

PhD Completions @ NUI Galway

NUI Galway has long recognised the importance of PhD completions as a measure of PhD quality. The previous (2009-2014) and current University Strategic Plan, Vision 2020, include targets for improving on-time PhD completions.

The Performance Compact between the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and NUI Galway (2014-2016) includes an institutional objective (4.5) to improve the quality of research degree programmes. One of the targets was to improve the 'PhD Completion rate within time limit', but this target was not achieved in 2015. Therefore the target for 2016 was re-set as follows, 'Detailed analysis of PhD completion time and completion rate to be undertaken and benchmarked against international best practice', thence this report.

This report aims to present and analyse recent centrally held data on PhD completions at NUI Galway and to compare it with PhD completions elsewhere.

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1 Context

The last decade has been a period of significant change in doctoral education in Ireland and internationally, most particularly in Europe. In 2005, the Salzburg Principles represented a key milestone in the reform process. Five years later, in light of the profound changes to doctoral education, the European Universities Association Council for Doctoral Education published the Salzburg II Recommendations¹ which build on the original Salzburg Principles. In 2011 the European Commission followed up with the publication of the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training².

In Ireland, all universities have established Graduate Studies Offices and appointed Deans of Graduate Studies. The first Dean of Graduate Studies was appointed in NUI Galway in 2008. The Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB) published National Guidelines for the Organization of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education³. The Irish Universities' Association (IUA) network of Deans of Graduate Studies published the 'PhD Graduate Skills statement' in 2010, and re-issued it in 2014⁴. The National Framework for Doctoral Education was launched in 2015.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) have recently published the 'Report of Expert panel on the Quality Assurance of Research Degree Programmes in Irish Higher Education Institutions'⁵ and are currently preparing 'Statutory Guidelines for the Quality Assurance of Research Degree Programmes'.

PhD completion time and rate are recognised internationally as two of the quality indicators for PhD degree programmes. However, they are not the only measures of quality. Other indicators include:

- Quality of the PhD thesis and research outputs.
- Employment of the PhD graduates.

To ensure overall quality of PhD programmes at NUI Galway it is important to enhance quality across all of these indicators.

¹ Salzburg II Recommendations (2010) European Universities Association Council for Doctoral Education http://www.eua.be/Libraries/publications-homepage-list/Salzburg_II_Recommendations

² Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training (2011) European Commission https://cdn5.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/principles_for_innovative_doctoral_training.pdf

³ Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education, 2nd edition (2009) Irish Universities Quality Board http://www.ihegn.ie/fileupload/Publications/IUQB_PhD_Guidelines_76409287.pdf

⁴ Irish Universities PhD Graduate Skills Statement, 2nd edition (2014) Irish Universities Association <http://www.iua.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/IUA-PhD-Graduate-Skills-Statement-20141.pdf>

⁴ National Framework for Doctoral Education (2015) http://www.heai.ie/sites/default/files/national_framework_for_doctoral_education_0.pdf

⁵ Report of Expert Panel on the Quality Assurance of Research Degree programmes in Irish Higher Education Institutions (2016) Quality and Qualifications Ireland <http://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Publications/Expert%20Panel%20Higher%20Education%20Research%20Report.pdf>

2 PhD Completion

At NUI Galway, PhD students may commence their PhD at any time of the year.

The main steps in the completion of a PhD are:

1. Candidate submits soft-bound version of thesis to Examinations office for examination.
2. After examination (including viva), the examiners' report is considered by the Standing committee of Academic Council where decision to Award (or otherwise) is made.
3. Candidate submits corrected version (hard-bound) of thesis to the Examinations office.
4. PhD degree is awarded at Spring, June or November Conferring ceremony.

3 Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB) definitions³:

3.1 PhD Completion Time

The time between initial registration of the student for a PhD degree or a research Master's degree (where the student transferred to the PhD register subsequently) to the time when the final corrected thesis has been accepted by the institute, less any period of formal de-registration.

