

## **Publication-based Theses**

UCC permits Publication-based Thesis. In the first instance, the PhD candidate should discuss presenting their work as a Publication-based Thesis versus in the more traditional format with their supervisory team.

The research described in a Publication-based Thesis is presented in the form of a set of manuscripts or other scholarly outputs from the work undertaken during the PhD student's period of registration, typically with each manuscript forming one chapter of the thesis. In the case of students accepted under the PhD by Prior Published Work policy, scholarly output undertaken prior to their registration as a PhD student may be included. The typical work included will be in the form of peer-reviewed journal articles, but in certain disciplines it is recognised that other formats (i.e. peer reviewed conference proceeding or chapters in books) may be a recognised final scholarly output. The work should not consist of a series of publications reporting essentially the same data or findings to separate readerships. Presentations at conferences which are not the final dissemination of the work concerned are not usually regarded as suitable for inclusion in such a thesis. As the thesis is a draft document for examination, PDF versions of articles or other outputs as appear in press should not be included in the body of the thesis, but rather the corresponding document in text-based manuscript format; copies of published material could be included for information in an Appendix to the thesis.

A typical Publication-based Thesis will normally include at least one paper published in a peer reviewed academic journal or equivalent, and others in press, submitted, or planned for submission. In all cases, a key consideration for the Examiners is whether the quantity and quality of work presented represents an appropriate level of scholarly output for a Doctoral thesis in the discipline concerned.

All papers in a publication-based thesis should fit around the pre-approved coherent PhD topic. The thesis should be prepared as a text-based word-processed file (e.g. files with a .doc extension) that may be edited to accommodate amendments required by the examiners. Normally, the files used should be the final manuscript files submitted prior to publication. However, there does not have to be an exact correspondence between the published articles and thesis versions as, for example, additional material may be included in versions of publications included in a thesis, or sections contributed by others, which, are not necessary for the thesis version, may be removed.

Publication-based Theses must include, as well as the works themselves, a substantial and original introduction and discussion to tie together the work. The introduction will typically take the form of a review of the relevant literature and an explanation of the scope and objectives of the work described in the thesis; the discussion or conclusion should form a critical synthesis or analysis of the overall contribution of the work to the field concerned.

The student must normally be first author and key contributor to the papers presented in a Publication-based Thesis, although disciplinary differences concerning policy on authorship will be respected.

In all cases where papers presented in a Publication-based Thesis have multiple authors, the individual contributions of the student and the co-authors to the paper should be clearly specified for each article, and Examiners will be asked to judge in the viva-voce examination that the overall level of contribution and intellectual ownership of the work by the student is at the requisite level for the award of a PhD. In such cases, students are expected to inform co-authors of the inclusion of such work in their thesis, and quantify the extent of such additional input.

All elements submitted within the thesis, including material already published, are under examination by the Examiners, and amendments to the version of the work included in the thesis as a text-based document (i.e., not the PDF of the published article) may be required. While presentation of work which is publishable in whole or in part as a work of serious scholarship is a key criterion for the PhD examination, publication of work does not in any way predetermine the outcome of the examination.