Index to Theses:

This database covers a comprehensive listing of theses with abstracts accepted for higher degrees by universities in Great Britain and Ireland since 1716. Last updated 12 May, 2012, there are now 576,832 theses in collection (343,680 of which have abstracts). You connect to this database from the library Database web page - [http://www.dit.ie/library/databases/](http://www.dit.ie/library/databases/) - then click on “Index to Theses”.

Clicking on “Search” from the homepage automatically brings up the “Quick Search” window. Here search terms can be entered using Boolean operators And, Or, or And Not to clarify the search. Phrases should be put in quotes.

If the quick search is not adequate, or you are searching for theses from certain universities or in specific subject fields, you can switch to 3 other search options—Simple Search, Standard Search and Advanced Search.

The Simple Search:
The Simple Search allows you to input search terms in specific fields—Title, Author, Abstract—as well as to choose a specific University or subject Class from drop-down lists, and Year of writing.

You can search using only a single search term in a single field if you wish. (E.G., you may want to find all dissertations by one specific author.) Or you can run a more sophisticated search using more fields and/or selecting a Year, University or Class. Boolean operators and phrase searching may also be used in a simple search as in the Quick Search.
The Standard Search:

The Standard Search is more sophisticated again. This search allows simultaneous searching of up to 7 fields of your own choosing (Title, Author, Degree, Class, Year, University, or Any Field).

The Advanced Search:

The Advanced Search allows the researcher to create an even more individualised, precise search. It allows you to formulate a query in the specific language of the Index to Theses search engine. Limit search results to theses where the term occurs in a particular field. For example "ti contains computer" will search for all theses with the word "computer" in the title.

Simply type in the term(s) you are interested in finding and indicate where you want to find them using the field codes as shown above. Boolean operators (and, or, not) may again be used but you will need to change the search type to “Boolean”. Wild cards (*) can also be used to find similar words with different endings. For example, bridg* will retrieve items with the terms bridge, bridging, bridges, bridgework and so on. More search tips can be found by clicking into the link on the above page.

Proximity Connectors, Numeric Range Searching and Free Text Queries can also be used to make searches more specific. See “Refining a Search” link for details on how to do this. Finally, Index to Theses now links to some Full-Text theses. Look for this box for these.
Proquest Dissertations and Theses: Ireland & UK (PQDT: UK & Ireland) is the most comprehensive available record of dissertations and master's theses from the United Kingdom and Ireland. The collection offers the most comprehensive available listing of theses, with abstracts accepted for higher degrees by universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland, since 1716.

Accessing PQDT: UK & Ireland:

Starting at the DIT Library homepage—http://www.dit.ie/library/— Click Databases from the list of Electronic Resources. Then scroll down the list to Proquest Dissertations and Theses: Ireland & UK. Click the link to open the database.

Note: if you are off-campus, you will need to have your DIT ID# and library PIN to access PQDT: UK & Ireland. See the “Off-campus Access” link on our homepage for details.

Searching PQDT: UK & Ireland:

There are a number of different ways to search PQDT: UK & Ireland. The PQDT homepage shows the Basic Search which is the most straightforward. Simply enter a word or phrase. Click Search. Get results.

If the basic search doesn’t get the results you need, there are four types of Advanced searches that can be used instead: “Advanced”, “Command Line”, “Find Similar”, & “Look up Citation”.

The advanced search uses a search form customized with search fields (indexed information such as author, title, subject) search operator dropdowns. Enter one or more words in the first search box. Following the box is a dropdown of search fields. Search fields indicate where you want the item to be, e.g. Author, Document title, Subject, and so on. Select from the dropdown list, or the default All fields + text. Click Search. ProQuest will search for the word(s) in the selected search fields.

If you need to refine your search to get better results, Boolean search operators (and, or, not) can be used to combine search terms. AND will find All of the search terms in one document; OR finds any of term(s), with or without the other(s); NOT finds documents that contain the first, but not the second search term.

You can also narrow your search by selecting a date range, school name, subject, advisor name, manuscript type (Master’s or PhD.), and language. Click under the Subject Areas list on the right-hand side of the page to see these.
Command Line Search:

Command Line Search is designed to help you build a more precise search. Command line searching is useful if you want to quickly combine fields within a search without filling in each of the fields individually, or when you need to find information in one field, but NOT in another.

To do a command line search, prefix your term(s) with field name abbreviations and enter them into the search box. Click Search.

For example: AU(Miller) and PUB(physiol*).

Alternatively: Click Add search fields; Click the arrow next to the Search fields dropdown and choose a field code; In order to combine fields with Boolean operators, click the arrow at the Operators list and choose the required operator; Click Add to form; Enter your search term(s) in brackets for each field.

Find Similar:

This search helps you to find more text documents like one you’ve already found. Copy a big block of text (at least 50 words) from the document, go to Find Similar, and paste it in. When you click Search, ProQuest will evaluate the text, isolating what it determines are the key terms and bring you back search results containing similar documents.

Look Up Citation:

Are you looking for a particular document? Maybe all you have is part of the title, and/or the author’s name? Do you have a bibliography, and want to quickly check whether cited references are available in ProQuest? This is the search page to use. Just enter as little or as much as you know about each document, and click Search. If the document is in the ProQuest database, it will find it.

Help: If you need help at any time, all the search pages have a Search Tips link to assist you.