3.2 PhD Completion Rate

The percentage of those students who having, at any stage, been registered in a higher educational institute as a PhD student (including the category of 'PhD track' student) are subsequently awarded a PhD.

Note: The NUI Galway student record system does not readily allow calculation of PhD Completion times or PhD Completion rates and so all data presented in this report has had to be extracted from several systems in the university and manually collated. The expertise and significant work undertaken by Margaret Forde (Institutional Research Office) and Sandra Donohue (Graduate Research Office) in this regard is gratefully acknowledged.

4 2009 Completion Rates and Times for Research Students

The Graduate Studies Office produced a report on PhD completion times and research student completion rates for the Council of Deans in February 2009 (Appendix 1).

Completion time 2006-2008*

ASSCS ⁶	BPPL ⁷	E&I ⁸	MNHS ⁹	Science
5.19 y	5.09 y	4.75 y	4.08 y	4.98 y

*PhD and research Masters students conferred in 2006, 2007 and 2008

PhD Completion rate

	ASSCS	BPPL	E&I	MNHS	Science
PhDs started in 2001 and 2002	23	15	12+7	5	94
PhDs conferred	49	32	54	7	142
	47%	47%	35%	71%	66%

The method of calculating completion time and completion rate differs significantly from later reports, but the main findings are:

- Completion time for PhDs and research Masters (using conferring as the end point) ranges from 4.08 to 5.19 y.
- The longest completion times are in the Colleges of ASSCS and BPPL.
- PhD completion rate ranges from 35% to 71%.
- The highest PhD completion rates are in the Colleges of MNHS and Science.

⁶ Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies

⁷ Business, Public Policy & Law

⁸ Engineering & Informatics

⁹ Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences

5 On-time PhD Completions

The **Institutional Research Office** reports on PhD completions within time limit in its annual set of University KPIs.

A cohort-based approach is used.

A time limit of 4 years is set for full-time students and 6 years for part-time students.

For example, for 2014/2015, a cohort of full-time students registered in 2010 was used to determine the rate of PhD completions within the time-limit of 4 years. For the part-time PhD's, a cohort of students from 2008 was used to determine the rate of PhD completions within the time-limit of 6 years

The endpoint used was submission of hard-bound thesis.

Where a student's status was unknown it was presumed that they had not completed on time.

Periods of approved leave of absence were not taken into account.

On time PhD completions

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
PhD FT 4 year/PT 6 Year completion rate*	16%	19%	24%	21%	21%

taken from **Copy of KPI 2009_2014_15 (mar 2016 Revb)**¹⁰

Main finding

- For PhD students who started between 2006 and 2010, the percentage who completed on time ranged from 16% to 24%

However this KPI does not clearly indicate either PhD completion time or PhD completion rate (as defined by IUQB).

¹⁰ [Key Performance Metric \(KPI\) PhD Completions](#)

6 Completion Time for PhDs conferred in 2014 and 2015

The Graduate Studies Office determined the completion time for PhD students conferred in the calendar years of 2014 and 2015 (Appendix 2).

The starting point was the month the student registered, and the completion time was calculated using month of:

- soft-bound submitted,
- decision to award degree (taken at Standing committee of Academic Council meeting)
- hard-bound submitted and
- conferring.

Periods of approved leave of absence were subtracted from completion times.

Only students who were recorded as full-time for four years or more were included. (Completion time for part-time students was calculated separately.)

Completion times were presented for the university as a whole and within each College.

These reports did not provide information on completion rates.

The reports were provided to Colleges along with the data for their College so that completion times within Schools could be extracted.

Commentary on the completion time data was provided by Colleges in their annual reviews of their research degree programmes.

The reports were presented at Graduate Studies Board in September 2016.

