

# Development and Delivery of Inter-institutional Research and Generic Skills Training Programmes

The Evolving Landscape of Irish Graduate Education  
IUA Fourth Level Network Annual Conference,  
10<sup>th</sup> November, 2009  
Trinity College Dublin



# Structure of the Presentation

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# The SIF Project

1. Achieving change - through rewarding innovation; Project based – strong emphasis on collaboration
2. Research Alliance offering – Promotion, support and development of research in the IoT sector
3. Collaboration of all Institutes, with four university Mentors (NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, the University of Ulster, the University of Melbourne). Subsequently joined by four Associates – DIT, IUA, IBEC, HETAC.
4. Targets –
  - Development and delivery of a graduate education programme, with links to undergraduate programmes
  - annual conference
  - annual Research - Industry forum
  - policy development

# Managing Partnership

- Champion in each member institution – Head of Department +
- Alliance wide understanding of the strategic foundations
- Common goals and needs
- Centralised Management and co-ordination
- Participative decision making
- Communication - External , Internal to partnership - & Internal to each organization



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# The Need

1. Doubling the number of PhDs in support of the development of a Knowledge Society – requires more staff involvement and brings more diverse skills gaps
2. Extending the apprenticeship model – to improve the quality of research and efficiency
3. Improving the student experience – building confidence early, establishing inter-institutional and interdisciplinary communities
4. Raising institutional and sectoral capacity – through collaboration

# Programme Design Drivers

1. Bologna and Lisbon agendas
2. International models (e.g. UK)
3. Irish policy documents - OECD, SSTI, HEA, IUA, NDP, PRTL, Building the Smart Economy
4. Strategic Plans of individual Institutes
5. IoT Research Framework document
6. 2008 Research Alliance colloquium
7. 2008 IBEC/IUA/IT Research Alliance workshop on '*PhD Skills in the workplace*'
8. 2008 survey of staff and students
9. Flexibility and added value for students



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# Programme Structure (1)

