Research Options:

A postgraduate research degree (Research Masters or PhD) is different to a taught course in a number of ways:

– The primary mode of learning is self-learning
– There is no formal course work
– The student is responsible for carrying out the required work to the appropriate standard within the appropriate timeframe
– A supervisor is appointed by the Institute to guide the student in developing and carrying out the project

An added advantage of this learning mode, beyond achieving Level 9 or 10 knowledge and skills, is that the student develops and proves their ability to work alone or in groups, to take responsibility for leading and initiating work, and to self-evaluate and manage their own academic and professional development. These skills are valued highly in the workplace.

Another difference between taught and research degrees is that the student is involved in the design of their studies from the outset. Each research project is unique and involves a specific research question which the project is designed to answer in a structured way. The research question may come from a supervisor who has an existing research programme and team and is developing the area further, or it may come from a student who wants to research a particular topic. In either case, before applying to register, the student and supervisor work together to develop a project plan that is built around an appropriate question, has a fitting plan of work required to answer the question, and a suitable appropriate schedule within which to achieve the particular degree (a Masters is typically two years, a PhD is typically four years).

Registration can be processed at any time of the year. Each applicant’s learning background and current circumstances is unique and at all stages of the registration application process, the Research Office will assist the student and their supervisor on any queries they may have.

The process is as follows: once the research question is decided upon and the project plan developed, registration is initiated by completing a standard form and submitting it to the Head of Research.

– The application is reviewed by an internal and external reviewer
– If required, additional question/project development may be undertaken
– Once this is done, a recommendation is made to the Institute’s Research Committee
– Work can begin once the application is approved and fees are paid

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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