Full-time PhD Completion times (taken from Appendix 2)

	2014			2015		
	soft-bound	hard-bound	Conferring	soft-bound	hard-bound	Conferring
ASSCS	4.8	5.2	5.5	4.7	5.2	5.4
BPPL	5	5.4	5.6	4.8	5.2	5.4
E&I	4.5	4.9	5.1	4.4	4.7	5
MNHS	4.1	4.6	4.7	3.9	4.2	4.5
Science	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.7	4.9
University	4.5	4.9	5.1	4.5	4.8	5.1

Main findings:

- The average completion time (using the IUQB definition of hard-bound submitted date) for full-time PhD students that conferred in 2014 and 2015 was similar, 4.9 y, and 4.8 y respectively.
- The average completion time (using the soft-bound submitted date) for full-time PhD students that conferred in 2014 and 2015 was the same, 4.5 y.
- The average time from soft-bound submitted to conferring was 0.6 y (7.2 months), which is reasonable given that examiners typically have six weeks to read the thesis, the viva has to take place with the report being submitted within two weeks, the report must be considered by Standing committee which meets six-eight times per year, most students must do corrections, the hard-bound thesis must be submitted and PhD conferring ceremonies are held only three times per year.
- Completion times were typically longer in the Colleges of ASSCS and BPPL than in the STEM Colleges – E&I, MNHS and Science.
- The average completion time (to conferring) is longer for every College in 2014 and in 2015 compared with the 2009 report. However it should be noted that the 2009 data included all research students, both PhDs and research Masters.

7 2017 PhD Completion Time and Completion Rate Report

Most recently, the Institutional Research Office completed a comprehensive PhD completion time and PhD completion rate report, using a cohort-based approach (Appendix 3).

The cohort followed for the most recent set of reports is the students who started a PhD programme on a full-time basis in 2007/2008.

Times to both soft-bound and hard-bound thesis submission were determined.

Periods of approved leave of absence were not subtracted from completion times.

As the IUQB Completion rate definition does not specify the end point for PhD completion, i.e. at which point it is decided that the PhD is incomplete, it was agreed to set a completion time of eight years for full-time PhD students, i.e. double the time-limit (similar to the rule for undergraduates which allows them to take each year twice only) for this analysis.

Main findings

- The average **completion time** (using hard-bound thesis submission as the endpoint) is **4.65 y**.
- 29% of students submit the hard-bound thesis within 4 y, with 70% submitted within 5 y.
- Completion time varies between Schools, i.e. from 3.53 y in MSAM¹¹ and 6.75 y in LLC¹².
- The average completion time (using soft-bound submission) is 4.25 y.
- 51% of students submit the soft-bound thesis within 4 years, with 82% submitted within 5 y.
- The **completion rate** is **74%**, i.e. 74% of those who started a PhD in 2007-2008 submitted the hard-bound thesis within 8 y. (75% submitted their soft-bound thesis.)
- Completion rate (hard-bound) varies considerably between Schools, i.e. from 17% in PSS¹³ to 100% in MSAM.

[This 2017 report](#) (i.e. **Phds 2007 Cohort Summary Rev E**) is the preferred PhD Completions report as it provides both PhD Completion time and PhD Completion rates for every School.

(Raw data is also included within this Excel file.)

¹¹ Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Mathematics

¹² Languages, Literatures & Cultures

¹³ Political Science & Sociology

8 Factors affecting PhD Completions

At the annual postgraduate research degree programme reviews meetings of Colleges and the Graduate Studies Office, the factors influencing PhD completion were discussed and are summarised below.

Factors which may delay completion times:

- **Lack of funding:** Not all students receive full scholarships for four years and some are self-funded. The poor economic climate in recent years has affected many students. If students are not completed within four years they are required to pay fees for subsequent years. In addition, in some Schools where research costs are high, reduced research grant income to some supervisors hinders PhD student progression and completion.
- **Time management:** PhD students are expected to teach (up to a max. of 120 h p.a. to include all teaching-rated activities for three of four years) and are required to complete 30 ECTS of structured training before submission of their thesis for examination, in addition to completing their research project.

