

(Author)

Academic Council Graduate Studies Committee

(Title of Item)

Proposal to Award an integrated Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship as part of the UCC PhD

Action requested Approve

Background rationale Entrepreneurship and Innovation are key transferable skills listed on the IUA PhD Graduates' Skills Statement. This proposal aims to incentivise PhD students to develop these skills during their PhD programme by awarding a Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship (NFQ Level 9, Minor Award) to students who successfully complete 30 credits over three years.

Alignment to Strategic Objectives/External Policy Driver This proposal enhances UCC's structured PhD programme by offering a dedicated award to students who are interested in Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship and wish to develop their skills in this areas and is aligned with the Irish Universities' Graduate Skills Statement.

Resource Implications N/A

Brief description / summary of the item PhD students registered for PhD since October 2013 are required to take a minimum of 15 credits of coursework and training over the course of the PhD, with the expected norm being 30 credits over the programme. ACGSC proposes that the Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship should be available to all students registered for a PhD in UCC to enable students who are interested in completing the required credits over a three year period to obtain the PG Cert. The proposal is subject to the PG Certificate having viable numbers to run and to clarification from the QQI in terms of the double counting of credits. The model is already running in other Universities, and in UCC through the PhD in Engineering Science.

Proposal on Integrated Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship

Academic Council Graduate Studies Committee 19/10/2016

Background

PhD students registered for PhD since October 2013 are required to take a minimum of 15 credits of coursework and training over the course of the PhD, with the expected norm being 30 credits over the programme. Students may take coursework and training up to a maximum of 90 credits as part of 4 years of PhD study.

The PhD (Engineering Science) is a thematic structured PhD programme and students are required to successfully complete a minimum of 30 credits of taught modules by the end of Year 3. The programme provides 2 streams of study for students. These are:

- PhD – Stream 1: 36 months, 30 credits of taught modules
- PhD – Stream 2: 48 months, 55 credits of taught modules

Students registering for PhD – Stream 2 undertake a total of 30 credits from modules related to innovation, commercialisation and entrepreneurship. Successful completion of these modules leads to the students being awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship (NFQ Level 9, Minor Award).

Proposal

The Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship is a part-time programme taken over a minimum of one academic year up to a maximum of three academic years. The programme is open to graduates from all disciplines.

The course director, Dr. Brian O'Flaherty, has proposed that, in addition to those students registered for stream 2 of the PhD in Engineering Science, the Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship should be available to all students registered for a PhD in UCC.

ACGSC is in favour of this proposal on the following grounds:

1. The Irish Universities' PhD Skills Statement lists Entrepreneurship and Innovation as one of seven key transferable skills.
2. Three of the modules are already offered as PG-coded transferable skills modules.
3. The proposed certificate will be available to students across the four Colleges
4. The model of having an integrated certificate as part is currently in place in TCD and UCD. The TCD-UCD Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship is currently being marketed as a free additional qualification for students aimed at enhancing employability. Offering an integrated Certificate can act as a selling point for UCC.
5. The cert will be awarded once a student has completed 30 credits over a three year period.
6. ACGSC proposes that additional awards be limited to the PhD Graduate Skills outlined in the skills statement (such as entrepreneurship, ethics etc) in order to set clear parameters

If approved the programme coordinator will need to liaise with the Offices of Academic Affairs regarding the process for registering students, returning marks, exam boards etc.