



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Scoil na hEolaíochta Polaitiúla
agus na Socheolaíochta
School of Political Science
and Sociology

School of Political Science and Sociology PhD Handbook

2026/2027



Contents

1. Welcome to Postgraduate Research in the School of Political Science and Sociology	4
Being a Postgraduate Researcher in SoPSAS	
How to Use This Handbook	
2. About the School	5
The School of Political Science and Sociology	
Our Research Environment	
Research Clusters and Centres	
3. Postgraduate Research in SoPSAS	6
Finding Your Research Community	
4. Key Contacts	7
5. Starting Your Research Degree	8
6. Structured PhD Requirements	9
Alternative PhD Tracks and Formats	
The Article-Based PhD (PhD by Publication)	
The Traditional PhD	
Practice-Based PhD	
7. Supervision	10
Supervision in SoPSAS	
Expectations	
If Difficulties Arise	
Useful Links	
8. Your Graduate Research Committee (GRC)	11
What Is a GRC?	
What Does the GRC Do?	
Your Responsibilities	
For the GRC annual meeting:	
The Mini-Viva	
9. Progression and Key Milestones	13
The PhD Journey	
Fieldwork and Travel	
The Viva	
10. Research Training and Professional Development	14
Developing as a Researcher	
Opportunities within SoPSAS	

University Resources

11. Teaching and Demonstrating	15
12. Publishing during your PhD	16
13. Ethics, Integrity and Responsible Research.....	16
14. The PGR Representative.....	18
15. Self-Care and the Researcher.....	18
Seeking help	
16. Appendix 1: Non-Exhaustive List of Modules.....	21

1. Welcome to Postgraduate Research in the School of Political Science and Sociology

Welcome to postgraduate research in the School of Political Science and Sociology (SoPSAS) at the University of Galway. Undertaking a PhD is not always an easy journey, and there will inevitably be challenges along the way, but it is also a transformative experience and a rare opportunity to devote sustained time and attention to a project of your own design. Our School has a long and proud history of postgraduate research, with generations of researchers contributing important scholarship across political science, sociology, applied social sciences and gender and women's studies, and our current postgraduate community is an integral part of a lively and intellectually diverse research environment. We hope that your time here will not only enable you to produce excellent research, but also allow you to develop as a scholar, build lasting intellectual connections and become part of the wider research community of the School.

Being a Postgraduate Researcher in SOPSAS

As a postgraduate researcher in the School of Political Science and Sociology, you are not simply working towards a degree. You are a member of a diverse and interdisciplinary research community.

The School brings together researchers across Applied Social Sciences, Gender and Women's Studies, Political Science and Sociology. Through our research centres, clusters, seminars and events, postgraduate researchers are encouraged to participate in the intellectual life of the School, develop their own scholarly networks and contribute to a vibrant research culture.

How to Use This Handbook

This handbook focuses on information that is specific to postgraduate research within the School.

It is intended to help you:

- understand how postgraduate research operates in SoPSAS;
- become part of the School's research community;
- identify key contacts and sources of support;
- navigate supervision, progression and research development;
- find the relevant University and College guidance when required.

The handbook does not replace University regulations.ⁱ Where formal procedures apply, the relevant Graduate Studies, College or University guidance takes precedence.

If You're Not Sure Who to Ask

As a general rule:

Question	First Contact
My research	Supervisor
My supervision	Supervisor /Graduate Research Committee
Administrative issue	Supervisor/PGR Director/School or Unit Administrator
I don't know where to start	PGR Director

2. About the School

The School of Political Science and Sociology

The School of Political Science and Sociology is an interdisciplinary social science school with research strengths in Applied Social Sciences, Gender and Women's Studies, Political Science and Sociology. Research within the School combines theoretical, empirical and policy-engaged approaches to addressing contemporary social and political challenges.

Our Research Environment

Research in the School is organised through four disciplines, three research clusters and two research centres. Together these provide intellectual communities for researchers working across a wide range of topics and methodologies.

Research Clusters and Centres

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre

Research focused on children, young people, families, participation and social inclusion.

