Graduate Research at DIT

DIT offers three graduate research awards, Postgraduate Diploma by Research (PgDip(Res)), Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on a full-time and part-time basis.

The School of Languages, Law and Social Sciences specialises in delivering advanced level research training and supervision to suitably qualified graduates as well as those who have established roles in their respective fields in early childhood education, criminology, higher education, language studies, law, social care, social policy and psychology.

Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD)
The Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) is completed over 4 years full-time or 6 years part-time. The entry requirement is at least a 2.1 honours degree (Level 8) in a relevant discipline or a transfer from the MPhil.

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
The Master of Philosophy degree (MPhil) is completed over 2 years full-time or 3 years part-time. The entry requirement is at least a 2.2 honours degree (Level 8) or a transfer from the PgDip(Res)). While on the MPhil register, at least 3 months prior to the finish date students may transfer to the PhD register.

Postgraduate Diploma by Research (PgDip)
The Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) is completed over 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time. The entry requirement is at least a pass degree. While on the PgDip(Res) register, at least 3 months prior to the finish date students may transfer to the MPhil register.

English Language Requirements
An applicant, whose native language is not English, must display an adequate proficiency in English in four categories; speaking, listening (comprehension), listening and writing. The recognised English language tests are listed at [http://www.dit.ie/study/internationaloffice/englishrequirements/](http://www.dit.ie/study/internationaloffice/englishrequirements/). The minimum level required for research programmes is International English Language Testing System (IELTS) 6.0 or equivalent for the overall average score and a score not lower than 5.5 in each category.

Why study at the School of Languages, Law and Social Sciences in DIT?
- Experienced and committed staff with demonstrated success in supervising graduate students;
- Regular scheduled one-to-one sessions with your supervisor and/or supervisory team;
- Annual reviews of progress to support completion of your project;
- Flexibility to facilitate full- and part-time study and/or transfer to the PhD register from masters;
- Loyalty fees for self-funded DIT graduates;
- A designated office with individual workspaces for research students at DIT’s new campus in Grangegorman;
- Provision of small grants to fund conference attendance, fieldwork, training and equipment under the School Graduate Research Support Scheme.
Structure of graduate research at DIT

All graduate research students at DIT complete a programme of research which includes structured modules developed by the Dublin Technological University (DTU) alliance comprising Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) and the Institute of Technology Tallaght, Dublin (ITT, Dublin). The programme consists of four components:

- **PhD**: 360 ECTS
- **MPhil**: 180 ECTS
- **PGDip(Res)**: 90 ECTS
- **Thesis**: 290 ECTS
- **Research & professional development plan**: 30 ECTS
- **Employability skills**: 20 ECTS
- **Discipline skills**: 20 ECTS

Students must acquire 360 European Credit Transfers (ECTS) for the PhD award, 180 ECTS for the award of MPhil and 90 ECTS for the PGDip(Res). You will work closely with your supervisor(s) to complete a piece of original research upon which the final thesis is based. Students are also required to complete a research and professional development plan and to undertake training in employability and discipline specific skills. Through this process, you will build upon your prior knowledge and experience and develop advanced level transferrable skills to enhance your future career.

For detailed information, visit the DIT Graduate Research School website: [www.dit.ie/graduateresearchschool](http://www.dit.ie/graduateresearchschool)

---

**Graduate Research Fees**

DIT offers competitive fees for full and part-time research students. Furthermore, new self-funded students who have successfully completed at least two years of undergraduate or taught postgraduate education at DIT on a self-funded basis can avail of reduced fees on PGDip, MPhil and PhD programmes.

