



University of Limerick
Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

**Guide for applicants for
Postgraduate study by research and thesis
For the degrees of MA, LLM, PhD and Structured PhD**

It is most important that applications are accompanied by a clear, concise and well-organised research proposal (maximum of 1,500 words in length for MA and minimum of 1,500 words for PhD, **typed**). The proposal should include the following:

- a description of the topic (with suggested title), indicating the general aims of the research and how these differ from previously published work in the field (at least 500 words).
- an explanation of the main concepts and theories relevant to the research and of the proposal methods of investigation;
- an indication of any practical applications that the research might have;
- a research plan, indicating a clear timeframe;
- your reasons for wishing to undertake the research at the University of Limerick;
- a short bibliography, mentioning chief works of reference.

Please consult our list of Faculty Supervisors available at <http://www.artsoc.ul.ie/postgraduate-research>. It is advisable to consult with a prospective supervisor before you draft your research proposal.

Applicants are also advised to state as precisely as possible, on the form supplied, the nature and level of their qualifications (in particular, precise class of degrees held or equivalent grading in terms of QCA, etc.)

Applicants with first or upper second-class honours Bachelors degrees or with Masters degrees who submit appropriate proposals are normally recommended for direct admission by the Faculty Research Board. Other applicants are normally required to undertake a guided programme in their first year (MR5000) which may include attendance at seminars, writing a literature review and a presentation to a research panel. On successful completion of MR5000 candidates may proceed as normal to the second year of the Masters by Research.

Failure to comply with the above guidelines may invalidate your application

Dr. Niamh Nic Ghabhann
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