Centre for Global Women's Studies

Research focused on gender, equality, rights and social justice.

Conflict, Peace and Security

Research on conflict, peacebuilding, security, political violence and international relations.

Sustainable Development

Research on democracy, participation, governance, sustainability and social change.

Social and Political Theory

Research on social theory, political theory, critical theory and normative questions.

3. Postgraduate Research in SoPSAS

Finding Your Research Community

One of the strengths of postgraduate research in SoPSAS is that researchers usually belong to several overlapping communities.

As a postgraduate researcher you will typically have:

- a supervisor or supervisors;
- a Graduate Research Committee;
- a disciplinary home;
- a research cluster or centre;
- the wider School research community.

We encourage postgraduate researchers to become actively involved in seminars, workshops, centres and clusters from an early stage of their degree.

Where Does My Research Fit?

Research interests	Research community
Conflict, security, peacebuilding	Conflict, Peace and Security
Democracy, governance, sustainability	Governance and Sustainable Development
Political theory, social theory	Social and Political Theory
Children, youth and families	UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre
Gender, equality and rights	Centre for Global Women's Studies

4. Key Contacts

Role	Contact	What they can help with
Director of Postgraduate Research	Dr. Stacey Scriver Stacey.scriver@universityofgalway.ie	Progression, supervision, School-level PGR matters
Head of School	Prof. Niall Ó Dochartaigh Niall.odochartaigh@universityofgalway.ie	Strategic and School matters
Cluster and Centre Leads	UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre: Prof. John Canavan john.canavan@universityofgalway.ie Centre for Global Women's Studies: Prof. Nata Duvvury nata.duvvury@universityofgalway.ie Social and Political Theory Research Cluster: Dr. Diana Stypinska diana.stypinska@universityofgalway.ie Conflict Peace and Security Research Cluster: Dr. Sarah Jenkins sarah.jenkins@universityofgalway.ie Sustainable Development Research Cluster, Dr. Mike Hynes mike.hynes@universityofgalway.ie	Research communities and activities
PGR Representative	Jadranko (Jed) Gjerek J.Gjerek1@universityofgalway.ie	Student perspective and feedback

University and College Contacts	Contact Details
Graduate Studies	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/graduatestudies/
Researcher Development Centre	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/rdc/
Library	https://library.universityofgalway.ie/
Student Support Services	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/student-support/
College PGR Office	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/phd-research-degrees/
IT Support	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/advisesupport/postgraduates/

Student Enquiry Centre	First floor the Arts/Science Concourse from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Email: SEC@universityofgalway.ie Or DM at https://www.instagram.com/universityofgalwaysec/
Fees	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-fees/pay-fees/ If you have questions regarding fees please contact: fees@universityofgalway.ie
Financial Aid Funds	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/financialaidfund/
Global Galway (International Office)	Email: global@universityofgalway.ie
Mature Students	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/mature/

For College-level postgraduate administration, students should contact the College Office via artspostgrad@universityofgalway.ie . For School-specific administrative support, students should contact Stephanie Quinn in the School Office, stephanie.quinn@universityofgalway.ie

5. Starting Your Research Degree

Your First Semester Checklist

Essential Tasks

- ✓ Attend School induction.
- ✓ Meet your supervisor(s).
- ✓ Attend University PGR orientation.
- ✓ Review the University Guidelines for Research Degree programmes, particularly document QA245 available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/graduate-studies/currentstudents/guidelines-regulations-forms/>
- ✓ Join a cluster or centre (if relevant).
- ✓ Familiarise yourself with ethics requirements.
- ✓ Create a CRIS profile here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/researchcommunityportal/yourprofile/>
- ✓ Create an ORCID profile and link to your CRIS profile
- ✓ Attend at least one School research event.

6. Structured PhD Requirements

PhD researchers in SoPSAS that are registered on a Structured PhD programme are required to complete 30 ECTS of structured training, comprising a combination of discipline-specific and transferable skills development. Students should discuss training needs and module selection with their supervisor and GRC throughout their programme.