### Graduate research fees with effect 01/05/2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year FT</th>
<th>Year PT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EU full-time</strong></td>
<td>€4500</td>
<td>€4500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EU full-time loyalty</strong></td>
<td>€2250</td>
<td>€2250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EU part-time</strong></td>
<td>€3000</td>
<td>€3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EU part-time loyalty</strong></td>
<td>€1500</td>
<td>€1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-EU full-time</strong></td>
<td>€9000</td>
<td>€9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-EU full-time loyalty</strong></td>
<td>€4500</td>
<td>€4500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-EU part-time</strong></td>
<td>€6000</td>
<td>€6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-EU part-time loyalty</strong></td>
<td>€3000</td>
<td>€3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EU PhD by Publication</strong></td>
<td>€2500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-EU PhD by Publication</strong></td>
<td>€4750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Financial Support

DIT offers funded studentships under its Fiosraigh Scholarship Programme. This highly competitive scheme awards fee support and maintenance grants to high calibre students interested in pursuing advanced level postgraduate research. The Irish Research Council under the Government of Ireland Scholarship, the Employment-based Scholarship (EB) and the Enterprise Partnership Scholarship (EP) provides further funding opportunities. For other funded research opportunities visit: [www.dit.ie/graduateresearchschool](http://www.dit.ie/graduateresearchschool)
Research Supervisors in the School

We have a team of highly qualified staff who are experts in their respective fields and experienced in the area of research development and supervision. Our staff welcome enquiries from prospective candidates interested in pursuing MPhil or PhD research in their respective areas.

**Language Studies**

**Dr. Siobhán Ni Laoire**
siobhan.nilaoire@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Sociolinguistics / sochtheangeolaíocht; stylistic variation / sóinseálacht stile; spoken language / teanga labhartha; language contact / teagmháil teangacha; Applied and Professional Irish / Gaeilge Fheidhmeach agus Ghairmiúil.

**Dr. Susana Olmos**
susana.olmos@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Pragmatics, discourse connectives, relevance theory.

**Dr. Catherine Spencer**
catherine.spencer@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Intercultural competence; identity construction; collective remembering/forgetting and commemoration; critical discourse analysis.

**Dr. Paloma Pérez Valdés**
paloma.perezvaldes@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Spanish contemporary literature by female writers; cultural tourism in Spain.

**Law**

**Dr. Deirdre McGowan**
deirdre.mcgowan@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Social law (family law; social welfare law; housing law); post-structuralist legal theory; feminist legal theory; sociology of law; legal history.

**Dr. Mary Rogan**
mary.rogan@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Prison policy; the politics of punishment; prison law; prisoners’ rights.

**Dr. Stephen Carruthers**
stephen.carruthers@dit.ie
Areas of interest: European human rights, administrative law, contract law, legal history (in particular civil rights).

**Social Sciences**

**Dr. Matt Bowden**
matt.bowden@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Crime prevention and local crime control; urban security governance; security and multiculturalism; rural security, victimization and fear of crime; comparative criminology; symbolic violence; sociological theory of Pierre Bourdieu; Bourdieu and the criminological field; using sociological theory in criminology; crime and society.

**Dr. Dorit Deering**
dorit.w.deering@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Attachment and child development, parenting in different social contexts, temperament, mental health and well-being, transitions, therapeutic interventions.
Dr. Sinéad Freeman
sinead.freeman@dit.ie
Areas of interest: (criminological): Prison coping; youth justice; imprisonment; bail / custodial remand. Areas of interest (psychological): Mental health; stress and coping.

Dr. Carmel Gallagher
carmel.gallagher@dit.ie
Areas of interest: The participation of older people in their communities; social care practice in elder care settings; opportunities for lifelong learning including intergenerational learning; enhancing the capacity of communities to provide support and informal care for frail older people through volunteering and forms of neighbourliness.

Dr. Ann Marie Halpenny
annmarie.halpenny@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Parenting and child development; parenting in adversity; family transitions; documenting children's learning in the early years; accessing young children's perspectives in research; young carers; secondary analysis of Growing Up in Ireland data.

Dr. Nicola Hughes
nicola.hughes@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Recidivism and desistance; the experience of imprisonment and its impact on recidivism and desistance; the desistance process for specific groups of offenders, such as women and minority groups; young offenders; the analysis of large quantitative data sets and official data sources.