Drivers which should contribute to shorter completion times:

- **Four-year funding for PhD programmes.** Most national providers of PhD scholarships (e.g. Irish Research Council), and local (College or Hardiman) scholarships are now four years, whereas three years funding was the norm in the past. Students with full funding can focus 100% of their time on their PhD work.
- **Structured PhD programmes.**
 - The structured educational element of these programmes provides tailored training support to individual students which enhance their development as researchers and ensure better progress on their research project.
 - Every PhD student now has a **Graduate Research Committee (GRC)**, comprising three academic staff (but not the student's supervisor), which is in place from the start of the PhD until completion and serves as an additional support to the student and supervisor in achieving timely completion.
 - **Annual progress reviews:** Each PhD student's progress is reviewed every year by their Graduate Research Committee, which recommends on progression or otherwise into the next year of the PhD degree. Any significant problems/delays in progress should be identified during this process and solutions put in place. Reviews in the penultimate, final and any subsequent years include consideration of the student's **thesis completion plan**.

In addition, the university has put in place many supports for PhD completions:

- All postgraduate research (PGR) students are required to attend **Orientation** which is provided three times a year. Attendance is monitored (87% of all new PGR students attended Orientation in 15/16) and non-attendees are followed up. Students are advised that they need to manage their time carefully from the outset so as to complete their programme on time.
- In addition, the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies require PhD students to complete an **Induction module** – one of the aims of which is to ensure that PhD students start their research with a focus on timely completion.
- On line **Research Skills training** materials (developed by Epigeum) are available to all PGR students on our virtual learning environment, Blackboard.
- Some **workshops** are provided for PGR students every year, e.g. Planning your PhD, The Seven Secrets of highly Successful Research Students, Defeating self-sabotage and Turbocharge your writing.

- **Thesis Boot Camps**, which are intensive writing retreats with regular follow-up writing sessions, are arranged for PGR students (60 participated in the first boot camps in 15/16).
- The Graduate Studies Office are preparing a '**Writing a Scientific-style thesis Guide**', which is due to be published in 2017.
- **PhD Write-Up Bursary**. Students who are without funding may apply for a 3-month bursary while writing their thesis.
- **Supervisor Workshops**. Since 2013 over 100 supervisors have participated in training and development workshops.
- As part of the suite of ongoing professional development courses (Certificate, Diploma and MA) provided by the **Centre for Excellence in Learning & Teaching**, many academic staff have completed a module on Research Supervision (10 ECTS).

As the PhD programme is four years long, with completions typically taking even longer, it can take many years before additional supports have an effect on completions.

Students are required to pay write-up fees for years 5 onwards until the thesis is submitted. This financial burden can be a barrier for some students continuing to commit 100% time to PhD. However it could also be argued that reducing the PhD registration fee in years 5+ gives the wrong message.

At a national funding level, the HEA funding model provides a bonus to universities for postgraduate research student completion. The payment of this bonus does not require on-time completion.

9 PhD Completion in other universities

There is no international norm for calculating PhD Completion times and Completion rates, and there is limited data available.

IRISH UNIVERSITIES REDACTED

International

In 2013 the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)¹⁴ reported that 72.9% of students who began full-time doctorates in 2010/11 will obtain a degree within 7 years, which compares with 70.1% who started in 2009/10 and 70.5% in 2008/09. The PhD Completion rate at NUI Galway is higher at 74-75%.

In 2014 the EUA reviewed the Wageningen University PhD programme¹⁵. Here the PhD completion rate is 82%, which is higher than the PhD completion rate at NUI Galway which is 74-75%. Although the PhD programme is four years long in Wageningen, a 'time-to-degree' of 4.5 y is considered 'in time'. The endpoint here appears to be the public defence. About one quarter of students complete within 4.5 y and almost 50% complete within 5 years. This compares with 29% of NUI Galway students submitting their hard-bound thesis within 4 years and 70% within 5 years. Therefore the PhD completion time at NUI Galway is shorter.

In the USA, the centrally reported completion time data is difficult to compare with NUI Galway data. For example in 2014 the median years to doctorate since starting graduate school was 7.3 y. However time as a Masters student is included.

