

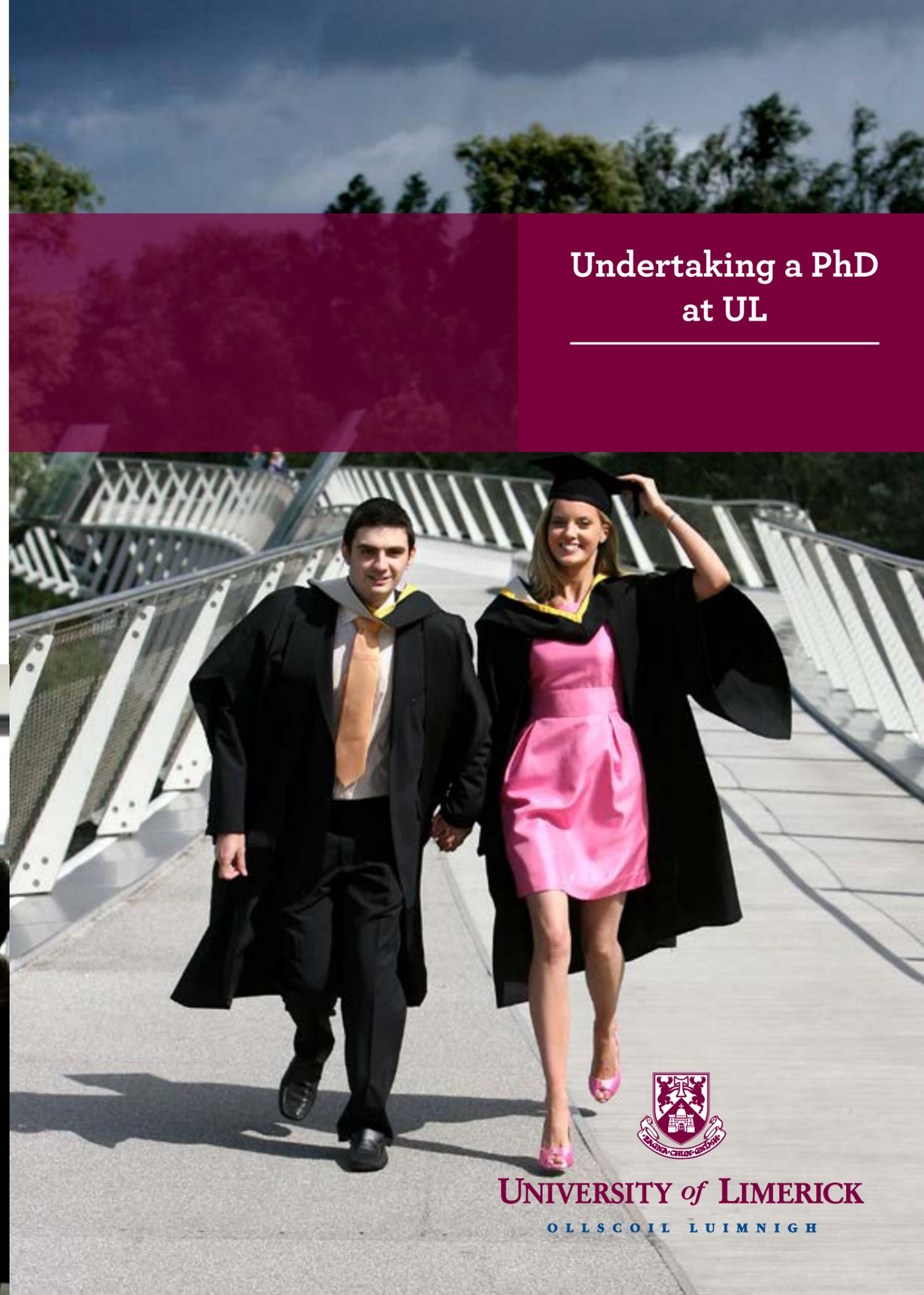
Fees

An up-to-date schedule of fees is available to download from <http://www.ul.ie/graduateschool/how-apply>.

