A close-up of a logo

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**Research Postgraduate Expression of Interest Form**

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
   
Family/Surname Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Telephone number (include international dialling code): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Full Address for Correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Country of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Degree(s) awarded to date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Level of Award (BA/BSc/MA/MSc/MEng): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Awarding University or Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Award Classification ( First (1st); Second Class Hons Grade 1(2:1) Second Class Hons Grade (2:2):  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Overall QPA/QCA/ Average Grade e.g. 3.60/4.0 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Year(s) of Graduation (e.g. June 2009):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Master's thesis/dissertation completed:   
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have not yet completed your Primary Degree please indicate when you are due to graduate:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Research Interests: Please provide details of the research area or structured PhD programme in which you wish to study. Please note a separate draft research proposal **must** be submitted in addition to this form. See guidelines below:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate supervisor's name and Faculty, Department/School:   
  
Prospective applicants should review PURE UL’s [**Research Information System**](https://pure.ul.ie/en/persons/) to identify potential supervisors and their associated areas of research interest.   
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Are you self-funded? Please circle as appropriate: Yes or No

Do you have a funding source (Government Agency) to pursue your research degree?, if so please provide details:   
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you intend to apply for a scholarship to fund your research? If yes, indicate which scholarship you will be applying for or how you intend to fund your studies?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
If English is not your first language please indicate the score you achieved if you have completed an English language proficiency test. Table below outlines some of the acceptable [**English Language Requirements**](https://www.ul.ie/research/doctoral-college/how-to-apply)**.**  
TOEFL score \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IELTS score \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [**English Language Entry Requirements**](https://www.ul.ie/research/doctoral-college/how-to-apply) | |
| IELTS | Overall score of 6.5 or above, with no less than 6.0 in any one component |
| TOEFL | A minimum score of 580 (paper-based) or 90 (internet-based) |
| Uni of Cambridge ESOL Examination | Grade C or higher on a Certificate of proficiency in English (CPE) Grade A on a Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) |

**--------------------------------------------------------  
Please complete this form and attach a separate research proposal. Both documents should be returned to** [**DoctoralCollege@ul.ie**](mailto:DoctoralCollege@ul.ie)

**Writing a Research Proposal: Guidelines for Research Postgraduate Applicants**

Please see below the guidelines that apply to various faculties.

**Prospective applicants should be aware that UL do not accept Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated proposals. While AI tools may be used as an aid in editing, a proposal must demonstrate original thought, critical engagement, and the applicant’s independent academic contribution. Submissions that are AI-generated will be rejected**.

**AHSS**

A clear, concise and well-organised research proposal should include the following:

• A description of the topic with suggested title, indicating the general aims of the research

•An explanation of the main concepts and theories relevant to the research and of the proposed methods of investigation;

•How does the research differ from previously published work in the field

• A research plan, indicating time scales;

• The reasons for wishing to undertake the research at the University of Limerick;

•A short bibliography, mentioning chief works of reference.

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**Business**

**Template to be Followed for Research Proposals**

* Description of proposed research including critique of the relevant literature and alignment to research topic (1000 words)
* Quality and appropriateness of research design and methodologies (500 words)
* Justification and contribution of study (appropriateness of research questions/objectives and proposed contribution to knowledge) (500 words)
* Feasibility of the proposed research plan in terms of time frame, deliverables and contingency (200 words)
* Consideration of the relevant ethical issues and sex/gender dimension (100 words)
* Clarity of plans to acquire new knowledge and skills to achieve research aims (where appropriate) (200 words)
* Clarity of dissemination and knowledge exchange plans in terms of proposed target publications (200 words)
* Clarity of potential impact of research beyond academia e.g. impact in terms of practice, policy etc. (200 words)
* Evidence of plans to apply for funding during PhD programme e.g. to the Irish Research Council or other funding bodies both nationally and internationally (100 words)

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**Education & Health Sciences**

A well-structured proposal should ideally include the following:

•Dissertation topic outlining general purpose of the research

•Research objective and/or hypotheses

•Justification of choice of objectives from an academic viewpoint

•Proposed research methodology indicating what is to be studied and how data will be collected

•Time schedule - a brief outline of the proposed schedule for the research

•Resource requirements •Bibliography/references

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**Science and Engineering**

Research Proposal should be a maximum of 2 pages long and must use the following headings:

* Project Title,
* Background,
* Objectives,
* Work to be done,
* Methods to be used,
* Novel aspects,
* Scientific or Engineering theoretical issue(s)