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**DCU Business School  
PhD Opportunities**

**Exploring the learning experiences of first year university  
Students**

**Project Area/Topic**

The study will focus on exploring the learning experiences of accounting and business students during their first year at university. It may examine, among other things, students' motives, expectations and preparedness for higher education, their learning conceptions and strategies and their academic self-confidence. The study will be informed by prior literature concerning student learning in higher education and will draw on a range of educational theories. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods may be employed in conducting this study.

**Entry Requirements**

To be accepted to the PhD programme, applicants must hold a Masters degree by research from a recognised university. Applicants who do not hold a Masters by research (i.e. those with a taught Masters) may be considered for the PhD-track programme. If progress is satisfactory after the first year – judged by work in progress and an oral examination – the scholar may then transfer to the PhD programme.

This study may suit graduates from a wide range of disciplines, including but not limited to, education, psychology, accounting/business.

**Application Procedures**

Applicants should submit their CV and a research proposal (approx. 3,500 words) by email to: Ms. Rachel Keegan at [rachel.keegan@dcu.ie](mailto:rachel.keegan@dcu.ie)

Guidelines on how to structure a proposal can be found at:  
[http://www.dcu.ie/dcubs/research\\_proposal\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.dcu.ie/dcubs/research_proposal_guidelines.pdf)

Informal enquiries about these positions may be made to Dr Barbara Flood [barbara.flood@dcu.ie](mailto:barbara.flood@dcu.ie) or Prof Marann Byrne [marann.byrne@dcu.ie](mailto:marann.byrne@dcu.ie).