Dr. Kevin Lalor
kevin.lalor@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Child abuse and neglect; international perspectives on child maltreatment.

Dr. Fiona McSweeney
fiona.mcsweeney@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Higher education, in particular professional education and areas relating to education and applied psychology, social identities.

Dr. Máire MhicMhathúna
maire.mhicmhathuna@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Early childhood education, with a focus on transitions and concepts of school readiness; child language, second language acquisition, particularly in relation to the Irish language.

Dr. Mairéad Seymour
mairead.seymour@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Youth crime and justice; community sanctions; alternatives to imprisonment; procedural justice; offender compliance with criminal justice sanctions and sentences; prisoner reintegration; restorative justice; comparative criminal justice practice.

Anne Marie Shier
annemarie.shier@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Alternative care; foster care; adoption; children in care; supervision in social care and social work.

Dr. Karen Smith
karen.smith@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Child and youth policy; government of childhood/state–family relations; history of childhood; history of child welfare policy.

Dr. Dave Williams
david.williams@dit.ie
Areas of interest: Residential child care work; professionalisation of social care work; self-harm and self-injury; foster care; social care education and training.
Current Research Students

We have a diverse range of existing graduate research students in the School. We encourage our students to attend and participate in national and international fora, conferences, seminars and training events across their respective disciplines.

Colette Barry
Death and the prison officer: A study of Irish prison officers’ experiences of prisoner fatalities (Dr. Mary Rogan).

Andrew Gibson
The marketisation of Irish higher education? Defining and assessing the role of for-profit providers in the higher education landscape (Prof. Ellen Hazelkorn).

Siobhan Harkin
Strategic alliances in Irish higher education – A policy analysis (Prof. Ellen Hazelkorn).

Sylvia O’Reagan
Reintegrating adult ex-prisoners (Dr. Mairead Seymour).

Siobhan Keegan
An ecological study of the impact of early childhood educational experiences at age four and age seven on outcomes at age sixteen (Dr. Kevin Lalor & Prof. Nóirín Hayes).

Norma Kennedy
Reducing crime and repairing harm: The role of the family conference in responding to youth crime (Dr. Mairead Seymour).

Maria Lahiff
Reducing youth offending: The role and context of parental responsibility (Dr. Mairead Seymour).

Amanda Moynihan
Normative Isomorphism: is Irish academic work-life the same in different institutional types in the universal phase of higher education? (Prof. Ellen Hazelkorn).

Kate O’Hara
Community service orders versus short custodial sentences: Examining profiles, experiences, and outcomes (Dr. Mary Rogan).

Miriam O’Regan
Towards professional childminding in Ireland: Attitudes to regulation and support for high quality home-based childcare (Dr. Ann Marie Halpenny).

Leah O’Toole
A Bio-ecological perspective on educational transition (Dr. Maire MhicMhathúna & Prof. Nóirín Hayes).

Jan Pettersen
ICT in the early years - a study into the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in Irish pre-school settings (Dr. Ann Marie Halpenny).

Martin Quigley
Policy-making and criminal justice in Ireland: Exploring the drivers of change in the area of prisoner reintegration (Dr. Mary Rogan).

Fiona Walshe
Professionalisation of the social care sector (Dr. Fiona McSweeney).

Graduate Destinations

On completion of the research programme, graduates are equipped for a wide range of teaching, lecturing, research, policy development and/or practice roles. Our research graduates are employed across academia, research, policy, development and practice. These include teaching and lecturing posts in universities and other educational institutes nationally and internationally, and co-ordinator and management roles in research, policy, development and practice areas in the public and private sector.
Previous Students

**Kalis Pope, PhD 2014**
Young people's experiences of crime: An investigation into the victimisation and offending of inner-city Dublin youth (Dr. Kevin Lalor).

