

PART C. THE STRUCTURED RESEARCH PROGRAMME

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Life-Cycle of a Research Student

Life-Cycle of a PhD Student

Progression within the PhD programme is subject to annual review, with a substantive review occurring before the end of year two for full-time student and year three for part-time students.

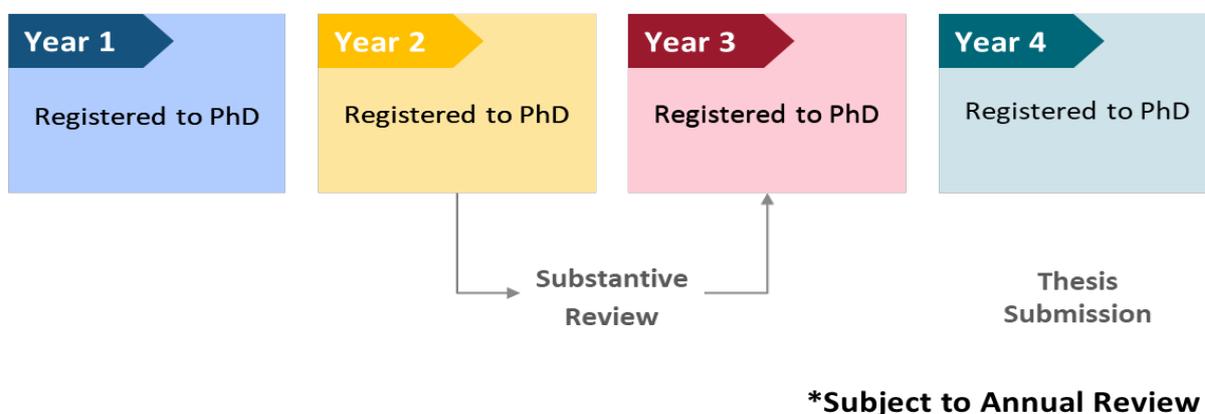


Figure 1: Normal Life-cycle of a PhD student

Life-Cycle of a Research Masters Student

Progression within the Research Masters programme is subject to annual review.

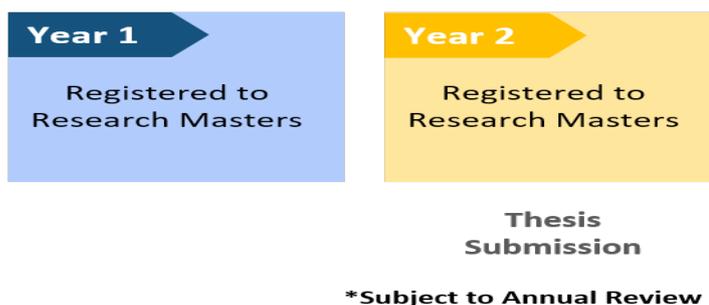


Figure 2: Normal Life-cycle of a Research Masters student

A student who is registered for and pursuing a research master's degree may petition to transfer to the PhD register. The student must submit the transfer request along with the signatures of the supervisor and the Departmental Research Student Progress Committee to the approval by the Dean of Graduate Studies. All approvals will be noted by the Graduate Education Committee.

Period of Time for Completion

The normal, minimum and maximum duration in years of study for a PhD programmes are given in table 1.

	Normal duration	Minimum duration with approval from Head of Dept.	Minimum duration with approval from Academic Council	Maximum duration
PhD full-time	4	3	2	6
PhD part-time	6	4.5	3	9

Table 1: Normal, minimum and maximum duration in years of study for a PhD programmes

The normal, minimum and maximum duration in years of study for a Research Masters programme are given in table 2.

	Normal duration	Minimum duration with approval from Head of Dept.	Minimum duration with approval from Academic Council	Maximum duration
Research Masters full-time	2	1	1	3
Research Masters part-time	3	2	2	5

Table 2: Normal, minimum and maximum duration in years of study for a Research Masters programme

Further details are available under the Regulations for Research Degrees: see <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies/academic-policies-procedures>.

Structured Research Programmes

Departments and research institutes develop unique research programmes with a portfolio of taught modules and a minimum number of credits to be earned. Full details on each programme are available at: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/phd-research-programmes>.

Each department should produce a departmental graduate handbook containing details on requirements and procedures relating to graduate matters administered at departmental level.

The handbook may include:

- Information about facilities and resources available to research students within the department and within the university, including library, computing, technical and laboratory facilities;
- A brief biography of academics and their research interests including most recent publications and successful grant areas of research;
- Departmental policy on the timing and mode of presentation of reports, reviews, seminars and examinations by which the student is assessed;
- Departmental policy on annual progression, including course requirements if applicable;
- Departmental requirements regarding demonstration, teaching and tutorials by research students;
- Departmental guidelines on good research practice, research conduct and research ethics within their disciplines taking into account university policies;
- Departmental policy regarding interlibrary loans;
- Department policy on student costs for attendance at conferences;
- Departmental calendar (seminar dates etc.);
- Departmental guidelines regarding thesis content and standards expected;
- Departmental specifications for the publishing of papers in international journals or international conference presentations;
- Procedures by which the student or the supervisor may make representations as appropriate if significant difficulties arise (grievance procedures);
- Requirements for student training in health and safety issues applicable to the department;
- The department should seek to ensure that mechanisms are in place to promote regular contact between academics, support staff and graduate students, such as orientation programmes, departmental seminars, departmental workshops in safety procedures as required and similar.

