

THEMATIC PhD PROGRAMMES AT THE UCD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & MEDICAL SCIENCE,
DUBLIN, IRELAND.

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University College Dublin (UCD) is Ireland's largest university with >20,000 registered undergraduate & postgraduate students. The UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science (UCD SMMS) offers undergraduate degrees in medicine & allied health sciences, a graduate-entry degree in medicine, and a variety of taught and research-based postgraduate courses. Currently, >120 UCD SMMS students are undertaking PhD degrees. Recently, three thematic PhD programmes have been introduced in the UCD SMMS, all of which are designed to give students a strong interdisciplinary training. Students gain 30 ECTS credits by completing in-house taught modules and/or other relevant modules within a flexible modular system. The research project accounts for the remaining required credits (240). In the Thematic Programme in Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine, researchers from the UCD SMMS, Mathematical Science, Computer Science/Informatics and Biology, provide students with both numerate & experimental biological research experience and joint inter-disciplinary supervision. In the Translational Medicine Programme, teams of biomedical, clinical and allied health scientists jointly provide advanced training in the translation of research findings into improved disease diagnosis, treatment & prevention. The Thematic Programme in Infection Biology involves basic & clinical researchers in human & veterinary medicine who investigate host-pathogen interactions, emerging infections and infection models. These thematic programmes have proven popular, and the majority of our PhD students have chosen to enroll in one of them.