a research dossier containing: research proposal, research design document, fieldwork/studio project planning document, critical contextualization of the research plan (5 credits)

Research Methods for Creative and Critical Practice 2: conducting and reporting field research.

This module assists students in the implementation of their research plans and dealing with the challenges of the field, including, negotiating fieldwork, ethical considerations, challenges of documentation, issues of reflexivity, reporting, analysis and critical contextualization.

Assessed by outline fieldwork/studio report with identified timelines. (10credits)

Subject seminar/presentation of work in progress: This provides both a platform in a subject specialism with presentations from key subject staff in fine art, visual culture, design and education, and an opportunity for candidates to present work in progress and to elaborate the critical context of their work, including bodies of practice.

Not assessed.

Professional Development and Pedagogy Workshop: This addresses the professional development of the doctoral student as artist and pedagogue and supports the aspiration that Phd candidates should have the opportunity to engage in undergraduate or other teaching and/ or other forms of structured social engagement/ commercial practice.

Assessed by placement/activity report on supervised activity (5 credits).

Thematic Seminar 2: This provides both a visiting lecture programme and an opportunity for students to present work in progress, including studio work, with peer critique of this. Attention will be given to publication/exhibition outcomes. Not assessed.

Committees required to support doctoral studies and examination are:

(i) The Supervisory Committee, which comprises the Principal Supervisor, a Second Supervisor supervisor(s), and external advisers (where appropriate). The purpose of the Supervisory Committee is to support and enhance the supervisor-student relationship, to monitor the progress of the student through their doctoral studies, and to provide advice and support to the student.

(ii) The Assessment Panel, which is established by NCAD to assess students' progress at any formal progression point within the structured PhD via a progress review. The Assessment Panel will oversee the formal transfer assessment procedure from Stage 1 (completion coursework) – Stage 2 (dissertation proper).

(iii) The PhD Examination Committee (Viva committee), established by NCAD, with examiners appointed subject to approval by UCD, and which, after submission of the dissertation, examines the student, and makes a recommendation to Academic Council of NCAD and hence forward to UCD regarding the award of the degree.