**Bernadette Fagan, MPhil 2014**
The impact of the arts on Traveller education: An exploratory study (Prof. Nóirín Hayes).

**Jackie Bourke, PhD 2013**
Standing in the footprints of the contemporary urban child: Constructing a sense of place along the everyday urban routes children walk through public space (Prof. Nóirín Hayes).

**Patricia Meredith Orr, PhD 2013**
Gender and SES effects on multidimensional self-concept development during adolescence (Dr. Dorit Deering).

**Mary Kilkenny, MPhil 2013**
The transition to adulthood and independence: A study of young people leaving care (Dr. Mairéad Seymour).

**Cathrina Murphy, MPhil 2012**
Transferring knowledge and life experience between generations: The potential of community based intergenerational projects (Dr. Carmel Gallagher).

**Rachel Kiersey, PhD 2012**

**Helen Lynch, PhD 2012**
Infant places, spaces and objects: Exploring the physical in learning environments for infants under two (Prof. Nóirín Hayes).

**Bernie O’Donoghue-Hynes, PhD2012**
Designed to benefit whom? An evaluation of Irish early childhood education and care policy using policy design theory (Prof. Nóirín Hayes).

**Siobhan Bradley, PhD 2012**
Insider outsider perspectives on a rights based approach to policy making in early childhood care and education (Dr. Annmarie Halpenny).

**Katherine Collins, PhD 2012**
An exploration of RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) to companies and organisations in Ireland: Valorisation, return on investment, and emerging trends (Dr. Anne Murphy).

**Anna Marie Dillon, PhD 2011**
Teachers and language learning in primary schools: The acquisition of additional languages in the early years (Dr. Máiréad Ní Mháthúna).

**Gay Graham, PhD 2011**
What critical success factors are necessary and sufficient for provision of developmental care for each young person in Irish residential child and youth care? (Dr. Kevin Lalor and Prof. Leon Fulcher)

**Maria McDermott, MPhil 2010**
Staff understandings and practices of parent involvement in private early years' services: An exploratory study (Anne Fitzpatrick).

**Siobhan Quinlan, MPhil 2010**
A retrospective study of young women involved in prostitution in Dublin (Dr. Kevin Lalor).

**Sinead Freeman, PhD 2009**
Surviving on remand: a study of how young remand prisoners cope in prison custody (Dr. Mairéad Seymour).

**Carmel Brennan, PhD 2008**
The case for play (Prof. Nóirín Hayes).

**Mary O’Kane, PhD 2008**
Building bridges; an investigation into the transition from pre-school to school for children in Ireland (Prof. Nóirín Hayes and Dr. Dorit W. Deering).

**Jonathan Ilan, PhD 2008**
Still playing the game: an ethnography of young people, street crime and juvenile justice in the inner-city Dublin community (Dr. Karen Lysaght).

**Sarah Quinn, MPhil 2007**
Teacher perceived behavioural and emotional difficulties in junior and senior infant children in mainstream primary schools in Dublin and Kildare (Prof. Nóirín Hayes).

**Denise Lyons, MPhil2007**
Just bring yourself: exploring the training of self in social care education (Prof. Nóirín Hayes).
Interested in pursuing graduate research at the School? What to do next …

1. View our supervisor profiles (www.dit.ie/llss/people/staff) to identify the areas of academic expertise among our staff team.

2. Contact the staff member who you think most closely aligns to your proposed research. If you are unsure, please contact Dr. Mairéad Seymour, Chair of the School Research Committee (mairead.seymour@dit.ie) who will assist you in identifying the appropriate personnel. You may also wish to explore some existing project proposals developed by our staff: www.dit.ie/researchandenterprise/graduateresearchschool/phdopportunities/phdprojects/artstourism

3. For more detailed information about all aspects of graduate research study at DIT and to apply online log onto: www.dit.ie/graduateresearchschool

Admission to research programmes is continuous and you may apply and commence your studies throughout the year.