You can learn more about the modules available to you here:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/graduate-studies/currentstudents/gsmodes/>

Appendix 1 also includes a non-exhaustive list of modules open to PhD researchers.

Alternative PhD Tracks and Formats

While the vast majority of researchers in the [School of Political Science and Sociology](#) follow the standard **Structured PhD** monograph framework, the university formally accommodates alternative paths to an NFQ Level 10 Doctorate.

If you are considering altering your submission format, or if you are registered under a different track, you must consult your supervisor and the **Graduate Research Committee (GRC)** early in your registration.

The Article-Based PhD (PhD by Publication)

Rather than a traditional single-volume book thesis, this model permits candidates to submit a unified portfolio of peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters that are published or accepted for publication during their candidature.

- **Format:** The thesis incorporates a substantial, multi-chapter comprehensive text (including an integrated literature review, rigorous methodology, and overarching conclusion) alongside the peer-reviewed papers.
- **Regulations:** The portfolio must demonstrate a distinct, cohesive contribution to knowledge. For institutional policy regarding formatting, co-authorship declarations, and binding, refer to the [University Guidelines for Research Degree Programmes](#).

The Traditional PhD

While most SoPSAS researchers are registered on the Structured PhD, alternative registration routes exist in limited circumstances and require approval through relevant university procedures

The **Traditional PhD** format focuses entirely on the core research dissertation without a mandatory requirement to complete 30 ECTS of taught or professional development modules.

- **Application:** This path is typically reserved for distinct funding arrangements or specific part-time accommodations.

- **Further Details:** For a broad overview of registration differences, see the local [Postgraduate Research Track Summary](#).

Practice-Based PhD

Though primarily utilized by creative arts disciplines within the college, the university supports doctorates that combine a practical or digital portfolio with a reflective critical commentary. Any student seeking to utilize non-traditional visual, digital, or applied methodologies must ensure their proposal satisfies the core academic benchmarks of the discipline.

7. Supervision

Supervision in SoPSAS

Supervision is a partnership between postgraduate researcher and supervisor.

Your supervisor's role is to provide academic guidance, feedback, mentorship and support. Your role is to take increasing responsibility for the direction and progress of your research.

Expectations

Students and supervisors should establish:

- meeting frequency;
- communication arrangements;
- expectations around feedback;
- record keeping;
- plans and milestones.

If Difficulties Arise

Most supervision issues can be resolved through early discussion.

If concerns arise:

1. Speak to your supervisor(s).
2. Seek advice from your GRC.
3. Contact the Director of Postgraduate Research.

Useful Links

- ✓ University Guidelines for Research Degree programmes, particularly document QA245 available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/graduate-studies/currentstudents/guidelines-regulations-forms/>
- ✓ College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies Local Guidelines on the Operationalisation of QA245 for PhDs
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/collegeofartssocialsciencescelticstudies/pdfs/CASSCS_Local_Guideline_for_PhDs_Jul23.pdf
- ✓ For a sample supervision record form see:
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/collegeofartssocialsciencescelticstudies/Sample_Supervision_Record_Form_Dec24.docx
- ✓ Guide on Email communications: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/goodemail/>
- ✓ Student Code of Conduct:
[https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/studentsservices/files/QA-616-University-of-Galway-Student-Code-of-Conduct-\(Oct-2022\).pdf](https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/studentsservices/files/QA-616-University-of-Galway-Student-Code-of-Conduct-(Oct-2022).pdf)

8. Your Graduate Research Committee (GRC)

What Is a GRC?

The Graduate Research Committee provides support, oversight and constructive feedback throughout your degree. In SoPSAS your GRC will meet with you at least once per year. Both full-time and part-time students will meet with their GRC annually.

What Does the GRC Do?

The GRC helps:

- monitor progress;
- provide feedback;
- support progression;
- identify development needs;
- address concerns at an early stage.
- mediates in cases of any conflicts

Annual reviews are intended to support progress and identify any challenges at an early stage. The supervisor is not present in the meeting and PGRs can discuss freely any questions or issues about their experience with supervision. In some circumstances the GRC

may recommend additional work prior to progression. Students should view the process as a supportive opportunity to receive feedback on their research development.