Credits Required

For PhD students, the minimum/maximum number of credits required are given in the table 3:

	Minimum Credits	Maximum Credits
If a student has completed a four-year undergraduate programme	30 (15 Transferable & 15 Subject Specific)	90 Credits
If a student has completed a three-year undergraduate programme and Taught Masters	30 (15 Transferable & 15 Subject Specific)	90 Credits
If a student has completed a three-year undergraduate programme	60 (at least 15 Transferable & 15 Subject Specific)	90 Credits

Table 3: Normal, minimum and maximum credits required for a PhD programme

For Research Masters students, the minimum/maximum number of credits required are given in the table below:

	Minimum Credits	Maximum Credits
If a student has completed a four-year undergraduate programme	10 (5 Transferable & 5 Subject Specific)	15 Credits

Table 4: Normal, minimum and maximum credits required for a Research Masters programme

Graduate Skills Modules

The MU Research Skills Development Programme (RSDP) offers a suite of graduate skills (GST) modules research students can undertake as part of their structured research programme. GST modules are designed to assist research students in acquiring the skills and experience necessary to become independent researchers and to prepare them for careers in multiple settings beyond academia.

Research students should refer to their specific departmental research programme for information on the GST modules available to them.

The following is a list of graduate skills modules (full details are available on <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/rsdp>)

- GST1: Professional Development & Employability: assessed by supervisor;
- GST2: Finding Information for your Research: assessed by supervisor;
- GST3: Academic Writing Module: assessed by module co-ordinator;
- GST4: Ethics and Integrity (under review)
- GST5: Creative Thinking & Problem-Solving: assessed by module co-ordinator;
- GST6: Social Entrepreneurship – Making a Real Difference: assessed by module co-ordinator;
- GST8: Grant Management & Compliance: assessed by GS and RDO;
- GST10: Innovation & Research Commercialisation: assessed by Commercialisation;
- GST11: Professional Skills – Thesis Completion & Career Development: assessed by module co-ordinator;
- GST13: Research Funding Application: assessed by RDO;
- GST15: Ethics & Academic Practice for Research Students: assessed by RDO;
- CTL1: Professional Certificate in Teaching & Learning, Tutors & Demonstrators: assessed by the module co-ordinator.

Contact: Email: rsdp@mu.ie.

Flexibly Defined Modules

The following is a list of flexibly defined modules provided to research students by their department. Research students should refer to their specific departmental research programme for information on the flexibly defined modules available to them.

Flexibly defined modules are not defined as subject specific or transferable. This distinction is at the discretion of the department. Departments assess flexibly defined modules.

- FM801: Conference Organisation;
- FM802: Work Based Placement;
- FM803: Research Placement;
- FM804: Engaging with the community: Research, Practice and Reflection;
- FM805: Outreach & Communication;
- FM806: Advanced Communication Skills (Conference Presentation);
- FM807: External Short Course;
- FM808: Seminar Series;
- FM809: Advanced Communication Skills (Publication)

Administrative Process for Graduate Skills Modules & Flexibly Defined Modules

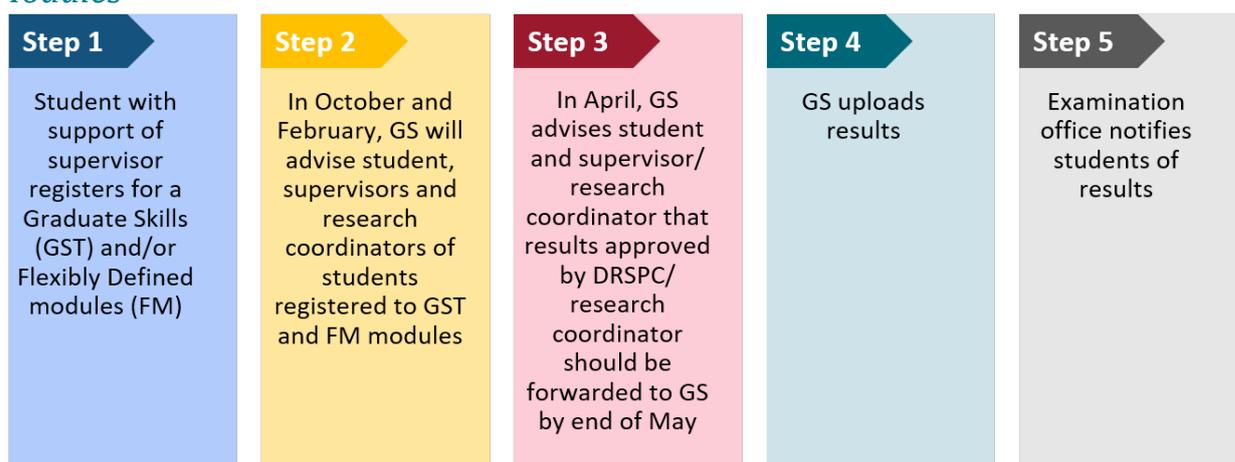


Figure 3: Administrative Process for GST and FM Modules

Modules Outside The Home Department

The student may register for a module in any department in MU, if the supervisor and the module co-ordinator agree.

Further details: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/graduate-studies/modules-research-students>.

Inter-University & External Modules

There are a range of inter-university modules and external modules available for research students. Details on the specific registration process should be sought from the host module/programme co-ordinator.

Further details: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/graduate-studies/modules-research-students>.