





Pillar (HEA principle)	The UCC Structured PhD - Compulsory Requirements	
1 Advancement of knowledge through original research; employment market wider than academia.	 Core activity is thesis research to normal UCC examination standards.	
	 Students will formally engage in their own career development, and will attend both large-scale and individualised career development activities during their study.	
2 A high quality research experience and training.	 Induction (central and Graduate School elements) to introduce students to research principles.	
	 Introduction to appropriate high-level research principles and methodologies in a supportive research environment.	
3 Formalised integrated programme of education, training and personal and professional development activities, and the development of discipline-specific knowledge, research skills and generic / transferable skills.	 Completion of training needs analysis with supervisory team, leading to development of a Research Student Learning Plan detailing the agreed development goals for each student, based around the IUA PhD Skills Statement.	
	 Completion of modules relevant to their background and area of research (which may include academic modules), and activities, to a minimum value of 15 credits and a typical value of 30 credits (includes any modules taken under pillar 2 above)	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Optional Elements</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">  External engagement (e.g., modules and internships) to develop relevant skills. </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">  Participation in communication activities such as Doctoral Showcase, Boolean. </td> </tr> </table>	 External engagement (e.g., modules and internships) to develop relevant skills.
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4 Arrangements for supervision and mentorship.	 Supervision either by a supervisory team consisting of more than one academic and/or research staff member or by a sole supervisor with a named PhD Advisor.	
5 Formal monitoring of progress.	 Annual (at a minimum) reviews of research progress, in line with UCC policy in this regard, completion of structured training elements as documented in the Learning Plan, and application of processes for informal and formal resolution of difficulties if these should arise.	
6 Successful completion and examination of the research thesis is the basis for the award of the PhD degree.	 Structured preparation (e.g., workshops) in later years for thesis preparation and examination	
	 Degree awarded solely on the basis of the thesis examination.	
7 Four year registration the norm.	 Minimum three year registration will remain the norm, unless funding is in place for four years. Only where a student is registered for 4 years can more than 30 credits be undertaken.	