



Maynooth University School of Business PhD

Why choose a PhD?

The PhD is the highest level of academic achievement. It encourages and develops rigorous research and deep thinking to answer societally-important questions. Alongside exceptional research training and support, the structured doctorate in Business provides doctoral graduates with the skills to socialise their research in academic, business, and wider societal contexts. It develops robust, ethical research skills and encourages deep critical thinking. The rigorous nature of the structure of the PhD programme ultimately aims to extend the student's capability to contribute to theory by developing new knowledge, and to practice by providing empirical insights and recommendations.

Why this programme?

The structured research programme in Business creates a framework that complements and supports independent research. It provides milestones to scaffold and encourage your progression as well as structured educational inputs to support and develop you as a researcher. This robust structure will guide you through the key stages of the PhD programme towards completion. You will be introduced to the components of advanced research and encouraged to actively participate in academic communication and publishing. In doing so you will contribute to theory development and grow your own skills and knowledge base.

How will this help my career?

A PhD is now an entry-level criteria for a career in academia. The PhD qualification is recognised globally as the highest level of educational achievement.

The School of Business PhD programme includes research and teaching development opportunities to ensure that graduates are fully prepared for academic work. Modules such as the 'Socialising Research' module help PhD candidates to navigate and become part of a relevant research community. An optional module in 'Teaching Skills for Business' encourages the development of a teaching philosophy and scaffolds the curation of a personal Teaching Portfolio.

What are my career options?

While the majority of graduates with Business PhDs will go on to work in academia, a PhD in Business, Finance, or Accounting, can also be used as a launchpad for consulting and senior management roles.

What are the entry requirements?

For entry to the PhD programmes, applicants normally require a Masters Degree (Honours). Applicants must have a recognised primary degree which is considered equivalent to an Irish university primary degree level. Applicants must also secure agreement from a member of the Faculty of the School of Business to supervise their PhD. Faculty members and their research interests can be found on the School of Business webpage.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/school-business/our-people



Course Structure

The student, on registration, will hold an introductory meeting with their supervisor(s) where a customised and individualised programme of research investigation is balanced with supporting taught modules. The programme consists of 30 credits of structured modules, completion of a written thesis and a viva voce examination. Modules are identified from a suite of modules that make up the structured PhD programme in Business, Accounting or Finance (see below for detail). The timing of these credits will be agreed between the student and the supervisor(s). Annual progress reviews are part of the PhD programme in Business, Accounting or Finance and completion of requisite generic/transferable skills modules will be taken into account when assessing student progress.

Compulsory Modules

Research question, literature review and theory	Business research design and methods	Qualitative methods in business and management research
Socialising research	Reading module (Accounting only)	Quantitative methods in business and management research
Annual Progress Reviews, Thesis & Viva Voce examination		

Course Fees

See www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-fees-grants

Fees may be liable to change.

How to apply?

The first step in applying is to identify a potential supervisor whose research interests align with your own and to work with them to develop a research proposal (see www.maynoothuniversity.ie/school-business/our-people). You will then need to complete and submit an application form to the PhD Director (see email below). Once this has been approved by the school you will need to submit a formal application through MU Apply.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on the PhD programme, please contact:

Dr Nicola Mountford – PhD Director

✉ businessphd@mu.ie or business@mu.ie 🖱 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/school-business