Your Responsibilities

Students should:

- engage with the GRC process;
- prepare for meetings;
- respond to feedback;
- keep the Committee informed of significant developments.

For the GRC annual meeting:

- Complete the GS030 Form (Annual Student Report for the GRC) available here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/graduate-studies/currentstudents/guidelines-regulations-forms/relevantofficialforms/>
- complete Research Integrity Training (if not done already) – see below for more information
- Complete Professional Development Plan (see: [https://nuigalwayie.sharepoint.com/sites/rdc/SitePages/Personal-Development-Planning-\(PDP\).aspx](https://nuigalwayie.sharepoint.com/sites/rdc/SitePages/Personal-Development-Planning-(PDP).aspx))

Be sure to consult with your supervisor about how to complete the forms and activities.

The Mini-Viva

All PhD researchers are required to undergo a 'Mini-Viva' process within two years of initial registration. This is held in the second year for the full-time students and in third year for part-time students in SoPSAS. This 'Mini-Viva' is organised and conducted by the GRC and replaces the GRC meeting for that year.

PhD researchers undertaking a mini-viva will submit their GS030 form and Personal Development plan as usual, alongside a 'Mini-Viva' report (see Appendix 2 of the QA245 policy) and a piece of writing, such as a chapter.

This submission of written material is complemented by the PhD student's oral delivery of a formal presentation on their project's overarching aims, approach, and design. GRC members will engage meaningfully through question and discussion with the presentation and written materials and will offer constructive commentary on various aspects of the PhD student's preliminary research plans.

9. Progression and Key Milestones

The PhD Journey

Registration → GRC → Progression → Annual Review → Submission → Viva → Graduation

Although every PhD journey is unique, and **your supervisor is best placed to advise you on your specific pathway and progress**, typical stages of a full-time PhD commonly look like this:

Year	Likely Focus
1	Project development, training, progression
2	Data collection and research
3	Analysis, writing and dissemination
Final stage	Submission and viva preparation

Part-time PhD researchers are generally subject to the same progression, GRC and structured training requirements as full-time researchers, but complete these over a longer registration period.

Year	Likely focus
1	Proposal development, literature review, methods training, first GRC review
2	Literature review completion, ethics preparation, GRC review
3	Ethics approval, begin data collection, GRC review
4	Main data collection and early analysis, GRC review
5	Analysis and thesis chapters, GRC review
Final Stage	Complete writing, pre-submission review, viva preparation

Fieldwork and Travel

In some cases, postgraduate researchers undertake longer periods of time off campus, for example working with another research organization or undertaking field work in another country. Should this be required, and in discussion with the supervisor, PhDs must complete the Off Campus Form for Full-Time Research Students GS-090, found here:

https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/graduatestudies/files/relevantofficialforms/gs_090.docx

Students undertaking international travel for research should consult university travel and insurance guidance well in advance of departure.

The Viva

PhDs are examined by the examiners (at least one external examiner and one internal examiner) via review of the written thesis and through an oral examination (the viva). In addition, the viva is overseen by a Chair who has an administrative role, ensuring that all regulations are observed. Towards submission, students should discuss examination arrangements and viva preparation with their supervisor. By default, supervisors do not attend the viva. However, should the PhD researcher and the supervisor agree to have the supervisor present, this may be notified for approval when the EOG021 (Approval for Examination Form) is submitted by the supervisor.

The University provides guidance on thesis submission and examination procedures through Graduate Studies.

The process map for submission may be of help:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registry/exams/thesissubmission/Appendix-5i-Process-from-softbound-PhD-MD-Thesis-to-Conferring.pdf>

Research rarely progresses in a straight line. Regular conversations with supervisors and the GRC can help maintain momentum and identify support needs.

10. Research Training and Professional Development

Developing as a Researcher

A PhD is about more than producing a thesis. It is also an opportunity to develop as a researcher, communicator and professional.

