

Local Guidelines for Structured PhD AHSS (Film and Media Practice) at the Huston School of Film & Digital Media

STRUCTURE

Practice-based PhDs have been developed at the Huston, although doctoral students have often attended relevant taught modules the programme has not been carried out on a structured basis. The new Film and Media Practice (Structured) Doctor of Philosophy will embed a consistent approach:

- 1) Discipline specific modules (see Note 1) – 5 ECTS
- 2) [Generic](#) and [Transferable Skills](#) modules – 5 ECTS each

Taught modules adding up to a minimum of 40 ECTS would have to be taken in the first 3 years, 15 in Year 1 and a further 25 between years 2 and 3.

In year 1 Research credits of 75 ECTS will be taken.

Years 2 and 3 will have a minimum of 65 credits research each with the balance of taught modules to make up 90 credits.

Final year is dedicated to research with a full 90 credits research.

We are modifying the assessment basis published as part of the traditional Practice-based PhD guidelines. The new assessment section of the guidelines will be:

ASSESSMENT

There are two stages of assessment: at the end of the first year to determine eligibility for progression; and at the end of the programme of research to determine the outcome of the project. Two defined pieces of work (at least one of which must be written) must be achieved by the end of the first year in order to progress further towards completion. The final examination is in three principal parts: the submission of a body of work that embodies the contribution to knowledge and understanding, normally by a finished film or films; a reflective analysis of the theoretical and historical context of the research; and a critical review of the process of the research. The reflective analysis and the critical review are subject to a maximum combined word count of 60-80,000 words and a minimum word count of 30-40,000 words in total. The format of the thesis and the PhD examination will adhere the University's regulations as given in the University Guidelines for Research Degree Programmes. Students also submit a 500 word summary of the contribution to knowledge and understanding together with documentation of the work, and participate in a viva voce examination. All three elements of the examination must be passed.

OUTCOME

By the time of graduation, students should also demonstrate a mastery of knowledge-based, research-based and practice-based competencies appropriate to their specialisation. Doctoral dissertations are usually based on an in depth research project by the student and are intended to permit the student to apply relevant theory and knowledge as well as demonstrate skills in analysis of a major problem and to contribute to the improvement of practice in the student's area of specialisation. Completion of a Practice-based PhD demonstrates that the student has learned investigative techniques, has made a contribution to knowledge and has developed skills that will prove useful in assuming a professional role.

AWARD OF PHD

The PhD is awarded by the National University of Ireland, Galway within the regulations and terms for the PhD degree and subject to the guidelines and protocols of the University, as published in the General Calendar of the University and the University Guidelines for Research Degree Programmes,

Note 1

The key discipline specific modules will be the following and at least some of these modules should make up the taught modules - to 40 ECTS (minimum) :

DM 105	A History of Avant Garde Film
DM 108	Film in the Digital Age
FA 506	Theory of Film Practice
FM 521	Critical Theory I
FM 522	Critical Theory II
FM528	Scéalta Scáileáin na Gaeilge (Screen Stories in Irish)

(?) Film-Making for the Internet (– new module in 2013-14)

However a wider set of module options from the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies Four-Year Structured PhD in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences list will also be available when appropriate and agreed by the Supervisor and GRC.

RS 6 December 2012