Case Study on DIT Masters Degree Programmes

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Case Study on DIT Masters Degree Programmes, EUA Conference Prague, March 2009

Dr Frank McMahon
The National Framework of Qualifications – award-types and awarding bodies
NQAI Learning Outcomes for Master Degree programmes

- Learning outcomes relate to the demonstration of knowledge and understanding which is the forefront of a field of learning. The outcomes relate to the application of knowledge, understanding and problem-solving abilities in new or unfamiliar contexts related to a field of study.
NQAI Learning Outcomes for Master Degree programmes

- The outcomes are associated with an ability to integrate knowledge, handle complexity and formulate judgements. Outcomes associated with this level would link with employment as a senior professional or manager with responsibility for the work outputs of teams.
# NQAI Learning Outcomes for Master Degree programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge Breadth</th>
<th>A systematic understanding of knowledge, at, or informed by, the forefront of a field of learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Kind</td>
<td>A critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, generally informed by the forefront of a field of learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know-How &amp; Skill Range</td>
<td>Demonstrate a range of standard and specialised research or equivalent tools and techniques of enquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know-How &amp; Skill Selectivity</td>
<td>Select from complex and advanced skills across a field of learning; develop new skills to a high level, including novel and emerging techniques</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# NQAI Learning Outcomes for Master Degree programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competence</th>
<th>Context</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Act in a wide and often unpredictable variety of professional levels and ill-defined contexts</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competence</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take significant responsibility for the work of individuals and groups; lead and initiate activity</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competence</th>
<th>Learning to Learn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learn to self-evaluate and take responsibility for continuing academic/professional development</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competence</th>
<th>Insight</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scrutinise and reflect on social norms and relationships and act to change them</td>
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</table>
DIT Master Degree Programmes

FACULTY OF APPLIED ARTS
FULL-TIME and PART-TIME

MA in Digital Media Technologies FT/PT
MA in Journalism FT
MA in Public Affairs and Political Communications FT
MA in Public Relations FT
MA in European Public Relations
MA in Law FT
M Mus (Performance) FT/PT
MA in Professional Design Practice FT/PT
MA in Criminology FT/PT
MA in Child, Family & Community Affairs FT/PT
European MA in Early Childhood Education and Care PT
DIT Master Degree Programmes

FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

FULL-TIME
MSc in Sustainable Development
MSc in Community & Local Development

PART-TIME
MSc in Planning & Development
MSc in Spatial Planning
MSc in Real Estate
MSc in Spatial Information Management
MSc in Quantity Surveying
DIT Master Degree Programmes

FACULTY OF BUSINESS - FULL-TIME

MSc in Marketing
MSc (Accounting)
MSc in Strategic Management
MSc in International Business
MSc in Advertising
MSc in Business & Entrepreneurship
MBS in Retail Management
MSc in Finance
DIT Master Degree Programmes

FACULTY OF BUSINESS - PART-TIME

MBA
MBS in Retail Management
MSc in Strategic Management
MSc in Marketing (Executive)
MSc in Technology & Innovation Management
MSc in Sales Management
DIT Master Degree Programmes

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  FULL-TIME

MSc in Applied Computing for Technologists
MSc in Engineering Computation
MSc in Electronic and Communications Engineering
MSc in Supply Chain Management
ME in Mechanical Engineering
ME in Signal Processing Engineering
ME in Pharmaceutical Process Control & Automation
ME in Sustainable Electrical Energy Systems
DIT Master Degree Programmes

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  PART-TIME

MSc in Applied Computing for Technologists
MSc in Engineering Computation
MSc in Electronic and Communications Engineering
MSc in Energy Management
MSc in Supply Chain Management
ME in Mechanical Engineering
ME in Signal Processing Engineering
ME in Pharmaceutical Process Control & Automation
ME in Sustainable Electrical Energy Systems
DIT Master Degree Programmes

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

MSc in Molecular Pathology P/T
MSc in Computing (IT) F/T & P/T
MSc in Computing (IT) P/T
MSc in Computing (Knowledge Management) F/T & P/T
MSc in Computing (Assistive Technology) P/T
MSc in Pharmaceutical QA & Biotechnology F/T
MSc in Pharmaceutical QA & Regulation P/T
MSc in Pharmaceutical Validation Technology P/T
MSc in Pharmaceutical & Chemical Process Technology P/T
MSc in Applied Maths & Theoretical Physics F/T & P/T
European MSc in Food Science, Technology & Nutrition F/T & P/T
DIT Master Degree Programmes

FACULTY OF TOURISM & FOOD

MSc in Hospitality Management F/T & P/T
MSc in Tourism Management F/T
MSc in Health Care Risk Management F/T
MSc in Environmental Health & Safety Management F/T & P/T
MSc in Culinary Innovation & Food Product Development F/T & P/T
MSc in Tourism Management P/T
MSc in Health Care Risk Management P/T
MSc in Food Safety Management P/T
DIT Master Degree Programmes

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS – PART TIME

MA in Third Level Learning & Teaching

MSc in Applied eLearning
Duration, Structure + ECTS credits with DIT Masters programmes

Duration:

Whole-time: 1 year for taught modules (60 ECTS) followed by 3 months dissertation (30 ECTS)

Part-Time: 2 years
Types of Masters Programme

- Research Masters
  (usually 2 years minimum)

- Taught Masters (2 types)
  - *Conversion*
  - *Deepening*
Taught Masters Type 1

Conversion

A programme that does not build upon the area of study at Bachelor level

e.g. BA (Languages) followed by MBA
Taught Masters – Type 2

- Deepening
  A programme that builds upon Bachelor degree study

  e.g. MSc (Chemistry) following a BSc (Chemistry)
DEVELOPMENTS IN ARCHITECTURE

- Traditionally, a 5 year programme leading to Bachelor degree

- Proposed new format
  3 year (Bachelor) + 2 year Masters degree
DEVELOPMENTS IN ENGINEERING

- Traditionally, a 4 year Honours Bachelor degree required for membership of Engineers Ireland

- Proposed new requirement
  4 year (Bachelor) + 1 year or 1.5 years Masters degree
Masters Degree as introduction to Research

- Not a requirement

The entry requirement for a Research Degree is an honours Bachelor degree. Sometimes a Masters degree may be substituted for the Honours Bachelor degree where applicant does not have Honours Bachelor degree.
DISSErTATION

- This can serve as an introduction to research and encourage graduates to pursue a research degree

- Dissertation usually
Masters Degree as introduction to Research

- Module on research methods
  Most taught master degrees involve a module on research methods
Reasons for Masters degree study

- To gain a qualification in any area not previously studied to enhance employability
- To meet requirements for a particular jobs market
- To meet entry requirements for some professional bodies
Masters degree students in Irish Universities – Full-time students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>UCD</th>
<th>UCC</th>
<th>TCD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Masters</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taught Masters</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE FUTURE

- An increased number of Masters degree programmes
- More students proceeding to Masters degree study
- Masters degrees replacing Bachelor degrees as requirement for jobs
Thank you

Refs:  [www.nqai.ie](http://www.nqai.ie)
       [www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie)