

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL



Postgraduate Research Opportunities

Programme Overview

DCU Business School is a vibrant research community providing research support to postgraduate students that is unrivalled in Ireland. We currently offer two postgraduate programmes, the Ph.D. programme (full- and part-time), and the part-time Professional Doctoral Programme.

In the Ph.D. programme, we offer support including supervision by experienced researchers and top-class research facilities. There are also taught modules and workshops, provided as part of the DCU Graduate Research Education Programme. For excellent applicants, DCU Business School offers research scholarships.

The Professional Doctoral programme (PDP), which is the first of its kind in Ireland, combines scholarly academic theory-building with professional practice at the highest

level. It is divided into two phases, the taught phase and the research phase, and offers business professionals the opportunity to extend their knowledge and professional capacities in one of five specialist areas: finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, human resource management and organisational behaviour, and strategic management. Successful completion of the programme leads to the award of the DBA (Doctor of Business Administration).

Aims and Objectives

Undertaking a research degree facilitates in-depth study in a discipline in which the student already has a good academic grounding. DCUBS also encourages inter-disciplinary research, where the student has appropriate knowledge in cognate areas. The research programme also provides for the development of skills in organising, undertaking, presenting and managing research projects that will stand to the graduate in whatever career he or she pursues afterwards. Having a research degree marks you out as someone with both specialist knowledge in your discipline and the ability and commitment to manage and complete a demanding and challenging piece of academic research.



Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirements are as follows:

Ph.D. Programme

Ph.D. applicants should hold a Masters degree by research from a recognised university. Applicants who do not hold a Masters degree by research (i.e. even if they hold a taught Masters) may be registered as research Masters students (Ph.D.-track). If progress is satisfactory – judged by work in progress and an oral examination – they may then transfer to the Ph.D. programme. For those interested in applying for a Masters degree by research, a good honours primary degree is necessary (preferably at least 2:1) in the discipline in which they intend to undertake the research.

PDP Programme

Minimum entry requirement is a second class Masters degree (or equivalent) in an appropriate discipline. In addition, applicants must hold or have held a position involving managerial responsibility for at least four years. They must also have the full support of their organisation for the research they propose to undertake.

Ph.D. Programme Structure and Application Procedures

In the Ph.D. programme, students are supported throughout their studies by an experienced supervisor (or supervisors) who is (are) expert in the chosen topic. During their studies students will attend certain modules and workshops as part of the Graduate Research Education Programme run by DCU. Progress is monitored on an ongoing basis and students are required to attend six monthly review meetings. The programme is designed to be completed in three or four years. During this time students are encouraged to attend research seminars and workshops, present their work at conferences, and publish their work in scholarly journals.

Application Procedures

Applicants should prepare a brief proposal (of around 1,000 words), including references to related literature, and send it to any lecturers in DCU Business School whose research interests are closely related to their proposal. If no members of faculty have undertaken, or are interested in undertaking, research closely related to that of a proposal, it is unlikely that the proposal will be accepted.



If you wish to pursue postgraduate research at DCU Business School, therefore, you should make sure that your proposed topic is close to the research interests of one or more members of faculty. Once you have established, through your correspondence with relevant member(s) of faculty, that there is interest in your proposal, you will most likely be asked to complete a more detailed proposal (of around 15-20 pages) which should:

- clearly outline your chosen research question,
- display your familiarity with relevant literature relating to your overall research question in appropriate research journals,
- show how your question is located in the relevant research literature,

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- indicate the contribution your research will make to this body of research, and
- suggest possible methodologies that may be appropriate for your study.

This should be submitted to the following e-mail address with a copy of your curriculum vitae including names of two academic referees: **phdbusiness@dcu.ie**

Each proposal will be assessed by various members of staff, who have an interest in the chosen research area, including those with whom you have already corresponded. The purpose of this process is to ensure the best possible 'fit' between potential supervisor and applicant. If a staff member indicates a willingness to accept an applicant, the applicant must complete an official application form (PGR1) which can be found on the DCU Registry website at:

www.dcu.ie/registry/forms/pdfs/PGR1.pdf

If English is not your first language, you must submit evidence of having passed a recognised examination in English, including the result obtained, with your application form. Before any applicant can be accepted s/he will have to be formally interviewed.



Scholarship Opportunities for Ph.D Applicants

DCU Business School is currently expanding the number of full-time Ph.D. students and seeks exceptional candidates for its generous scholarships. The DCU Business School considers applications from both EU and non-EU applicants for a limited number of funded places. These will carry an attractive annual scholarship of €15,000, fees paid by DCUBS, and access to €5,000 conference and research funds over the duration of the scholarship. Given that there are more applicants than scholarships, applicants are also encouraged to apply for other scholarships and grants.



PDP Programme Structure and Application Procedures

The PDP Programme affords senior managers the opportunity to undertake research on issues and problems of direct relevance to their own professional interests and organisational requirements. This research is transformational. Participants will be challenged to change managerial practice, including their own, as well as to understand it. The programme prepares participants for advanced professional leadership by enhancing reflective practice skills, by extending the breadth and depth of their specialist knowledge and by developing their research skills.

The programme is divided into two phases, taken in parallel: the taught phase and the research phase. In the taught phase, participants undertake coursework, which will aid them in the process of refining and developing their research. In the research phase, participants complete their doctoral theses guided by an academic supervisor.

The Taught Phase

The taught phase is of two years' duration, during which participants take five modules. These modules aim to develop advanced specialist academic knowledge, to refine intellectual enquiry, to explore professional practice and to develop a range of practical research skills.

The Research Phase

In this phase, the participants engage further on the development of their research into a completed body of work, the thesis. All participants will be assigned an academic supervisor at the beginning of the

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programme. Supervisors will assess progress and give guidance to help the participant fulfil the requirements for successful completion of the thesis. Participants will present their research to date, every six months, to a Review Board.

Application Procedure

To apply for the Professional Doctoral Programme, the applicant must complete the (PGR1) application form. This form can be found on the registry website at:

www.dcu.ie/registry/forms/pdfs/PGR1.pdf

In addition to the completed application form, applicants should also submit a research proposal of at least 3,000 words in length. This research proposal should include the following information.

- A broad outline of the nature of the intended research
- A rationale for choosing this area
- A review of the academic literature(s) pertinent to the proposed research
- A discussion of the applicant's professional experience relevant to the proposed research
- Demonstration of access to one or more organisations as a context for the proposed research, such as letters from key players within these organisations.
- A discussion of how the proposed research might benefit both the applicant and the participating organisation.

Completed applications should be marked Professional Doctoral Programme and should be posted to the following address: Catherine Gallagher, The Registry, Dublin City University, Dublin 9.



Your application should include the following:

- A completed application form
- A research proposal of no less than 3,000 words in length
- Evidence of support from organisation(s) participating in proposed research
- A passport-sized photograph

Short-listed applicants will be called for an interview. Interviews will take place in the first three weeks of September.



Current Research Activities

The following is an overview of some of the research activities currently being undertaken by individual staff members and research groups within DCU Business School:

Learning, Innovation and Knowledge Research Centre – LInK

(www.link.dcu.ie)

LInK is a university designated research centre engaged in a variety of cross-disciplinary and international research projects. The focus is on the creation and dissemination of knowledge and innovation both within and between organisations. The centre brings together researchers from DCU, University College Cork, National College of Ireland and the Royal College of Surgeons to work on a variety of projects that include knowledge creation and transfer, management education and development, leadership, commercialisation, distance learning, professional careers, and work-life balance. There are currently over 40 academics and students attached to the centre.

The Applet Research Group

The Applied Learning Technology Research Group (APPLET) is dedicated to the advancement of education worldwide through applied learning technologies. The core research themes include: the discovery and use of digital education resources, competitions as a stimulant of interest in science and technology, ICT procurement in education, and ubiquitous learning.

Centre for Consumption Studies

(www.ccs.dcu.ie)

The Centre for Consumption Studies is a School recognised research initiative and forms a cluster of researchers interested in how people consume identity such as visual culture via the creative arts, applied learning technologies, and more broadly how we consume within consumer culture.

The Enterprise Process Research Centre (EPRC)

(www.dcu.ie/eprc)

The EPRC is a multi-disciplinary, cross-faculty, collaborative cluster comprised of experts from the schools of business, mechanical and manufacturing engineering, computing, and nursing at DCU. Its mission is to carry out research projects that analyse, model and improve the enterprise-wide processes designed to deliver goods and services within public and private sector organizations.

Edgeworth Centre for Financial Mathematics

(www.dcu.ie/dcubs/edgeworth_financial_math.shtml)

The Centre brings together researchers in mathematics and financial economics in Dublin City University, University College Cork, and University of Limerick, with practitioners from financial institutions. Two interdisciplinary and inter-institutional teams investigate the modelling of financial markets and the pricing and hedging of financial instruments, using a broad spectrum of methods in stochastic analysis, econometrics, and computational finance.

Centre for Research on Student-Learning and Teaching (CReST)

(www.dcu.ie/dcubs/crest)

Several members of the DCUBS Accounting Group have been actively engaged in high quality research that aims to develop a contextualised understanding of student learning. This work has explored such issues as students' approaches to learning, students' motives, expectations and preparedness for higher education, the experience of learning within professional accounting education, students' perceptions of accounting, occupational reality shock, factors influencing accounting students' career decisions, and accounting within the school curriculum.

Individual Staff Members Research Interests

For information about individual staff members research interests and publication, please visit our website at www.dcu.ie/dcubs/staff_research_interests.shtml



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Further Information

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For further information on research activities within
DCU Business School please visit our webpage at:

www.dcu.ie/dcubs/dcubs_research.shtml