NCAD DUBLIN

National College of Art and Design

PhD Research Proposal

A research proposal should be uploaded as part of the process of making an application to undertake doctoral study at NCAD (alongside other documentation including a CV).

A research proposal allows the panel reviewing your application to judge the quality and originality of your ideas as well as your awareness of current issues and debates.

It also helps us understand whether we have the right supervisory expertise and any technical resources to support your needs.

Please prepare a PDF with the following headings (indicated in red). It should be at least 1200 words in length (excluding bibliographic material). Longer is fine.

Name

Working title

Field and/or research question
You should provide a clear statement about the field/s to which you plan to contribute. This will usually take the form of a set of research questions or a set of research parameters.

Prior experience
All applicants are encouraged to demonstrate their suitability to undertake the proposed research by outlining relevant prior experience/s:

By thesis applicants may provide examples of prior study (e.g. a copy of a MA thesis or other examples of writing). This can be uploaded but should also be listed here.

By Practice applicants should provide evidence of their practice as an artist, curator, educator, designer or other field of creativity. Please include links to online material and/or illustrations.

Research methods and outcomes
This statement should indicate how you will generate new knowledge. Being explicit about your research method/s and/or critical orientation is important here. Primary sources and other key sources ought to be listed and described too.

It can be helpful to propose a timeline indicating different phases of your project, including periods in archives or making site visits.

If you are applying to undertake research *by practice*, you should make a clear statement about the kinds of resources that you need to undertake this work. This may include access to space or technical resources.

'By practice' applicants are also encouraged to outline the likely nature and scale of the work to be completed in addition to a thesis. (It is understood that research develops over the duration of the studentship and so what is outlined at application may change).

Ethics
Applicants are also required to reflect on any ethical issues which arise from their proposed research. At this stage, we understand that you may not have had the benefit of the critical support from others with expertise in research ethics. Nevertheless, it is important for you to consider how your work may or may not have an impact on others.

Claim on originality
What makes this an original contribution to knowledge? To answer this question, you need to demonstrate up-to-date understanding of the field/s in which you will be conducting your research as well as the nature of the contribution you will make to that field.

This may take the form of a critical assessment of the work of other researchers (e.g., a literature review or an overview of research practices in your area). It should be supported by a bibliography / filmography.

Further queries and support

Please contact Fiona Cleary, Assistant Student Recruitment and Admissions Officer
admissions@ncad.ie / +353 1 636 4218

- March 2021