Non-Resident (Distance) Ph.D. Information Sheet

The option to study by distance is available to students who are interested in undertaking a structured Ph.D. programme under the supervision of our world class research talent and to access our unrivalled academic resources, but who are not in a position to be resident in Dublin for the duration of their studies.

As part of this programme, you will be a fully registered student of Trinity College Dublin with access to our libraries and services whether you are on or off campus. A programme of online seminars and discussion groups will be made available to enable connection with fellow Trinity researchers within and across disciplines.

Tuition fees for non-resident students are the same as those for students who attend the campus and a student who begins their studies on the Non-Resident register cannot transfer to the ordinary PhD register during their studies. Students on the Non-Resident register are not eligible for any university studentship awards and are not normally eligible for other funding schemes that require residency within Ireland.

In order to be admitted to the research register, candidates should normally have a minimum 2.1 honours degree or GPA of 3.2; other general Admissions requirements can be found on the Trinity Study website. Individual participating Schools may have a further minimum set of requirements and expectations for studying on this programme. Additionally, your Supervisor and you may establish further agreements in this regard.

From September 2024, students must attend the Trinity campus in Dublin for three mandatory components of their PhD over the course of their studies. Students must be present on campus for a four day orientation and induction programme in early September. They must also attend for their Confirmation Interview approximately halfway through their studies and their Viva Voce examination at the end of their studies.
Our Ph.D. programme follows a structured model and those studying from a distance will need to achieve at least 20 ECTS of taught credits to meet those requirements. Five of these credits will be fulfilled by completing the mandatory Induction and Orientation module (commencing September 2024) with five more being fulfilled by the Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era module, which all Ph.D. students must complete. 10 credits must be achieved by completing modules with the agreement of your Supervisor. A full list of these modules can be found here. Before selecting a module, students should check that the module can be taken online i.e., that lectures and assessment can be undertaken remotely. Non-Resident PhD students are advised to consider the Planning and Managing Your Research Process (PMRP1001) module when agreeing module options with their Supervisor.

There are opportunities to study for a Ph.D. full-time taking approximately 4 years or part-time taking 6 years. Normally, students can commence their programme of study from September or March each academic year although some Schools do not permit a March registration. Visa requirements for non-EU students should be carefully considered to ensure there are no barriers to attending campus as required for the three mandatory components - the minimum requirements associated with the programme. These visa requirements are outside the control of the university and may affect non-EU students differently depending on their country of origin.

From September 2023, the following Schools will be taking applications from suitable and qualified candidates for Non-Resident Ph.D. programmes:

School of Creative Arts (Dept. of Music only)
School of English
School of Engineering
School of History and Humanities
School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
School of Law
School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
School of Psychology
School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
School of Natural Sciences
School of Dental Science
School of Medicine
School or Nursing and Midwifery
School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

For general queries, please contact the Graduate Studies Office genadgso@tcd.ie or individual School contacts.