Research Seminar Series

The School of Political Science and Sociology runs a regular **Research Seminar Series** throughout the academic year. These seminars typically take place during the lunch hour and feature presentations from both local and invited speakers. Topics cover a wide range of research-related issues, including methodological approaches, theoretical debates, emerging research findings, and recently published work.

The seminar series provides an opportunity not only to learn about research being undertaken within and beyond the School, but also to connect with academic staff, postgraduate researchers, and visiting scholars. Attendance can help researchers broaden

their intellectual networks, engage with new ideas, and become more involved in the wider research culture of the School.

PhD researchers are strongly encouraged to attend seminars regularly. Final-year PhD researchers may also wish to consider presenting their research as part of the seminar series. Attendance at research seminars may be credited through the **GS501 Seminar Programme or Conference Participation** module. Students interested in receiving academic credit for seminar attendance should discuss the available options with their supervisor.

Opportunities within SoPSAS

Postgraduate researchers are encouraged to engage with:

- School research seminars;
- cluster and centre activities;
- visiting speakers;
- writing groups;
- workshops;
- postgraduate research events;
- research festivals.

University Resources

The University provides extensive researcher development opportunities through:

- Researcher Development Centre (see link in above) is a key source of information and provision of professional development.
- Structured PhD programmes: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/graduate-studies/currentstudents/structuredphds/>
- Careers services: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/career-development-centre/>
- Teaching and learning supports: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-services/academic-support/>

11. Teaching and Demonstrating

During your PhD you may wish to gain experience with teaching or academic demonstration. Opportunities to undertake teaching, tutoring, or assessment support may arise during your degree. These opportunities vary by discipline and availability. Additionally, presentations in research seminars and other academic activities may support your development in this area where traditional teaching opportunities are not available. PGRs interested in teaching

experience should discuss this with their supervisor in the first instance and should ensure that payment is appropriate for the work. All academic work undertaken by research students is strictly governed by university frameworks to ensure fair pay and legal labour compliance. You should familiarise yourself with the **GTA Framework here:** [University of Galway Engagement of Graduate Teaching Assistants Policy \(QA135\)](#).

PhD researchers who want to develop their skills in teaching should also consider taking the module [GS506 Teaching and Learning](#).

12. Publishing during your PhD

Publishing is not a requirement for completion of a PhD in SoPSAS. The primary goal of your doctorate is to produce and successfully defend a thesis that makes an original contribution to knowledge.

However, many postgraduate researchers choose to publish aspects of their work during their PhD. Publications can help develop academic writing skills, increase the visibility of your research, and strengthen applications for postdoctoral positions, research fellowships, and academic employment. For researchers intending to pursue careers in academia or research, developing a publication strategy during the PhD is often beneficial.

Publication should be viewed as one component of a broader programme of researcher development rather than as an end in itself. Timelines for peer review and publication can be lengthy, and decisions about when, where, and what to publish should be discussed with your supervisor(s) and GRC. Expectations around authorship and collaborative publications should also be discussed at an early stage where relevant.

Ultimately, the appropriate publication strategy will vary depending on your discipline, project, career goals, and stage of research.

13. Ethics, Integrity and Responsible Research

Research in SoPSAS frequently involves people, communities, organisations, social issues and politically sensitive topics. Ethical reflection should therefore be an integral part of all research planning and practice.

Before You Begin Research

1. Discuss ethics with your supervisor(s).

2. Determine whether ethical approval is required.
3. Obtain approval before beginning data collection.
4. Review approval if your project changes.

Key Issues

Researchers should consider:

- informed consent;
- confidentiality;
- participant wellbeing;
- GDPR and data protection;
- researcher safety and wellbeing;
- responsible data management.

Data Protection

If your research project collects, stores, or processes personal data that may pose a high risk to the privacy of individuals (such as large-scale surveys, interviewing vulnerable groups, or handling sensitive personal data), you may be required to complete a formal [University of Galway DPIA \(Data Protection Impact Assessment\) Screening Checklist](#). You should discuss this with your supervisor.