¹⁴ Rates of qualification from postgraduate research degrees: projected study outcomes of full-time students starting postgraduate research degrees in 2010-11. (2013) Higher Education Funding Council for England <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2013/201317/>

¹⁵ Self-study for the EUA review of the Wageningen University PhD programme (2014) http://www.wur.nl/upload_mm/1/b/3/6bf8c329-0585-4c61-b334-22315712bbc6_0013%20WUR%20EUA%20Zelfstudie_Totaal.pdf

10 Looking to the future

- The **Graduate Studies Office** will continue to support activities to promote timely postgraduate research student's completion and is currently reviewing procedures and preparing a staffing plan for the future of the Graduate Studies Office.
- PhD Completion time and Completion rate reports will be discussed at the **Graduate Studies Board** and **annual College Postgraduate Research Degree reviews** with the Graduate Studies Office.
- A new **Researcher Training Development and Support** Unit is planned. Postgraduate research students will receive additional training so as to achieve timely completion.
- NUI Galway will participate in the UK **Postgraduate Research Experience (PRES) 2017 survey**, which will provide information on research student's experience and inform the development of further supports for students to achieve timely completions.
- The recent **Student Record System** review highlights the limitations of the current system for postgraduate and PhD students (AMT/17/A2/11 - section 6.6) and presents options for its future development or replacement. An improved system is required to support real-time tracking of PhD student progression and thereby enable timely intervention, and would greatly support the production of PhD Completion reports (and in particular should allow for subtraction of leave of absence time periods from PhD completion time).
- The **Institutional Research Office** will prepare the PhD Completion time and PhD Completion rate reports annually, as per the format of the 2017 report, which will be available to all Schools and considered by the Graduate Studies Board.

11 APPENDICES

11.1 APPENDIX 1

2009 Completion Rates and Times for Research Students (prepared by Graduate Studies Office)

CD/A11/5.4

Completion Rates and Times for Research Students

College/School	Completion time (years)* 2006-08		Total Completion rate† 2001 and 2002		Masters		PhD	
	Years	No. of Students	Total %	Total No. of Students	%	No. of Students	%	No. of Students
SCIENCE	4.98	114	70%	99*/142	3%	5*/142	66%	94*/142
Chemistry	4.75	28	90%	27/30	0%	0/30	90%	27/30
Physics	5.17	11	59%	10/17	6%	1/17	53%	9/17
Mathematics	4.67	5	100%	5/5	0%	0/5	100%	5/5
Natural Sciences	5.33	70	62%	51/83	4%	3/83	58%	48/83
*Medicine			86%	6/7	15%	1/7	71%	5/7
	Years	No. of Students	Total %	Total No. of Students	%	No. of Students	%	No. of Students
ARTS	5.19	31	49%	24*/49	2%	1/49	47%	23*/49
Political Science and Sociology	3.75	4	40%	2/5	0%	0/5	40%	2/5
Psychology	7.04	2	50%	1/2	0%	0/2	50%	1/2
Education	4.08	1	67%	2/3	0%	0/3	67%	2/3
Geography and Archaeology	4.67	3	71%	5/7	14%	1/7	57%	4/7
Humanities	4.75	15	44%	8/18	0%	0/18	44%	8/18
Languages, Literature and Cultures	5.42	4	27%	3/11	0%	0/11	27%	3/11
**Health Sciences	6.67	2	100%	2/2	0%	0/2	100%	2/2
**J.E Cairnes			100%	1/1	0%	0/1	100%	1/1

	Years	No. of Students	Total %	Total No. of Students	%	No. of Students	%	No. of Students
Business, Public Policy and Law	5.09	19	50%	16*/32	3%	1/32	47%	15*/32
Commerce	5	8	38%	3/8	0%	0/8	38%	3/8
Law	5.17	11	57%	12/21	5%	1/21	52%	11/21
***Engineering and Informatics			33%	1/3	0%	0/3	33%	1/3
	Years	No. of Students	Total %	Total No. of Students	%	No. of Students	%	No. of Students
Engineering and Informatics	4.75	27	48%	13+13 ↻/54	13%	1+6 ↻/54	35%	12+7 ↻/54
	Years	No. of Students	Total %	Total No. of Students	%	No. of Students	%	No. of Students
Medicine Nursing and (Health Sciences)****	4.08	11	71%	5/7	0%	0/7	71%	5/7
Medicine	4.08	11	60%	3/5	0%	0/7	60%	3/5
Nursing and Midwifery	N/A	N/A	100%	2/2	0%	0/5	100%	2/2

* Please note that under 2001 and 2002 some the School of Medicine were registered under College of Science.

