



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

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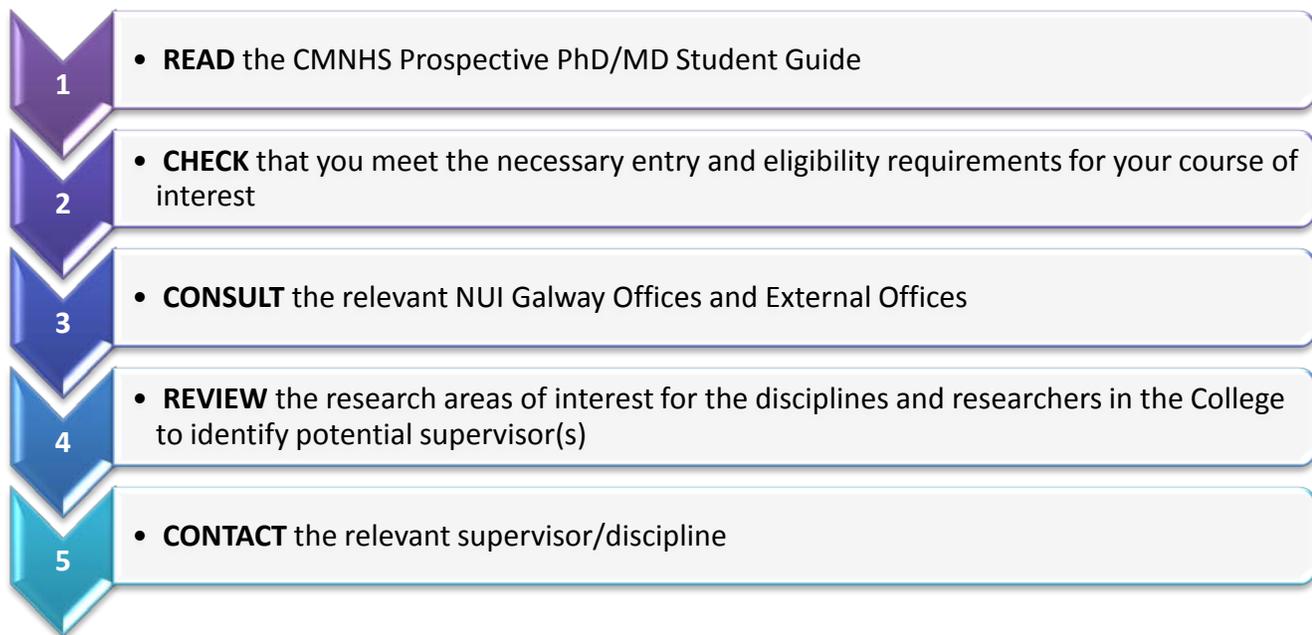
College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences

Prospective PhD / MD Student Guide



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1. QUICK STEP GUIDE



2. POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AT NUI GALWAY

NUI Galway has a great deal to offer students. If you join our learning community you will be joining a great University with a distinguished reputation for teaching excellence that spans more than 160 years. You will enjoy a student experience that you will never forget at NUI Galway. Not only will we provide you with an excellent education, we also help you develop personal and social skills that will benefit you throughout your life.

For further information on **postgraduate research programmes** please [click here](#)

For further information on **postgraduate taught programmes** please [click here](#)

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

3.1. Scope of research

The College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences has a strong ethos of interdisciplinary research. Research is conducted in every discipline and the scope of research ranges from the preclinical to clinical and health science areas. The programmes are aligned with the University research thematic priorities predominantly in the areas of Biomedical Science and Engineering and Applied Social Science and Public Policy.

3.2. Schools & disciplines

The College is made up of three Schools; Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery and Health Science. Within each School there are a range of disciplines, each of which are engaged in research. Please refer to the Table 1 below for an overview of the College structure with links to each discipline.

3.3. Researcher profiles

To read about our researchers and those across the whole University please see [click here](#) and also the information provided on the Discipline websites (Table 1)

Table 1: Overview of the structure of the College, Schools and Disciplines

College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Science		Dean - Prof BG Loftus
School	Discipline	Head of Discipline
Health Sciences	Health Promotion	Prof Margaret Barry
	Occupational Therapy	Prof Agnes Shiel
	Podiatry	Prof Caroline McIntosh
	Speech & Language Therapy	Rena Lyons
Medicine	Anaesthesia	Prof John Laffey
	Anatomy	Prof Peter Dockery
	Bacteriology	Prof Martin Cormican
	General Practice & Primary Care	Prof Peter Cantillon
	Medicine	Prof Tim O'Brien
	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	Prof John Morrison
	Paediatrics	Prof BG Loftus
	Pathology	Prof Grace Callagy
	Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Prof Laurence Egan
	Psychiatry	Prof Colm McDonald
	Physiology	Prof Anthony Wheatley
	Radiology	Prof Peter McCarthy
	Surgery	Prof Michael Kerin
Nursing & Midwifery	Midwifery	Prof Declan Devane
	Nursing Studies	Prof Kathy Murphy

