



PURPOSE

Good Practices in Research Attractiveness

University College Dublin: Smurfit Business School PhD programme

Presentation

UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School is a member of a number of internationally renowned alliances, giving their doctoral students the opportunity to participate in a wide range of PhD seminars and workshops. In particular, the school of business is a member of the strategic alliance CEMS which objective is to foster doctoral education, EIASM, which seeks to advance the study of Management in Europe, or EDAMBA which promotes cooperation and facilitates the exchange of information and PhD candidates between its members.

As entry requirements the a PhD programme at the UCD Smurfit school, a candidate must hold one of the following:

- a minimum 2.1 primary degree in Commerce or Business Studies, or in a subject closely related to the proposed area of study;
- an appropriate Master's degree (or equivalent) from a recognised higher education institution
- evidence of academic standing and/or relevant professional experience proving the applicant's suitability for doctoral studies

Applicants must also submit a 1000-word research proposal outlining the chosen topic, the nature, scope and methodology of study, the relevance or importance of the topic and a preliminary literature review.

The tuition fees for a full-time programme are, for an EU citizen €6,530 per annum, and for a non-EU citizen €12,575 per annum. The Business School's Centre for Doctoral Research provides funds to support attendance at conferences, seminars and workshops.

Description

The PhD is structured into two stages. Stage 1 is an initial period of advanced education and normally comprises 90 ECTS credits. At the end of Stage 1, students may apply to transfer to Stage 2, which is largely dedicated to original doctoral research, but may also include taught modules. Students with a relevant Master's degree by research may be admitted directly to Stage 2.

All PhD students are required, with the support of their Doctoral Studies Panel, to develop a Research and Professional Development Plan that describes the student's educational, training and personal and professional development needs.

Taught courses include research methodology, advanced disciplinary knowledge, and personal and professional competencies. The modules on research methodology focus on philosophical positions in social science research, quantitative methods, qualitative methods and research management and design. In addition, all students are required to complete a course on Research Integrity Training.

Discipline-specific modules are also available along with the opportunity to take modules that focus on other competencies, such as teaching and communication skills. In addition, PhD students can also benefit from extensive training in transferable skills and research management skills offered to all PhD students in UCD.

Students whose native tongue is not English are strongly encouraged to avail of the English for Academic Studies programme offered by the Applied Language Centre, UCD and provides students with a focused learning experience through which they can improve their language proficiency.

Results - impact

The Smurfit website contains a significant listing of its graduates – their names, thesis title, subject area and the name of their supervisor. The website also lists current students by name, their thesis title and the name of their supervisor.

See <https://www.smurfitschool.ie/thesmurfitexperience/alumnistories/>

Transferability - improvement

The Smurfit Graduate Business School reputation is challenging to replicate, taking both time and successful high profile graduates. Similarly, access to the CEMS and EDAMBA networks is dependent on developing this good reputation.

However, the concept of an international peer network is achievable – such an international network could be developed amongst similar ranked third level colleges. The early stage of such an initiative, could be to build on partnerships with third level institutions developed over EU projects and to look at the Erasmus student programme – both of these would utilise existing linkages, allowing for a shorter leading time to develop and run a pilot network.

Further information

<https://www.smurfitschool.ie/>

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