

WHY CHOOSE WIT FOR YOUR POSTGRADUATE STUDY ?

There are many factors you will have to take into account when making the important decision about which University or Institute will suit you best for your postgraduate study.

The following check list may help you make this decision:

The reputation and recognition of the awards granted. This is vital as you must not spend your important time preparing for an unsuitable award.

The quality of the research undertaken. Some factors you should explore include

- ✓ The qualifications and public profile of the supervisory staff.
- ✓ Their publications record.
- ✓ Their ability to attract external competitive funding.
- ✓ The quality of the facilities - laboratories, workshops, studios, equipment, library and IT resources.
- ✓ The research environment. Find out if you will be working alone or part of a team and select the arrangement that suits you best.
- ✓ The location of the University or Institute - e.g. is it accessible, safe, healthy, attractive.
- ✓ Proximity to your home and family.
- ✓ Do you want to stay on in the University or Institute from which you graduated or do you want a change? There are pros and cons for each of these.
- ✓ The availability of suitable accommodation.
- ✓ Value for money - aim for high quality and low fees! In addition to tuition fees, check out living costs - these tend to be lower in smaller cities.
- ✓ Availability of grants and awards.
- ✓ Support services provided for postgraduate students.

When you read this prospectus and compare WIT with other providers, you will be well placed to make an informed decision. If you decide that WIT suits you best, we assure you that we will do our very best to make your postgraduate experience worthwhile and rewarding.

Postgraduate Degree Awards

Most WIT Postgraduate awards are made by WIT under the authority delegated to it by the Higher Education Training and Awards Council (HETAC) within the framework of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI). They are therefore of the highest quality and are recognised internationally. Doctorates in some areas are offered by HETAC directly.

Postgraduate awards at WIT fall into the following categories

- Higher Diplomas
- Postgraduate Diplomas
- Taught Masters
- Research Masters
- Doctorate (PhD)

Advice to students on selection of the type of postgraduate award

It is very important that you reflect carefully on your requirements before you make the important choice between a taught mode or a research mode award.

Are you prepared for the freedom and academic challenge of a research award programme or will the structure and professional qualifications of a taught postgraduate programme suit you better?

To help you make that decision, take a look at our quick guide on the next page.

WHICH MODE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDY IS RIGHT FOR YOU ?

TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

- Mainly focused on continuing professional development
- Taught programmes can be offered in full-time or part-time mode
- Duration: Typical full-time programme duration is one year and part-time programme duration is two years
- Entry requirements at least a 2nd class honours Bachelor Degree (Level 8) in a field of study directly related to the subject matter of the masters degree
- Students attend lectures, undertake a dissertation and their work is assessed through a combination of coursework and formal examinations
- Taught programmes may also provide a means of entry on to a research degree programmes
- Taught Postgraduate programmes at WIT operate on a semesterised basis:
 - Semester 1 - September to January
 - Semester 2 - February to June
 - Semester 3 - June to September

See page 6 for a full list of taught programmes

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

- There are two research degree options:
 - Masters by Research
 - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Research programmes involve individual or small group projects under the supervision of highly qualified research leaders
- In most cases, research programmes are examined by dissertation, in some cases a display or creative work and / or viva voce

Masters by Research

- Duration: Typical duration of a Masters by Research programme is 21 months full-time or 42 months part-time.
- Minimum entry standard: 2nd class honours Bachelor Degree (Level 8) in a field of study directly related to the subject matter of the masters degree
- Candidates 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.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

- Duration: Typical duration of a PhD programme is three years (full-time) to six years (part-time)
- 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.
- The PhD 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.