4. INTRODUCTION TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

The College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences offers higher research degree courses leading to a PhD in each of its three Schools. The School of Medicine also offers a higher research degree leading to a MD based on research.

The PhD is awarded following successful completion of a programme of supervised research and advanced education and training. The degree will be awarded only where the outcome of the research makes an original and substantial contribution to knowledge and where the candidate has demonstrated the capacity to pursue original research and scholarship.

The MD is, in accordance with national and international norms, provided to encourage the development of advanced research skills in medical graduates, and is adapted to the particular circumstances of advanced professional training in that profession. The nature of the preparation for the degree is similar to other research doctoral degrees, but research for the degree is normally completed within a shorter period of time, typically two years of full-time research and study.

5. STRUCTURED PHD

The structured PhD degree is a doctoral training programme with the core component of advancement of knowledge through original research and integrated support for professional development. For full details, please see the [University Guidelines](#) for Research Degree Programmes. The programme is student centred and the qualification is designed to enhance, improve and directly engage the student in relevant research skills. In addition, it will offer the student disciplinary, generic and transferable skills, tailored to suit the experience of students and reflect the disciplinary requirements.

5.1. The supervisor

The primary supervisor(s) is responsible for the overall management of the student's training and research project. The supervisor(s) must meet the criteria set out in the [University Guidelines](#) and fulfil the following:

be an active scholar and researcher with good records of achievement and publication

have a PhD in a suitable academic area or an equivalent record of achievement

5.2. Graduate Research Committee

Every research student and supervisor has the support of a Graduate Research Committee which is charged with ensuring compliance with basic good practices and will oversee student progress.

5.3. ECTS Weighting

Full time PhD: The PhD requires the successful completion of 90ECTs per annum. The structured component will require the successful completion of a minimum of 30ECTs, a maximum of 90 ECTS, but a recommended normal maximum of 45 ECTS over the entire duration of the programme. The balance of ECTS awarded each year will be for the research component of the PhD.

Part time PhD: The PhD requires the successful completion of 60ECTs per annum. The structured component will require the successful completion of a minimum of 20ECTs, a maximum of 60 ECTS, but a recommended normal maximum of 30 ECTS over the entire duration of the programme. The balance of ECTS awarded each year will be for the research component of the PhD.

5.4. Duration

Normal duration is 4 years full time or 6 years part time. In exceptional circumstances, the programme may be completed in a shorter period where there is approval by the supervisor and the relevant School. If candidates do not complete the degree within the due period from the date of registration they must re-apply to the College, presenting justification for an extension.

5.5. Assessment of PhD

Assessment is by examination of a written thesis and oral defence. To be awarded a PhD, a candidate must demonstrate that, in pursuance of an agreed project, he/she has met all of the following criteria:

- Has made a significant contribution to knowledge and scholarship
- Has demonstrated a capacity for original and critical thought
- Can display an appropriate depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding of the relevant field(s) of study in the thesis and at the viva examination
- Has gained significant expertise with respect to basic and advanced methodologies and techniques
- Has presented a thesis with the appropriate structure and written style
- Has completed work that is suitable for publication

Evidence as to whether or not these criteria are met is found in the thesis, but the oral examination or viva is critical to confirmation that the required standards have been achieved.

6. MD (STRUCTURED & NON-STRUCTURED)

The MD degree is a doctoral training programme offered by the School of Medicine with the core component of advancement of knowledge through original research and integrated support for professional development. The primary purpose of the MD level research is to develop in the student the skills and competencies required to conduct effective research and to make a significant contribution to new knowledge and understanding in the theory and/or practice of any area of medicine or medical science. The programme is student centred and the qualification is designed to enhance, improve and directly engage the student in relevant research skills. The structured MD programme will, in addition, offer the student disciplinary, generic and transferable skills, tailored to suit the experience of students and reflect the disciplinary requirements. For full details, please see the [University Guidelines](#) for Research Degree Programmes.

