

BEFORE YOU APPLY: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Research Masters and Doctorate programmes involve individual or small group projects under the supervision of highly qualified research leaders. They are examined by dissertation and a viva voce plus in some cases a display or creative work.

| ACADEMIC YEAR | |
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| <p>Research Postgraduate students generally commence their studies in September/October in line with the taught postgraduate academic year. However, students can commence their research postgraduate study at different times throughout the year. Full-time research postgraduate students normally work on their research for about 45 weeks per year, taking only 4-5 weeks holidays plus the normal range of public holidays.</p> | |
| MASTERS BY RESEARCH | DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) |
| <h3>LEARNING OUTCOMES</h3> <p>Candidates for the Degree of Master (Research) will be expected to acquire a mastery of the principles and theory underlying their chosen subject and a knowledge and appreciation of the relevant literature. This will be achieved through research and attendance at courses and/or directed study programmes, where necessary.</p> | <p>The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy is conferred for advanced levels of achievement, in which the candidate demonstrates outstanding scholarship and ability. The candidate must demonstrate that he/she has conducted original, independent research and has a broad knowledge of a particular field of study and a comprehensive knowledge of the specialist area upon which his/her research is focused.</p> |
| <h3>ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</h3> <p>The normal entry standard for a Master's degree is an honours Bachelor Degree (minimum level: 2nd Class Honours) in a field of study directly related to the subject matter of the Master's Degree.</p> <p>In the case of applicants for a research position who hold a 2.2 Honours degree, they may be required to undertake a Postgraduate Diploma or a Taught Masters degree.</p> <p>The qualifications of direct applicants from overseas will be reviewed using the NARIC index. Such applicants must also provide evidence of their competence in English, normally IELTS 6.5.</p> <p>WIT will also consider applications in respect of individual candidates who meet certain specified alternative entry qualifications, subject to the approval of Academic Council. These include high level professional qualifications, relevant high level experience and passing a qualifying examination.</p> | <p>There are two possible entry pathways for PhD students. Candidates normally commence their studies on the Masters Register but can transfer to the PhD Register after 12 months, subject to the satisfactory completion of the transfer process. Alternatively, candidates may be allowed direct entry to the PhD Register if particular criteria are met.</p> <p>In exceptional cases, such as the prior completion of a research Masters in a cognate area, candidates may be admitted to the PhD register on a probationary basis. This is at the discretion of WIT Academic Council or HETAC.</p> |

DURATION

MASTERS BY RESEARCH

Normally, the duration of studies leading to the Degree of Master (Research) is twenty-one months (two academic years) from the date of admission to the Master's Register (full-time) and up to forty-two months part-time (four academic years).

PhD

Normally, the duration of studies leading to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy is three academic years from the date of admission to the register (full-time) and up to six academic years (part-time) in exceptional circumstances, the registration authority may vary the required and permitted duration of the programme.

FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME

Full-time:

Research Postgraduates are normally considered as full-time students if they are undertaking fewer than 6 hours per week paid work on a regular basis during the normal day-time operational hours of WIT i.e. Monday to Friday, 9.15am-5.15pm. Professional development is considered an integral part of the higher degree training programme, and the programme may include tutoring or demonstrating. International candidates should be aware that student visas are for full-time study only.

Part-time:

Research Postgraduates are considered as part-time students if they are undertaking more than 6 hours per week paid work on a regular basis during the normal day-time operational hours of WIT i.e. Monday to Friday, 9.15am-5.15pm. The anticipated completion time for each part-time candidate will be specified at registration and their progress will be monitored against this. Periods of candidature for part-time candidates can be up to twice those set for full-time candidates.

TRANSFER FROM MASTER'S REGISTER TO DOCTORAL REGISTER

In the case of a candidate transferring from the Master's Register to the Doctoral Register, the required and permitted duration shall be measured from the date of admission to the Master's Register.

HOW TO APPLY

- In some cases there are opportunities to work on funded research projects, these are advertised in the national and local press and on our website. Those interested apply for the competition and qualified applicants will be shortlisted and interviewed for selection.
- In all other cases, each individual completes and submits a research postgraduate application form which they obtain from the Research Postgraduate Admissions Office, Registrars' or from the website at www.wit.ie/pg. The form will specify additional documentation that may be required e.g. transcripts of results, evidence of English competence.
- Applicants for research places are expected to have an idea for a research topic. They are strongly advised to have had prior contact with WIT researchers to ensure that WIT has the capacity to supervise them and the facilities for the work they intend to undertake. Heads of Department and Research supervisors are happy to provide this type of advice to prospective research postgraduates.
- Selection for research postgraduate places is on the basis of the applicants' qualifications and experience and on the ability of WIT to support their proposed research project.
- While research postgraduate applications can be submitted at any time of year, most of them are normally submitted in June when final examination results have been announced.

CREDIT TRANSFER

Where, in exceptional circumstances, prior to application for admission to either the Master's or Doctoral Register, a candidate has registered for, and completed part of, a programme of study leading to the award of a higher degree by research, by a degree awarding body other than the Institute, the Institute may, on application by the relevant academic department, allow credit for all or part of the work and time already spent by the candidate on such research, providing credit in respect of this research has not and will not be given by any other awarding body.

DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESEARCH POSTGRADUATES

The greatest difference between undertaking your postgraduate award by taught or research mode is the level of responsibility you have to take for your own programme. This is much greater in the case of research students as each person is undertaking an individually tailored programme. Here are some examples of the responsibilities of research postgraduates.

Each student is expected to:

- ✓ have an idea of the specific research area that interests them before they apply
- ✓ research all the options prior to application and make an individual application
- ✓ familiarise him/herself with the relevant rules and regulations governing postgraduate awards by research;
- ✓ agree the programme of work, and the aims, objectives and timeframe for the proposed programme, including the nature and extent of the guidance expected, with the supervisor(s);
- ✓ carry out the literature review and research work.
- ✓ agree a schedule of meetings with the supervisor(s) and arrangements for the evaluation of progress;
- ✓ inform the supervisor(s), as early as possible, of any significant problems and difficulties encountered;
- ✓ understand that the research and writing up must be their own work and not the work of the supervisor
- ✓ submit a dissertation in accordance with the schedule of the Institute and provide a minimum notice of two months of the intention to submit the dissertation for examination to the supervisor(s) and other relevant personnel;
- ✓ be responsible for ensuring that the dissertation presentation format is in accordance with regulations.

Formal Training for all Research Postgraduates - Generic Skills Training

Waterford Institute of Technology is committed to graduating creative professionals who are capable of developing innovative solutions to the problems facing society. This will be achieved in part through the traditional supervisory process, which develops professional and disciplinary knowledge and technical skills. In addition there are a range of skills and attributes, which equip Levels 9 and 10 graduates to succeed in a wide range of different tasks and jobs and facilitate their contribution to the society they live in. While many of these skills are learnt as part of the supervised research process, they are often listed separately and referred to as GENERIC AND TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS.

WIT provides a central programme of Generic and Transferrable Skills Training. The research postgraduate student and supervisor should undertake a training needs analysis - what skills are already possessed, what skills need to be developed and how and when this will be done. From 2009, when a research postgraduate submits a dissertation they will be required to submit a log book, signed off by their supervisor, showing the Generic and Transferrable Skills developed and the way in which this development was achieved.

Many of the Generic and Transferrable Skills Training programmes are available free of charge. This programme is not designed to replace the support and development provided by supervisors; it is intended to be complementary. Many students who attend the programme find it also helps them to network with other students and develop inter-disciplinary links.

WIT Academic Council has approved a programme, which meets the following parameters and is:

- based on individual learning plans
- mandatory. Any student failing to comply with their agreed training plan will not be permitted to graduate with the Masters or PhD award.
- monitored as part of the bi-annual review process

Representation

Research Postgraduate students are represented on the Research and Development committee of WIT Academic Council. This group is responsible for the development and review of all policies and procedures for research postgraduate study at WIT.

WIT Facilities for Postgraduates

The Library

WIT Libraries provide a comprehensive range of information services and resources to support student learning and research. Facilities include over 1,400 reader spaces in an award-winning state-of-the-art library building offering a variety of technology-rich learning spaces including wireless access, group study and seminar rooms, a rooftop cafeteria and bookshop.

In addition to a collection of over 200,000 books, journals and audio-visual materials, WIT Libraries also provide 24/7 access to an array of online journals and research databases, both on and off campus.

Library staff offer friendly, on-demand, help and training to all students in finding and using the information that they need to succeed at college and into their future careers. Check out the library website at www.wit.ie/library for more information.

The library contains 86 dedicated study spaces for research postgraduate activity. Unfortunately since there are fewer spaces than the total number of research postgraduates, it is not possible to provide everyone with their own dedicated space for the duration of their studies. Priority is given to those who have no other workplace (e.g. laboratory or studio) and to those writing up their dissertations or papers.

Computer Services

There are spacious, dedicated work-spaces for over 100 postgraduate students.

The Computer Services department is responsible for the maintenance and development of Institute IT Facilities including data and phone networks, e-mail facilities, MIS and general computing facilities for staff & students. In addition to the 600+ terminals in the Walton Building, there are extensive specialised computer facilities associated with the Library, research centres and academic departments. The WIT network is connected to highspeed broadband.

Laboratories, Workshops and Studios

These specialised facilities are provided by Departments. Some are shared with undergraduates; others are dedicated for postgraduate students and researchers. If you wish to view the research facilities, you are welcome to arrange a visit.

Central Services for Postgraduate Students

A wide range of supports are provided by WIT for all its students. These include:

- **Accommodation Service.**
Purpose built, modern student apartments are available for all WIT students. These are affordable and within easy reach of the Institute.
- **Meals**
There is a wide range of restaurants on campus, providing meals and snacks to suit all tastes from 8am to 9pm daily.
- **Health and Counselling**
The Institute has its own Medical Centre with nursing staff, counsellors and a doctor available by appointment.
- **Pastoral Care**
The Institute provides chaplaincy support for students. Arrangements can be made for students with special religious needs.
- **Recreation / Clubs and Societies**
There are opportunities to participate in team and individual sports and in a wide range of other general interests. In addition to these, postgraduate students are encouraged and supported to network with each other and to run events for themselves.
- **Careers**
The careers office provides support and guidance for all WIT students and graduates.
- **Students Union**
Postgraduate students are invited to join the WIT Student's Union. This is a good way to make friends, become aware of entitlements and become involved in student life