** Please note that under 2001 and 2002 some students under the School of Health Sciences and J.E. Cairnes were registered under the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies.

*** Please note that under 2001 and 2002 some students under the School of Engineering and Informatics were registered under the College of Business, Public Policy and Law.

**** Health Science figures under College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies

↻ Please note that under the College of Engineering and Informatics above 13 students are under the School of Engineering but were under the College Science under 2001 & 2002

† Definition of Completion rates	Extracted all students who were registered for first year of a PhD or a Research Masters in years 2001 and 2002. Matched Conferral data to registered PhD, Research Masters students to determine who had completed and who had not i.e., ongoing or withdrawn
* Definition of Completion times	Looked at all students who had graduated in 2008, 2007 and 2006 with a PhD and Research Masters. Extracted registration data for students who had graduated during this time. Calculated completion times by subtracting Registration Date from Conferral Date. Calculations were both in months and years. The median was given to avoid skewing by outliers.

11.2 APPENDIX 2

Completion Time for PhDs conferred in 2014 and 2015 (prepared by Graduate Studies Office)

Adapted from 4.6 (ii) GSB 15-9-2016

University Level Completion Times 2014

Doctorates conferred in 2014	214
PhDs conferred	200
Full-time	185
Part-time	15

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.5	4.8	4.9	5.1
PT	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.5
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	41%	19%	17%	12%
PT 6 years	87%	87%	80%	80%
All	44%	24%	22%	17%

CoASSCS Completion Times 2014

All Doctorates conferred in 2014	214
All PhDs conferred	200
CoASSCS PhDs conferred	57
CoASSCS Full-time	52
CoASSCS Part-time	5

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.5
PT	5.6	5.9	6	6.2
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	33%	8%	8%	6%
PT 6 years	80%	80%	80%	80%
All	37%	14%	14%	12%

CoBPPL Completion Times 2014

All Doctorates conferred in 2014	214
All PhDs conferred	200
CoBPPL PhDs conferred	25
CoBPPL Full-time	23
CoBPPL Part-time	2

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.6
PT	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.7
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	26%	13%	13%	9%
PT 6 years	50%	50%	50%	50%
All	28%	16%	16%	12%

CoE&I Completion Times 2014

All Doctorates conferred in 2014	214
All PhDs conferred	200
CoEI PhDs conferred	34
CoEI Full-time	32
CoEI Part-time	2

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.5	4.8	4.9	5.1
PT	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.9
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	41%	22%	22%	13%
PT 6 years	100%	100%	100%	100%
All	44%	26%	26%	18%

CoMNHS Completion Times 2014

All Doctorates conferred in 2014	214
All PhDs conferred	200
CoMNHS PhDs conferred	16
CoMNHS Full-time	13
CoMNHS Part-time	3

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.1	4.5	4.6	4.7
PT	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.9
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	46%	31%	31%	23%
PT 6 years	100%	100%	100%	100%
All	56%	44%	44%	38%

CoS Completion Times 2014

All Doctorates conferred in 2014	214
All PhDs conferred	200
CoS PhDs conferred	68
CoS Full-time	65
CoS Part-time	3

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.6
PT	4.5	4.9	4.9	5.1
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	51%	26%	22%	15%
PT 6 years	100%	100%	100%	100%
All	53%	29%	25%	19%

