



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Coláiste  
Dochtúireachta  
Doctoral  
College

A photograph of three graduates in academic regalia. On the left, a man in a red gown and black cap holds a rolled-up diploma. In the center, a woman in a red gown and black cap with a red tassel also holds a diploma. On the right, another woman in a green gown and black cap holds a diploma. They are standing outdoors with trees in the background. The image is partially overlaid by a white diagonal shape containing text and a green vertical bar on the right side.

# Undertaking a **Postgraduate Research (Masters or PhD) Degree** at UL

**#StudyAtUL**



# Overview

Established in 1972, the University of Limerick (UL) is an independent, internationally focused university with over 18,000 students and approximately 2,000 staff. The University's mission is to build on the expertise of our scholars in creating, harnessing, and imparting knowledge for the benefit of our students and the enrichment of our community.

UL is a young, energetic, and enterprising university with a proud record of innovation in education and excellence in research and scholarship. The University offers programmes across a wide range of disciplines within four faculties, including arts, business, engineering and construction, health and medicine, information and communication technology, law, mathematics, and natural sciences.

The University is recognised as possessing one of the most spectacular and environmentally sympathetic third-level campuses in the world. The campus has unrivalled sports and cultural facilities including Ireland's first Olympic-size swimming pool, an indoor sports arena, a boathouse with a state-of-the-art indoor rowing tank, the 1,100-seat University Concert Hall. The campus is located 5km from Limerick city and 20km from Shannon International Airport.

Adjacent to the University is the National Technology Park (NTP), Ireland's first science/technology park (263 hectares), which is home to over 80 organisations employing over 3,000 people. Further information can be accessed from the [University of Limerick website](#).

## Undertaking a Postgraduate Research Degree

The University offers Postgraduate Research (PGR) Awards at two levels, Master's by Research (Level 9) and PhD/Structured PhD (Level 10). Prospective PGR students may apply for admission to a Postgraduate Research programme on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The Postgraduate Research (PGR) Committee meets monthly to review all new Postgraduate Research applications. The start date for your research programme should be agreed with your potential supervisor.

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### How to Apply

How you apply to undertake your PhD or Research Masters will depend whether you have agreed on a draft research proposal with your proposed UL academic supervisor(s).

A prospective applicant who **has not** identified a supervisor should complete an expression of interest (EOI) form available from the [How to Apply Webpage](#) and include a CV (maximum three pages) and a two-to-three-page research project proposal.

These documents need to be returned to [Doctoral.College@ul.ie](mailto:Doctoral.College@ul.ie) who will circulate to the appropriate Faculty/Department/School in search of an available supervisor.

A prospective applicant who **has** identified a supervisor and has agreed to a research project with their supervisor should complete the postgraduate research application form.

Application forms for are available from the [How to Apply Webpage](#).

You will need to ensure that your postgraduate research application form is fully completed and include a copy of your official transcript of results for all examinations mentioned on your application form (non-UL applicants only), your research proposal and where relevant a confirmation of English Language certificate that is accepted by the University of Limerick.

Your documents can be returned to your supervisor and to the Doctoral College by email [Doctoral.College@ul.ie](mailto:Doctoral.College@ul.ie)

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### Preliminary Discussion with a Potential Supervisor

When a potential supervisor agrees to have a preliminary discussion with you, be sure to discuss the following items:

- Why you want to register for the PhD/Master's by research programme
- Your academic background, academic awards or highlights
- The match between your academic background and that of the supervisor
- Your research experience and proposed research project

## Entry Requirements

An appropriate master's or equivalent qualification that has been obtained from a University or other institution that is recognized by UL following a period of study similar to that required in UL.

*or*

A bachelor (honors) degree with a minimum award of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honours, Grade 1 or equivalent.

*or*

Candidates with a minimum of four years' acceptable professional experience may be considered for entry under the **Handbook of Academic Regulations and Procedures**, (Chapter 5, section 5.4)

Applicants are required to demonstrate a high level of competence in the English language. Applicants who have not undertaken their undergraduate degree or master's degree through the medium of English must provide evidence of their proficiency by achieving a minimum standard of English in a recognised **English language test**.

Results in examinations other than those listed under the accepted English language test may also be accepted as meeting our English language requirements.

Further to this, offer holders who do not meet the English language requirements above, can if they wish study pre-sessional English language classes at the **UL Language Centre** which is located on the UL Campus. For more information on preparatory language classes, please email [languagecentre@ul.ie](mailto:languagecentre@ul.ie)

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## Doctoral Studies – Research Review Panel

In addition to your supervisor(s), your academic department or school will appoint a Research Review Panel annually to assess and review your progress and to provide advice and support to you and your supervisor(s).



## Research and Professional Development Planning and Skills Training

Research and professional development planning and skills training is an integral part of the Structured PhD programme at the University of Limerick. The purpose of such planning is to ensure that you are clearly focused on achieving your research and professional development goals.

As a PhD student, you will be expected to have the advanced research and analytical skills required to undertake high-level research in your field. You will also be expected to develop a range of transferable skills relevant to your degree and career development. To assist you with your studies, taught modules, online modules, workshops and Summer Schools covering a wide range of transferable skills and research skills topics will be offered by your department or school and by the Doctoral College. Credits associated with these modules will be recorded on your academic transcript. Traditional PhD students also have an opportunity to undertake modules if they desire.

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## Postgraduate Research Scholarships and Funding

### External Funding

Many research students are supported from external sources of funding such as:

- Irish Research Council Scholarships
- Various research grants industry, government departments and agencies, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), Enterprise Ireland (EI) and the European Union (EU)
- The level of external postgraduate funding will vary in accordance with the funding source and the terms and conditions specified by the funding body.

### Internal Funding

Postgraduate research scholarships which are usually advertised annually (April/May) include:

- Named Benefactor Scholarships
- Plassey Centre Residential Scholarships
- A limited number of Faculty EU and non-EU Fee scholarships

Up to date information on scholarships and funding for research students are on the [Doctoral College website](#).

## Visa and Immigration

Visa application and Immigration support for non-EU Postgraduate Research Students is offered by **UL Global Office**.

For any visa or Immigration, related queries please contact [ULGlobal@ul.ie](mailto:ULGlobal@ul.ie).

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## Fees

Further information on the schedule of fees for research postgraduate students is available from **the Fees Office**.

## Further Information:

**Doctoral College,**  
Level 2, Foundation Building,  
University of Limerick,  
Limerick, Ireland.

Email: [DoctoralCollege@ul.ie](mailto:DoctoralCollege@ul.ie)

[ul.ie/research/doctoral-college](http://ul.ie/research/doctoral-college)



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