

Faculty of Science & Engineering Structured PhD Guidelines in Brief

A Structured PhD consists of two major components

- 1) the PhD Research and Thesis (weighted at 270 credits) and
- 2) the Taught Element, consisting of 12 credits (minimum) of Specialised Modules and 18 credits of Generic and Transferrable Skills

Specialised Modules (12 credits minimum)

Completed Internal to UL

- A minimum of two modules to be selected. These are to be agreed with your supervisor
- These modules can be any Level 8 or 9 modules. A list of pre-approved S&E modules can be found in Appendix 1 of the Structured PhD handbook. Modules outside of this list can also be taken once approved by your supervisor.
- Modules to be taken, if possible, during the first 18-24 months of the programme.
- Specialised Modules are graded on a Pass/Fail basis.
- Students must register for these modules with student academic administration (SAA) by filling in **Section C** of the 'Structured PhD Programme and Research Student Module(s) Registration Form'

Completed External to UL

- It is also possible to take any Level 8 or 9 specialised module from other institutions.
- All external modules must be approved by the PhD Supervisor and validated for quality and credit level by the Head of Department and the S&E Structured PhD Course Director by filling in **Section C** of the 'Structured PhD Programme and Research Student Module(s) Registration Form'. These modules will appear as XP Modules on the student's transcript.
- Students must notify the S&E Structured PhD Course Director (Dr Sean Fair; sean.fair@ul.ie) of these modules once completed. Students will need to supply evidence of successful completion of modules.

Generic and Transferable Skills Modules (18 credits)

Completed Internal to UL

- UL runs a Certificate in Generic & Transferable Skills as a summer school with a residential week during the month of May each year.
- The Certificate consists of 6 modules of 3 credits each namely, Digital Research Management; Research Networking: Developing an Academic Profile; Planning Research & Publication; Research Ethics; Developing Ideas & Arguments: Writing into Academic Communities; Research Integrity
- An email notification will be circulated by the Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) Office to all postgraduate students in March/April each year with instructions on how to register for these modules.
- CPE send details of completion of this programme to SAA for noting on the students transcript

Complete External to UL

- It is possible to take other Generic & Transferrable Skills modules from other institutions once they are relevant to the PhD student education. All external modules must be approved by the PhD Supervisor and validated for quality and credit level by the S&E Structured PhD Course Director – **prior** to taking the module. There must be an exam/graded component of the module.
- Students must register for these modules with SAA by filling in **Section A** of the 'Structured PhD Programme and Research Student Module(s) Registration Form'. The module code to be used is as follows:
 - GT8301 SEN Generic and Transferable Skills Portfolio: 3-credits
 - GT8302 SEN Generic and Transferable Skills Portfolio: 6-credits
 - GT8303 SEN Generic and Transferable Skills Portfolio: 9-credits
 - GT8304 SEN Generic and Transferable Skills Portfolio: 12-credits
- Students must notify the S&E Structured PhD Course Director (Dr Sean Fair; sean.fair@ul.ie) of these modules once completed. Students will need to supply evidence of successful completion of modules.
- Note: These modules are only graded in Semester II of each year.

Structured PhD Students must keep a portfolio of the modules they take and this Portfolio should be available to Programme Auditors and/or Funding Agencies