University Level Completion Times 2015

Doctorates conferred in 2015	173
PhDs conferred	156
Full-time	147
Part-time	9

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.5	4.8	4.8	5.1
PT	5.4	5.8	5.9	6.1
On time completion rate (%)				
FT 4 years	35%	20%	18%	12%
PT 6 years	78%	33%	33%	33%
All	37%	21%	19%	13%

CoASSCS Completion Times 2015

All Doctorates conferred in 2015	173
All PhDs conferred	156
CoASSCS PhDs conferred	40
CoASSCS Full-time	37
CoASSCS Part-time	3

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.7	5.0	5.2	5.4
PT	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.5
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	24%	3%	0%	0%
PT 6 years	33%	0%	0%	0%
All	25%	3%	0%	0%

CoBPPL Completion Times 2015

All Doctorates conferred in 2015	173
All PhDs conferred	156
CoBPPL PhDs conferred	18
CoBPPL Full-time	18
CoBPPL Part-time	0

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.4
PT	0	0	0	0
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	33%	22%	22%	22%
PT 6 years	0%	0%	0%	0%
All	33%	22%	22%	22%

CoE&I Completion Times 2015

All Doctorates conferred in 2015	173
All PhDs conferred	156
CoEI PhDs conferred	32
CoEI Full-time	30
CoEI Part-time	2

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.0
PT	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.7
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	47%	33%	30%	10%
PT 6 years	100%	50%	50%	50%
All	50%	34%	31%	13%

CoMNHS Completion Times 2015

All Doctorates conferred in 2015	173
All PhDs conferred	156
CoMNHS PhDs conferred	18
CoMNHS Full-time	14
CoMNHS Part-time	4

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.5
PT	4.5	4.9	4.9	5.2
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	36%	36%	36%	21%
PT 6 years	100%	50%	50%	50%
All	50%	39%	39%	28%

CoS Completion Times 2015

All Doctorates conferred in 2015	173
All PhDs conferred	156
CoS PhDs conferred	48
CoS Full-time	48
CoS Part-time	0

	soft-bound	Standing	hard-bound	Conferred
Completion time (years)				
FT	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.9
PT	0	0	0	0
On time completion rate				
FT 4 years	40%	21%	19%	17%
PT 6 years	0%	0%	0%	0%
All	40%	21%	19%	17%

11.3 APPENDIX 3

2017 PhD Completion Time and Completion Rate Report

(prepared by the Institutional Research Office

Phds 2007 Cohort Summary Rev E at [This 2017 report](#))

PhD Completion Time

The time from the first month the full-time student registered until the month **hard-bound** thesis was submitted.

2007/2008 cohort

(n = 174)

1. University Completion Time = 4.65 y

2. College Completion Time

College*	Average Completion Time
ASSCS	4.96
BPPL	4.54
E&I	4.48
MNHS	4.87
Science	4.51

3. School Completion Time

School*	Average Completion Time
Education	0
Geography & Archaeology	4.02
Humanities	4.49
Languages, Literatures & Cultures	5.19
Political Science & Sociology	6.75
Psychology	5.37
Business & Economics	4.60
Law	4.92
DERI	5.17
Engineering & Informatics	4.40
Medicine	4.61
Health Science	6.06
Nursing & Midwifery	0
Chemistry	4.43
Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Mathematics	3.53
Natural Sciences	4.62
NCBES	4.83
Physics	4.81

PhD Completion Time

The time from the first month the full-time student registered until the month **soft-bound** thesis was submitted.

2007/2008 cohort

(n = 174)

1. University Completion Time = 4.25 y

2. College Completion Time

College*	Average Completion Time
ASSCS	4.39
BPPL	4.43
E&I	4.04
MNHS	4.57
Science	4.13

3. School Completion Time

School*	Average Completion Time
Education	0
Geography & Archaeology	3.54
Humanities	3.93
Languages, Literatures & Cultures	4.73
Political Science & Sociology	6.25
Psychology	4.97
Business & Economics	3.99
Law	5.00
DERI	4.75
Engineering & Informatics	3.95
Medicine	4.31
Health Science	5.36
Nursing & Midwifery	0
Chemistry	4.04
Mathematics, Statistics & Applied Mathematics	3.11
Natural Sciences	4.24
NCBES	4.42
Physics	4.40

***Note:** There are some cases where students are aligned to a certain College but the specialised area of the PhD in falls under a School in a different College, e.g. some students are aligned to the College of Science but the specialised area of the PhD falls into the the School of Medicine. No. 2 above shows the students aligned to the Colleges and No. 3 above shows the students aligned to the school relevant to the specialised area of the PhD.

