PG-R Committee approvals A.Y. 2026-27
EHS Structured PhD Programme applications.
EHS Structured Masters by Research Programme(s) applications.
EHS PhD and Masters by traditional route applications.

The EHS Faculty-wide **Structured Research Programme(s)** has two annual entry points, the start of Semester (1) and the start of Semester (2). Applications will be processed throughout the year, but enrolment will only be permitted at these time points.**
Applications for the **traditional PhD and Masters route** of study can be submitted throughout the year with a start date agreed in conjunction with appointed supervisor(s).

The table below gives PG-R committee dates and application deadlines for the Academic Year 2026-27:

PGR Committee Dates	EHS application deadline*	Registration
07 July 2026	30 June 2026	
01 September 2026	25 August 2026	***07 September – 18 September 2026, End of Week 2, Semester 1.*
06 October 2026	29 September 2026	
03 November 2026	27 October 2026	
01 December 2026	24 November 2026	
05 January 2027	17 December 2026	***25 January 2027 – 05 February 2027 End of Week 2, Semester 2.*
02 February 2027	26 January 2027	
02 March 2027	23 February 2027	
06 April 2027	30 March 2027	
04 May 2027	27 April 2027	
01 June 2027	25 May 2027	

**This is the deadline for the application to be received by the EHS Faculty Office from the Doctoral College. It will not be possible to process incomplete applications for the next PGR committee. Please ensure that applications are complete, signed by all supervisors and the relevant Head of Department.*

https://www.ul.ie/gps/about/how-apply

All postgraduate research (PGR) students, once approved at the PGR Committee meeting, must not engage in any research activity whilst representing UL unless fully enrolled on their programme of study. Once enrolled, staff should engage with postgraduate research students via email using their email address (ULPG:surname.firstname@ul.ie) which is provided at enrolment stage. At that point, staff must no longer engage with students using their personal email address. Broadly speaking, engaging in PhD research prior to formal enrolment can expose individuals and UL to significant legal, ethical, and academic risks. With regards to specific risks, see below:

1. Non-Student Status: Individuals who engage in research before formal enrolment are not recognised as students of UL. As such, they are not covered by the rights, protections, or obligations conferred upon enrolled students. This lack of formal status may impact their access to university resources, supervision, and support.

2. Insurance and Liability: Without formal enrolment, individuals are not covered under the UL's insurance policies. This means that any incidents, accidents, or damages occurring during their research activities could expose both the individual and potentially UL to liability.

3. Intellectual Property and Data Protection: UL's policies on intellectual property rights apply to enrolled students and staff. Non-enrolled individuals may not be entitled to the same protections and may encounter challenges in asserting ownership or rights over their research outputs. This can lead to disputes over the ownership of research findings or publications.

4. Data Protection and Confidentiality: Engaging in research without formal enrolment may violate data protection laws and UL policies regarding the handling of sensitive or confidential information. Non-enrolled individuals may not have undergone necessary training or agreed to comply with data protection protocols, thereby increasing the risk of data breaches or misuse.

5. Ethical Considerations and Compliance: Research involving human subjects, animals, or sensitive data typically requires ethical approval from the UL's ethics committee. Non-enrolled individuals may not have the standing to seek or obtain such approval, potentially rendering their research non-compliant with ethical standards.

6. Recognition of Work: Research conducted prior to formal enrolment may not be recognised as part of the individual's PhD programme. This could result in difficulties in integrating early research efforts into the formal PhD project, potentially affecting the individual's academic progression and recognition.

If you need any further advice in respect of the above, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Assistant Dean, Research in EHS @ adr.ehs@ul.ie