PhD in Digital Arts and Humanities

We invite applications for four-year doctoral studentships with the structured PhD programme in Digital Arts and Humanities (DAH). The studentships come with a stipend of 16,000 euro per year. Fees for Irish and EU citizens are fully covered. Fees for non-EU citizens will be determined by individual universities and will be determined by the shortfall between the fee charged for EU citizens and the fee for non-EU students. Successful candidates will be registered with the full-time inter-disciplinary structured PhD programme co-ordinated with an all-Irish university consortium. Studentships are provided at Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, National University of Ireland, Galway, and National University of Ireland, Maynooth. The Royal Irish Academy and the Northern Ireland universities Queen’s University Belfast and University of Ulster contribute teaching but do not provide funded studentships.

What is DAH?

DAH is a four-year structured doctoral research-training programme designed to enable students to carry out research in the arts and humanities at the highest level using new media and computer technologies.

The ever-evolving developments in computing and their performative and analytical implications have brought about a quantum leap in arts and humanities research and practice. Digital Arts and Humanities is a field of study, research, teaching, and invention at the intersection of computing and information management with the arts and humanities.

The DAH Structured PhD programme will create the research platform, the structures, partnerships and innovation models by which fourth-level researchers can engage with a wide range of stakeholders in order to contribute to the developing digital arts and humanities community world-wide, as participants and as leaders.

The programme will promote advanced practical and academic research in applying innovative models of arts practice and theory, humanities research, archiving, and pedagogy. DAH will provide coherent exposure to transferable skills in digital content creation that will be enabling, academically rigorous and commercially viable. DAH will do so by promoting advanced practical and academic research in the application of new media and computer technologies, and will work with industry partners and cultural institutions to ensure knowledge exchange and career development.

Programme Structure

Candidates will choose to enter the program within either the ARTS or the HUMANITIES strands. In both strands they are required to complete core, training and career development modules, including main modules shared across the consortium and others institutionally-based. The overall aim of the taught modules are threefold: 1) to introduce students to the history and
theoretical issues in digital arts/humanities; 2) to provide the skills needed to apply advanced computational and information management paradigms to humanities/arts research; 3) to provide an enabling framework for students to develop generic and transferable skills to carry out their final research projects/dissertations. The aim of the research is to enable students to develop and synthesise a PhD dissertation.

Year 1 of the four-year programme includes core and optional graduate education modules delivered in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Maynooth. These modules provide grounding in essential research skills and transferable skills together with access to specialist topics. In years 1 and 2 work on PhD research projects is supplemented with access to elective modules. Year 3 features practical placements in industry, academic research environments or cultural institutions. Year 4 is fully dedicated to writing up the thesis.

**Institutional strengths**

**DAH @ TCD**

DAH students at Trinity College Dublin will be supported by two of the Universities flagship research units, the Trinity Long Room Hub and the Arts Technology Research Lab, each with their own bespoke facilities on Trinity's ancient city-centre campus. Studentships are available for the Schools of Drama, Film and Music, English, Histories and Humanities, Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Linguistic, Speech and Communications Sciences, Religions, Theology and Ecumenics, and the Department of Philosophy. Particular research strengths within TCD include digital textual scholarship and editing, virtual / augmented / mixed reality performance, data mining and visualisation, time-series analysis and historical modelling, personalisation and localisation, computer linguistics, digital curation, 3D worlds, and music and new media.

**DAH @ University College Cork**

The College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences (CACCSSS) at University College Cork adds unique elements to DAH. UCC staff has wide experience in digital arts and humanities, especially in regard to Irish and European history, literature, culture and music technology. Some current projects and collaborations in the field at UCC include: CELT, a corpus of online texts over 14 million words for Irish history, literature and politics; LOCUS a new Historical Dictionary of Irish place names and tribal names Online; CELTIC DIGITAL INITIATIVE, which aims to make scarce resources (such as texts, images and bibliographies) available in an electronic format to students and scholars; ArCH which aims to create a series of facsimile editions online of the major historical Irish manuscripts; and the ongoing digitisation of the papers of the world famous Cork-based mathematician George Boole. In addition, UCC's Department of Music is particularly strong in practice-based research in composition and performance using digital media (e.g., computer-based and electronic resources for composition, sound and video art, and improvisation), including ‘mux and mash-ups’. DAH at UCC will be innovative and interdisciplinary, building on our experience of research and teaching in Digital Arts and Humanities over the past 20 years.

**DAH @ NUI Galway**

The DAH programme at NUI Galway is shared between the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies and the Huston School of Film and Digital Media. The ambition
for Digital Humanities at the Moore Institute is to create synergies between humanities research, digital technology and innovation. Students enrolling in the DAH at the Moore Institute will be encouraged to create digital applications, including apps and downloadable web trails, which bring the creative culture of Galway and its region to international visibility in partnership with local communities. The Huston School of Film & Digital Media has a dynamic approach to creativity in film and digital media training in conjunction with rigorous film and critical studies. The DAH research programme aims to support highly creative and excellently trained individuals develop advanced artistic practice in digital media at regional, national, and international levels. At the Huston School DAH will contribute knowledge and understanding in digital media, film, and television by means of enquiry conducted through practice-based research methods. The integrated aim of DAH @ NUI Galway will be to support and envision first class humanities research that is informed by the best teaching and support in digital theory and culture.

DAH @ NUI Maynooth

DAH students at NUI Maynooth will be part of An Foras Feasa's research institute which has state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities in the university's newly-opened Iontas building and a dynamic postgraduate community. Students will participate in a collaborative Structured PhD Programme with co-registration in An Foras Feasa and a participating academic department (e.g. English, Music, Media Studies, History, Celtic Studies, Modern Languages). An Foras Feasa specialises in the integration of humanities research with information and communications technologies; particular research strengths in the Institute and its partner departments include digital imaging, digital critical editions, data modelling, digital archives and repository development, humanities computing, software engineering, music technology and multimedia.

Application

The studentships are available from September 2011. Applications must be submitted to the individual institutions, [addresses]