PhD Completion Rate

The % of full-time students who submitted their **hardbound** thesis within 8 years.

1. University PhD Completion Rate = 74%

2. College*	Completed					Total	Not	Total	Completion
	0-4 Years	4-5 Years	5-6 Years	6-7 Years	7-8 Years		Completed		rate
ASSCS	9	11	7	3	3	33	13	46	72%
BPPL	5	4	4	1		14	9	23	61%
E&I	8	5	5	1		19	12	31	61%
MNHS	2	4	4			10	2	12	83%
Science	13	29	10	1		53	9	62	85%

3. School*

Education						4	2	6	67%
Geography & Archaeology	2	2				4	2	6	67%
Humanities	5	7	2	1		15	3	18	83%
Languages, Literatures & Cultures		1	3			4	1	5	80%
Political Science & Sociology				1		1	5	6	17%
Psychology	1	1	2		1	5	2	7	71%
Business & Economics	3	2	2		1	8	3	11	73%
Law	2	2	2	1		7	6	13	54%
DERI		1	1			2	2	4	50%
Engineering & Informatics	8	4	4	1		17	10	27	63%
Health Science	1			1	1	3		3	100%
Medicine	4	5	4			13	2	15	87%
Nursing & Midwifery									
Chemistry	2	7	1			10	2	12	83%
Mathematics, Statistics & Applied									
Mathematics	3					3		3	100%
Natural Sciences	4	17	4	1		26	5	31	84%
NCBES		2	2			4	1	5	80%
Physics	2	2	3			7	1	8	88%
Total	37	53	30	6	3	129	45	174	74%

PhD Completion Rate

The % of full-time students who submitted their **softbound** thesis within 8 years.

1. University PhD Completion Rate = 75%

2. College*	Completed					Total	Not	Total	Completion
	0-4 Years	4-5 Years	5-6 Years	6-7 Years	7-8 Years		Completed		rate
ASSCS	18	6	6	3		33	13	46	72%
BPPL	9	1	3	1	1	15	8	23	65%
E&I	11	5	2	1		19	12	31	61%
MNHS	2	5	3			10	2	12	83%
Science	26	24	3			53	9	62	85%

3. School*

Education						4	2	6	67%
Geography & Archaeology	4					4	3	18	83%
Humanities	11	1	3			15	1	5	80%
Languages, Literatures & Cultures	1	3				4	5	6	17%
Political Science and Sociology				1		1	2	7	71%
Psychology	1	2	1	1		5	3	11	73%
Business & Economics	4	1	3			8	5	13	62%
Law	5		1	1	1	8	10	27	63%
Engineering & Informatics	11	4	1	1		17	2	4	50%
DERI		1	1			2	2	15	87%
Health Science	1		1	1		3		3	100%
Medicine	4	6	3			13	2	15	87%
Nursing & Midwifery									
Chemistry	7	3				10	2	12	83%
Mathematics, Statistics & Applied									
Mathematics	3					3		3	100%
Natural Sciences	9	14	3			26	5	31	84%
NCBES	2	2				4	1	5	80%
Physics	3	4				7	1	8	88%
Total	66	41	17	5	1	130	44	174	75%

***Note:** There are some cases where students are aligned to a certain College but the specialised area of the PhD in falls under a School in a different College, e.g. some students are aligned to the College of Science but the specialised area of the PhD falls into the School of Medicine. No. 2 above shows the students aligned to the Colleges and No. 3 above shows the students aligned to the school relevant to the specialised area of the PhD.