6.1. The supervisor

The primary supervisor(s) is responsible for the overall management of the student's training and research project. The supervisor(s) must meet the criteria set out in the [University Guidelines](#) and fulfil the following:

- be an active scholar and researcher with good records of achievement and publication
- have a PhD in a suitable academic area or an equivalent record of achievement

6.2. Graduate Research Committee

Every research student and supervisor has the support of a Graduate Research Committee which is charged with ensuring compliance with basic good practices and will oversee student progress.

6.3. ECTs Weighting

The completion of modules as part of the ECT requirements pertains to the structured MD only.

Full time MD: The MD requires the successful completion of 90ECTs per annum. The structured component will require the successful completion of a minimum of 20ECTs, a maximum of 60 ECTS, but a recommended normal maximum of 30 ECTS over the entire duration of the programme. The balance of ECTS awarded each year will be for the research component of the MD.

Part time MD: The structured component will require the successful completion of a minimum of 20ECTs, a maximum of 60 ECTS, but a recommended normal maximum of 30 ECTS over the entire duration of the programme. The balance of ECTS awarded each year will be for the research component of the PhD.

6.4. Duration

Minimum duration of registration is normally 24 months full time or 36 months part time. Normal completion time is 2 years full time or 3 years part time. If candidates do not complete the degree within the due period from the date of registration they must re-apply to the College, presenting justification for an extension.

6.5. Assessment of MD

Assessment is by examination of a written thesis and oral defence. To be awarded a MD, a candidate must demonstrate that, in pursuance of an agreed project, he/she has met all of the following criteria:

- Has made a significant contribution to knowledge and scholarship
- Has demonstrated a capacity for original and critical thought
- Can display an appropriate depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding of the relevant field(s) of study in the thesis and at the viva examination
- Has gained significant expertise with respect to basic and advanced methodologies and techniques
- Has presented a thesis with the appropriate structure and written style
- Has completed work that is suitable for publication

Evidence as to whether or not these criteria are met is found in the thesis, but the oral examination or viva is critical for confirmation that the required standards have been achieved.

7. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

7.1. PhD Candidates

Candidates should normally have a high honours standard in a relevant academic discipline at primary degree level or equivalent together with the support of an academic staff member who is approved by the College to supervise the research in terms of its nature and scope. Candidates may be required to submit a research proposal for consideration by the School as part of their application.

7.2. MD Candidates

Candidates should normally have a high honours standard in the degrees of M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. from NUI Galway or possess qualifications deemed by the University to be equivalent. Candidates shall be eligible to register onto the MD programme, three years after obtaining the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine. The application will also require support of an academic staff member who is approved by the College to supervise the research in terms of its nature and scope. Candidates may be required to submit a research proposal for consideration by the School as part of their application.

7.3. English Language requirements:

International students whose first language is not English must demonstrate that their English language ability meets the required standard for admission by providing the results of an English language proficiency test, such as [TOEFL](#) or [IELTS](#). The required standard is an overall minimum IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent for Arts, Commerce, Law, and Medical programmes; IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent for Science, Engineering, and I.T. programmes, undertaken no more than two years prior to the commencement of your programme at the University.

International accreditation must be from within previous **two years**.

8. FEES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Candidates should review the current programme fees and potential funding opportunities. For information on fees please see the [fees website](#) and for current funding opportunities please [click here](#).

9. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants should, in the first instance, make contact with the relevant academic staff member/potential supervisor and consult the '[how to apply](#)' section of the NUIG postgraduate admissions website. In the event that the potential supervisor is willing to recommend that the applicant be considered, the candidate should apply formally via the Postgraduate Application Centre (www.pac.ie). From this the proposed supervisor submits a recommendation to the School and College and if the application is approved, the College instructs the University to offer the candidate a place on the appropriate programme.

10. USEFUL LINKS

NUIG offices and other relevant websites
<u>NUIG Graduate Studies Office</u>
<u>NUIG International Office</u>
<u>NUIG Postgraduate Admissions</u>
<u>NUIG Registration</u>
<u>NUIG Fees Office</u>
<u>NUIG Student Information Desk</u>
<u>Postgraduate Application Centre (PAC)</u>
<u>National University of Ireland (NUI)</u>

Affiliated research centres and institutes
<u>Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI)</u>
<u>Health Promotion Research Centre</u>
<u>HPRC WHO Collaboration Centre</u>
<u>Centre for Pain Research</u>
<u>National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science</u>
<u>Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials</u>
<u>Galway Diabetes Research Centre</u>
Galway Neuroscience Centre