Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

5 Model Framework for Postgraduate Taught Research

The Trinity education develops students into independent researchers and prepares them for the rigours of a career within and beyond academia. In their turn, students have become active participants in their learning environments and are seeking sustained opportunities for critical engagement, professional and ethical development, and reflection. Academic and intellectual creativity should be at the heart of postgraduate research. The objective of the 5 Model Framework is to offer students the opportunity to develop their research practice in new ways and is aligned to the vision of postgraduate education in Trinity, which provides:

A stimulating, inclusive, and sustainable research and learning environment, where curious minds and creative thinkers thrive.'

Models for PGT Research		
The table below describes the research models that will be associated with PGT research projects. Within a programme, the model(s) for PGT research should be selected by the course director. In the interest of exposing students to a broad range of research practice, or to offer students choice in the research output, more than one model may be employed per course. In some instances, specific examples of research outputs are offered. These examples have been included at the request of disciplines across the university and are intended to augment, and not to restrict, the type of outputs submissible under the model in question.		
Model 1	**Dissertation**	This model applies to research projects in all disciplines and normally constitutes an extended piece of academic writing on a specific topic using a research methodology agreed between the student and the course director.
Model 2	**Performance**	This model applies to research in the creative arts which involve a significant component of live performance or exhibition as the research output.
Model 3	**Digital artefact**	This model includes research presented through a digital medium or where a digital artefact is constructed in answer, or part-answer to a research question. The artefact can be composed of audio, video, code, database, AR/VR, and/or other elements as required by the nature of the research.
Model 4	**Portfolio**	This model is suitable for applied disciplines where a portfolio of original work is required to satisfy the research element of the masters degree. Examples include, but are not limited to, creative writing (including poetry, fiction, screenwriting, playwriting) and critical writing (e.g., collection of essays). Composition of the portfolio should follow the rules laid down in the course handbook.
Model 5	**Practice**	This model applies to disciplines in which there is a professional practice through which research can be carried out and analysed, and where the research output is produced in a

		format other than a written dissertation, e.g., a case study, clinical audit, internship report
2.	**Research Methodology**	
The proposed models are defined by the nature of the research output, and not by research methodology. Research methodologies vary across and within disciplines, and the student should, with guidance from their supervisor and as part of the early stages of the research, select the research methodology most appropriate for their project.		
3.	**Assessment**	
Rubrics for the assessment of PGT research should be included within the Student Handbook for the course or equivalent publication.		