If a DPIA is deemed necessary, your draft assessment must be submitted to the University Data Protection Officer (dataprotection@universityofgalway.ie) **at least 10 weeks in advance** of your formal Research Ethics Committee submission to allow time for required institutional reviews and edits.

Research Integrity Training

All University of Galway PhD researchers are expected to undertake research integrity training and familiarise themselves with the University's Research Integrity Policy and related guidance.

Free online training in Research Integrity is available to all research staff and students at University of Galway. PhDs and early career researchers should complete Core modules 1-8 (Comprehensive) (*Suitable for post-graduate researchers, research assistants and post-doctoral researchers <4 years post-PhD*). See link below to access these modules.

Additional Information

- Research Ethics Process at University of Galway :
<https://nuigalwayie.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchEthics/SitePages/Research.aspx?source=https%3a//nuigalwayie.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchEthics/SitePages/Forms/ByAuthor.aspx>
- Research Integrity:
<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/researchcommunityportal/researchintegrity/>
- GDPR guidance: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/data-protection/gdpr/>

14. The PGR Representative

The **PGR Representative** advocates for the interests of all PhD students at the School, College, and University levels. Working closely with the PGR Director, they serve as a vital link between students, faculty, and the broader research community.

- **Role & Responsibilities:** The representative gathers feedback from students during the academic year and regularly raises student interests, concerns, and ideas with both the PGR Director and, where necessary, the Head of School.
- **Eligibility & Selection:** All actively enrolled PGR students in the School are members of the voting body. The representative is elected on an **annual basis** by their peers. PGR representatives may serve more than one term if re-elected.

15. Self-Care and the Researcher

A PhD is a long journey. Over a period of at least four years for full-time students and 6 years for part-time students, life outside of academia will carry on. Deaths, births, relationship changes, health challenges, financial hardships and other major life events – all the stuff of life – will accompany you during the journey. These experiences may affect your wellbeing, your research timelines and how you feel about the research itself.

Further, for researchers carrying out research on topics that are ‘sensitive’ or emotionally demanding, defined as *‘Research that demands a tremendous amount of mental, emotional, or physical energy and potentially affects or depletes the researcher’s health or well-being’* (Kumar and Cavallero, 2018), the impacts may be amplified.

You should know that other researchers have also been through these experiences. Many researchers have found ways to prepare themselves for difficult periods of work – commonly identified as fieldwork and interviews, transcription and write up – and put in place tactics to mitigate the impact of research.

The University offers counselling for all students. Some PhD researchers have chosen to avail of sessions ahead of data collection to best prepare themselves while others have taken part

in sessions following a period of difficulty. For information about the service please visit:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/about-us/>

Researchers have engaged in self-care tactics that range from playing video games, to walking and gym attendance, to watching Disney movies. Many find having a peer group to discuss challenges with is helpful. Each person is unique and how they cope with difficulties and vicarious trauma will also be unique, but reaching out for help when needed to friends, supervisor, counsellors, GRC or others is important.

You may find some of the resources developed through the Researcher Wellbeing Project at the University of Bath to be helpful: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/projects/the-researcher-wellbeing-project-rwp-addressing-researcher-distress-trauma-and-secondary-trauma/>.

Seeking help

Leave of absence and extenuating circumstances

On occasion circumstances arise that affect your ability to progress, including illness, caring responsibilities, bereavement or other significant life events. If this occurs, please speak with your supervisor and/or Director of PGR as early as possible. Supports such as **leave of absence, extensions and other accommodations** may be available through University procedures.

Information on Leave of Absence: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-registry-helpdesk/leave-of-absence/>

QA209 Extenuating Circumstances Policy:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registrar/contentfrommay1st2024/policies/QA209-Extenuating-Circumstances-Oct-2025.pdf>

Student Support Services

In addition to the counselling service, mentioned above, there are a wide range of different support services offered by the University of Galway. These can be found here:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/student-support/>

Writing support is also available through the Academic Writing Centre which can provide one-on-one support for students at any level:

<https://library.universityofgalway.ie/studying/awc/>

Emergency Assistance

Remember, if you experience an **acute mental health emergency** you can get help through:

