



## Thinking of applying to the Cohort PhD in Education at UCC

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Who should apply?

In keeping with its strong emphasis on research, the School of Education UCC offers a Cohort PhD programme in Education which welcomes applicants, both national and international. Cohort PhD researchers in Cohort 1 (2008), Cohort 2 (2011), and Cohort 3 (2019) have been or are working in schools (teachers and school management), adult/further education sectors, third level (lecturers in university), and others working in the field of education (agencies, government departments) or cognate areas of professional practice with an interest in developing their expertise in teaching, learning, assessment and/or policy analysis.

#### How long does it take?

The PhD programme will involve undertaking four taught modules to the value of 40 credits spread over three years (two modules in Year 1; one module in Year 2; and one module in Year 3). It is envisaged that the Cohort PhD degree will be completed in four years although, of necessity, the speed of completion will depend on the candidate's progress on his/her thesis. The candidate must complete a 60,000-word doctoral thesis under academic supervision. Acceptance onto the PhD programme also depends on the availability of suitable supervision within the School. Information on the School's research is available on its website <http://www.ucc.ie/en/education/>

#### How is the programme structured?

Modules provide a structure along three strands, each of which will contribute to the formulation of the student's doctoral thesis: (i) educational inquiry, (ii) research methods and (iii) policy and pedagogy. Module sessions will run over the first three years with a three-day summer school in Years 1 and 3.

### When are modules offered?

Modules sessions will typically take place on Saturdays: Nine Saturday sessions and a Summer School in Year 1 (spread over October to May and a Summer School in first week of July); Six Saturday sessions in Year 2; Three Saturday sessions and a Summer School in Year 3.

### What qualifications do I need to apply?

- At least a Second Class Honours, Grade 1 degree, and an appropriate Postgraduate Diploma and/or Master's qualification with at least Second Class Honours. In exceptional circumstances applicants with suitable professional qualifications and professional experience may be considered.
- At least three years relevant professional experience in Education or cognate field.
- Demonstrate evidence of good writing ability.

NOTE: All candidates who meet shortlisting criteria will be interviewed. For non EU Entry Requirements please contact the International Education Office by email at: [annemarie.scarry@ucc.ie](mailto:annemarie.scarry@ucc.ie).

For a more complete statement of the rules governing the PhD Degree, see [Cohort PhD in Education | University College Cork, Ireland \(courseleaf.com\)](https://www.courseleaf.com).

Applicants will be required to submit statements with their applications which must include the following –

**Research interests**, which must include each of the following headings:

- What area/topic do you plan to research?
- What research experience do you have?
- What is the significance of your research area/topic and why does it motivate you?

**Motivation and Readiness**, which must include each of the following headings:

- Why do you want to do a PhD?
- What elements of doing a PhD do you expect to be most demanding for you?
- What elements are you most looking forward to?

**Apply online at [UCC's application system](#) for September 2024 intake. Applicants should select 1. Postgraduate Studies; 2. Academic Level: *Postgraduate Research*; 3. Course Type: *PhD-Thematic*; 4. Academic Programme: *Cohort PhD in Education -Thematic PhD*.**

**Closing Date: February 26, 2024**

### CONTACT/FURTHER INFORMATION

Anita Cronin [a.cronin@ucc.ie](mailto:a.cronin@ucc.ie) AND Claire Dooley [c.dooley@ucc.ie](mailto:c.dooley@ucc.ie) (job-sharing).



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