Further Information

Postgraduate Admissions Office,
Graduate School,
Foundation Building,
University of Limerick,
Limerick,
Ireland.
Tel: +353 61 234377.
Email: postgradadmissions@ul.ie

Information on accommodation, immigration, insurance and visas is available from <http://www.ul.ie/international/>



Undertaking a PhD at UL



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Undertaking a PhD at the University of Limerick

PhD programmes (both structured and traditional) at the University of Limerick (UL) are designed to support you in achieving your academic and professional objectives. Typically taking four years to complete, a PhD provides you with a range of skills, such as networking and communications, leadership, and the ability to publish your research findings. The outcome of your research is a thesis, on which you will be examined orally (a viva voce examination). The summary information to follow tells you how to apply for a PhD programme and outlines some of the key aspects of a UL PhD.

Applying for a PhD

You can apply for a PhD at UL only if you have identified a potential supervisor. If you have not done so, you must first submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form.

1. Expression of Interest (EOI) form

If you have not identified a primary supervisor, you should complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) form, which you can download from <http://www.ul.ie/graduateschool/how-apply>. Email the completed form, together with your research proposal and curriculum vitae, to postgradadmissions@ul.ie. We will then endeavour to find you a suitable supervisor with whom you can discuss your chosen research area (see next section). Following this discussion, if the person agrees to supervise your PhD, you must then apply for a place on the programme in accordance with the instructions in 2. below. Information on some of the research activities at the University of Limerick, including information on potential supervisors and research centres, can be found on the faculty and department web pages of the UL website: www.ul.ie.

2. Application form

Once you have identified a supervisor and agreed a research project, you must complete a research application form, which you can download from <http://www.ul.ie/graduateschool/how-apply>. Submit the completed form either in hard copy to Postgraduate Admissions Office (address below) or in soft copy to postgradadmissions@ul.ie.

Preliminary Discussion with a Potential Supervisor

When a potential supervisor agrees to have a preliminary discussion with you, be sure to discuss the following items:

- Why you want to register for the PhD programme
- Your academic background, academic awards or highlights
- The match between your academic background and that of the supervisor
- Your research experience and proposed research project

Entry Requirements

Applicants should be the holders of a first-class or upper-second-class honours (2.1) primary (undergraduate) degree (Level 8, NFQ), or national equivalent, in a relevant discipline that incorporates a substantial relevant academic component. This requirement may be waived where an applicant has a taught postgraduate degree (Level 9, NFQ), or national equivalent, in a relevant discipline.

Applicants are required to demonstrate a high level of competence in the English language. Applicants who have not undertaken their primary (undergraduate degree) or master's degree through the medium of English must provide evidence of their proficiency by achieving a minimum standard in a recognised English language test, such as IELTS. Non-EU applicants should familiarise themselves with any visa requirements. Further details are available at <http://www.ul.ie/international/>.

Start Dates

The start date should be agreed with your potential supervisor. The University of Limerick approves PhD applications on an ongoing basis, and new applications are formally approved by the Postgraduate Research Committee every month.

Doctoral Studies – Research Review Panel

In addition to your supervisor(s), your academic department or school will appoint a Research Review Panel every year to assess and review your progress and to provide advice and support to you and your supervisor(s).

Research and Professional Development Planning and Skills Training

Research and professional development planning and skills training is an integral part of the Structured PhD programme at the University of Limerick. The purpose of such planning is to ensure that you are clearly focused on achieving your research and professional development goals.

As a PhD student, you will be expected to have the advanced research and analytical skills required to undertake high-level research in your field. You will also be expected to develop a range of transferable skills relevant to your degree and career development. To assist you with your studies, taught modules, online modules and workshops covering a wide range of transferable skills and research skills topics will be offered by your department or school and by the Graduate School. Credits associated with these modules will be recorded on your academic transcript.

Funding Opportunities

You are advised to contact the UL department or school in which you intend to undertake your research to enquire about current funding possibilities. In addition, please consult the following organisations regarding other sources of funding:

- Irish Research Council
- Universities Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Teagasc
- Irish Cancer Society
- European Commission

International students should check with grant-awarding or funding agencies in their home country.