- Your own GP
- Accident & Emergency Galway: 091 544544

- Student Health Unit: 091 492604
- The Samaritans: 116123
- Pieta House: 1800 247247
- 'Text about it' by Spunout: Text 'Galway' to 50808 to access 24/7 crisis text support

The university operates a zero tolerance policy on **racism**. If you experience racism, you can seek support and make an anonymous report here:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/equalityanddiversity/raceequality/reportingandsupports/>

If you or someone you know has experienced **sexual violence or harassment**, recently or in the past, or you are worried about your own behaviour, the Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention and Response Team are available to support you. For more information and reporting tools please go to:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/equalityanddiversity/sexualviolenceandharassmentpreventionandresponse/>

Appendix 1: Non-Exhaustive List of Modules

Please note that modules are subject to change year on year. You should review the following [webpage](#) and/or contact the Graduate Studies Office for additional queries about module availability.

Graduate Studies Modules	ECTS	Notes
GS535 Induction & Professional Development	5	Required for most CASSCS structured PhDs
GS530 Graduate Research Information Skills	5	Excellent early-stage training
GS506 Teaching & Learning	5	Particularly useful for those seeking academic careers
GS5104 Intensive Writing Workshop	5	Strong preparation for publications
GS509 Participation in Workshops/Courses	5	Flexible credit option
GS501 Seminar Programme or Conference Participation	5	Easy fit with normal PhD activity
GS526 Oral/Poster Communication	5	Useful for conference presentations
GS515 Research Paper Publication	5	Credit for publishing work
GS536 Communication & Outreach	5	Public engagement and impact activities

SPA Independent Study Modules

Code	Title	ECTS
SPA6100	Academic Writing: Scholarly Publication	5
SPA6101	Academic Writing: Scholarly Communications	5
SPA6102	Academic Writing: Report	5
SPA6103	Public Speaking: Research Presentation	5
SPA6104	Editorial Project	5

SPA6105	Project Management (Small Scale)	5
SPA6106	Project Management (Large Scale)	10
SPA6107	Creative Output (Small Scale)	5
SPA6108	Creative Output (Medium Scale)	10
SPA6109	Postgraduate Funding Application	5
SPA6110	Research Funding Application	5
SPA6111	Professional Development for Researchers	5

Research Methods and Theory

Module	ECTS
SP6132 Feminist and Gender Theorising I: Key Concepts in Context	5
SP6133 Feminist and Gender Theorising II: Issues and Debates in Contemporary Feminism	5
SPA459 Research Ethics	5
SPA400 Theory/Methodologies: Humanities	5
SP220 Methods for Social and Political Science	5
DJ6122 Researching the Media	5
ED6167 Educational Research Methodology and Development	10

Gender, Human Rights and Globalisation

Module	ECTS
GG6109 Gender, Sexuality and Global Health	10
GG101 Gender Perspectives on Globalisation	10
GG106 Women, Conflict and Human Security	5
GG6103 Development and Human Rights	5
FR6101 Language, Gender and Power	10

HI6108 Everyday Lives: An Intimate History of 20th Century Women	10
--	----

Sociology, Politics, Philosophy and History

Module	ECTS
SP6122 Social and Political Context of Advocacy and Activism	10
PI6102 Political Values in the Modern World	10
PI6101 Philosophy of Emotion	10
HI6107 Historical Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity	10
HI6106 Issues in Local Irish History	10
GG6103 Development and Human Rights	5

Digital Society and Technology

Module	ECTS
PI6100 Ethics and Artificial Intelligence	10
DJ6133 Data Journalism and Visualisation	10
DJ6127 Global Media and Society	10
EN6143 Media for Social Change	10
DJ6122 Researching the Media	5

ⁱ This handbook has been developed to support postgraduate researchers in the School of Political Science and Sociology and every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided is accurate at the time of publication. As University regulations, policies, procedures, and contact details may change, students should always consult the relevant official University, College, and Graduate Studies documentation when making decisions relating to their degree. In the event of any discrepancy, official University regulations and policies take precedence over the information contained in this handbook.