



Good Practices in Research Attractiveness

PURPOSE

University College Dublin / Innovation Academy complementary modules

Presentation

The UCD Innovation Academy delivers complementary modules for MSc students and PhD candidates in the area of innovation as an opportunity to broaden their skills in a dynamic, multidisciplinary learning environment.

The modules are open to current UCD PhD Candidates from any discipline. To register the students must have permission from their PhD Supervisor.

All UCD Innovation Academy modules are delivered online in the 2020/21 Academic Year. Classes run from 9.30am – 4.30pm each day with a combination of live online classes, self-directed learning and group activities.

All Innovation Academy modules take a learning by doing approach, combining, individual, group and team activities, tasks and projects including presentations, discussion and reflection:

- Active/task-based learning
- Peer and Group work
- Reflective Learning
- Enquiry & Problem-based learning
- Student Presentations
- Case Study Learning

Description

The 6 modules on offer are the following:

1) Design Your Purposeful Life

The aim of this module is to enable students to plan and reflect upon their learning, career and life goals using Design Thinking and other approaches.

2) Creative Thinking & Innovation

The aim of this module is to help participants to access their innate ability for creative thinking and innovation in its broadest sense, and to consider how to develop an opportunistic mindset in exploring ideas in a multidisciplinary team environment. This module is delivered through activity-based exercises and interactive challenges at both individual and group level.

3) Design Thinking for Innovation

This module is designed to provide the participant with a comprehensive and in-depth experience of Design Thinking, culminating in the presentation of a creative, innovative solution to a complex real-world challenge of an external host.

4) Entrepreneurship: Application & Mindset

The purpose of this module is to develop the participants' entrepreneurial mindset - helping them see the world, think and act in a more entrepreneurial manner - either for starting their own business or for leading initiatives within an organisation.

5) Exploring Intellectual Property

This module introduces students to the issues and actions associated with quality, value, identification and protection of intellectual property. This include an exploration of copyright, patenting, trademarks, industrial design and know-how as well as ways to derive value from the 'protectable' and the 'unprotectable'.

6) Communicating for Impact

The purpose of this module is to enable students to effectively communicate their ideas, project, research or potential venture to a broad range of audiences both in person and online.



P u R P O S E

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Transferability - improvement

The Innovation Academy offering is not a PhD programme, rather it is a suite of 6 modules that are complementary to a wide range of PhD programmes, and introduce candidates to the concepts of innovation and entrepreneurship. As such, it doesn't require the development and approval of a full PhD programme, so it should be possible to use the model and develop a suite of modules.

The Innovation Academy model is an exciting model for two reasons:

- i) It is expected that PhD candidates will be domain experts and technically competent, but frequently lack the entrepreneurial skills that would help them develop an idea or iterate an innovation, because their formal education generally omits these skills. By taking these 6 elective modules, PhD candidates can focus on their domain expertise but also learn critical business skills;
- ii) The elective modules are an innovative way to introduce the concepts of entrepreneurship, innovation and Design Thinking to those not undertaking a PhD in those specific fields;

Further information

More information and participants' testimonials are available on:
<https://www.innovators.ie>