Unfortunately, due to current student numbers, there will be no new intake on the D.Ed. until at least 2012/2013. However, we are accepting applicants for the Structured Ph.D. which is organized similarly, with a slightly higher end qualification and which may be taken on either a full or part time basis.

Students can apply for the structured PhD programme at any stage during a year, and if their application is successful, students are registered either in September or March of a given year. However, we normally recommend that students register in September, as they will begin their programme of studies with a new cohort for that year. Starting one’s studies with a new cohort of students can provide a degree of peer support and social networking with fellow students, and opportunities to attend research methods early on in one’s programme. The University also runs a number of information and support sessions for new research students at the beginning of the academic year. In addition, due to demand, staff are more likely to already have a full cohort of Ph.D. students from the previous September intake and the availability of a supervisor is likely to be reduced when seeking a March registration.

The new Ph.D. programme is a development of the traditional Ph.D., where students select an area of enquiry and complete their doctoral thesis under the supervision of a designated supervisor. In the new programme, students, in consultation with their supervisor, may identify specific areas where they would benefit from attending taught courses, where such courses are running in any given year.

Thus, Ph.D. students are normally required to attend relevant research methods courses, dependent on their needs in this area, and are also allowed to attend other relevant courses and seminars, up to a maximum of 30 credits over the duration of their studies with us (there is no minimum requirement). Typically, there is no assessment attached to attendance at such seminars and/or courses, and attendance is designed to provide students with additional knowledge and information in order to further develop their skills as researchers in their chosen area of study.

In essence, the programme aims to provide an additional level of support to traditional research students, as and when they and their supervisors deem it necessary or desirable.

Ideally, prospective students are encouraged to first outline their area of interest in a brief initial proposal, which can be sent to the Postgraduate Research Officer (phdrsch@tcd.ie) at any stage, and is then considered by the Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning. A set of guidelines to help you draft this proposal is located at http://www.tcd.ie/Education/research/TCD%20SoE%20Proposal%20Guidelines.pdf. If your study is in an area in which staff in the School have expertise and research interests, then it is forwarded internally to the appropriate staff member who will review it. At that stage, a potential supervisor may choose to contact you directly to discuss and explore further your initial ideas and proposal, as well as your formal application.

If you decide to apply for entry to the Ph.D. programme, your application must be made through PAC via the Graduate Studies Office in Trinity College Dublin. http://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies/prospectivestudents/howtoapply/index.php

At this stage, you will be required to submit a more detailed proposal with your application form, along with the documentation outlined by PAC.
Please remember to tick the relevant boxes on the online application form for the Ussher and Trinity Postgraduate Awards if you are interested in applying for scholarships. A very limited number of scholarships are available each year for full time students only. The minimum/maximum periods of registration for research students are between 2-4 years for full time students, and 3-6 years for part time students. Details of awards pertinent to the School of Education are available at: http://www.tcd.ie/Education/research/research_awards.php. Further details about periods of registration and fee information are available on the Graduate Studies website.