## 10 credit Certificates:

Certificate in Research Methods,SPA, level 9, 10 credits

Certificate in Research Management,SPA, level 9, 10 credits

Certificate in Personal Development for Researchers,SPA, level 9, 10 credits

Certificate in Communications for Researchers,SPA, level 9, 10 credits

Certificate in Data Handling and Analysis,SPA, level 9, 10 credits

Certificate in Creativity and Entrepreneurship,SPA, level 9, 10 credits

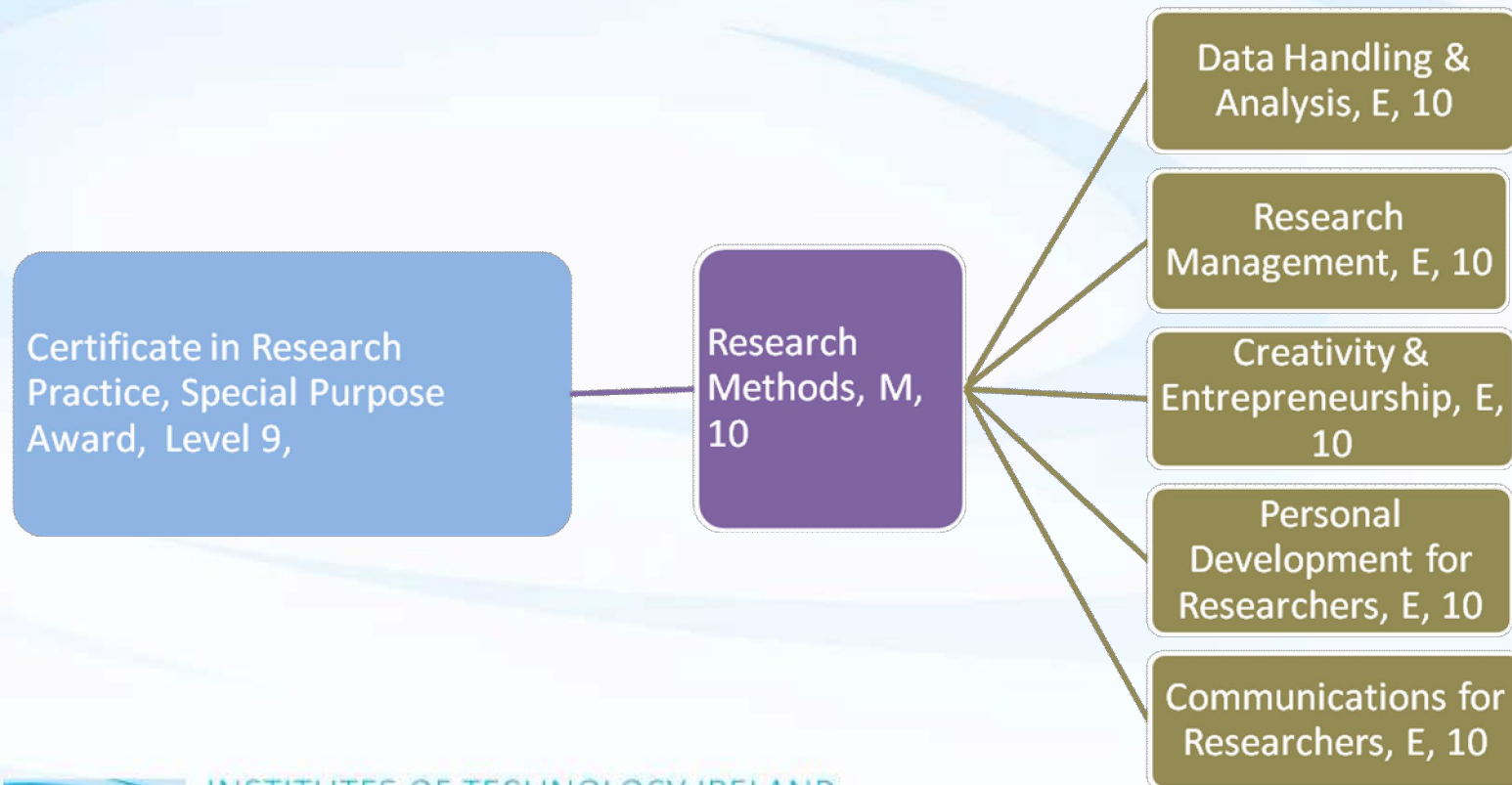


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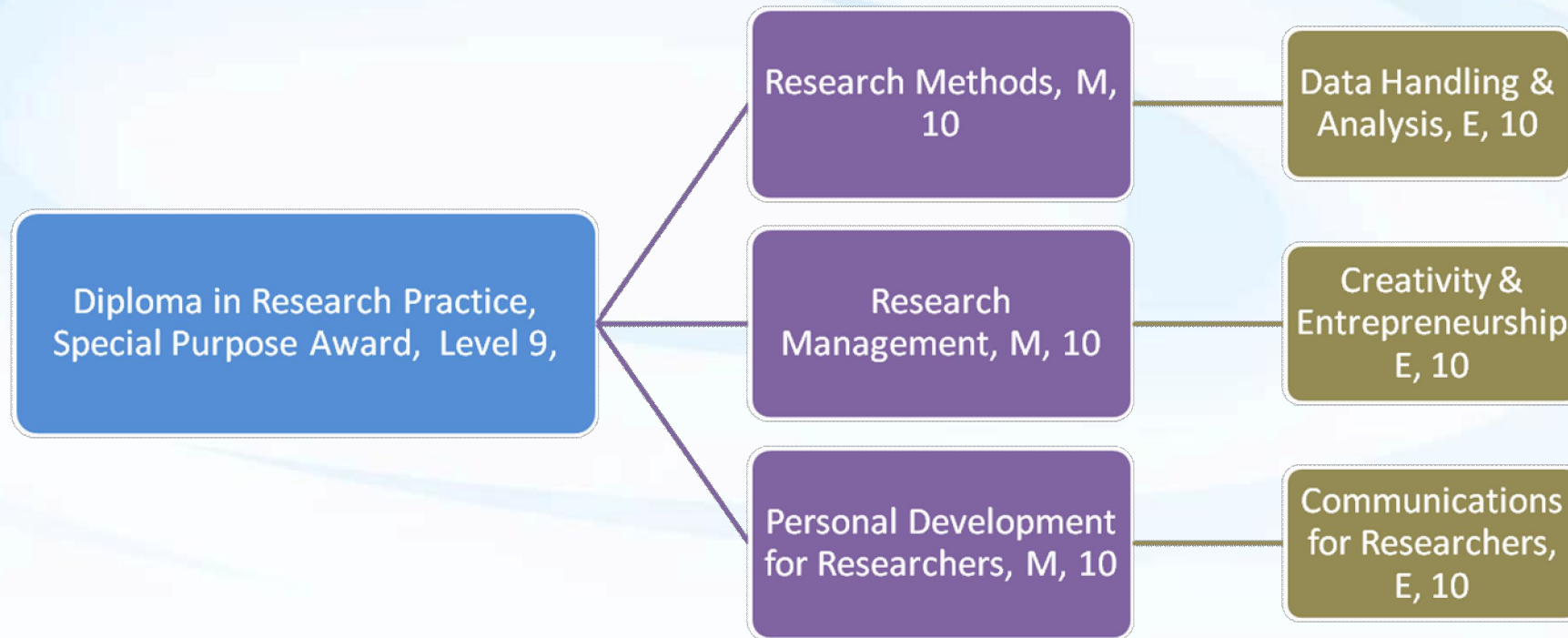
# Programme Structure (2)

30 credit Certificate:



# Programme Structure (3)

A 60 credit Diploma:



# Programme Management

1. First iteration managed by existing SIF Research Alliance Office
2. Subsequent iterations managed by programme-funded secretariat - model already in existence at IT Sligo:
3. IT Sligo will facilitate academic quality of the first iteration – Programme Board, Module Review Committee
4. SPA registration for postgraduate students linked to home-Institute registration
5. Other Institutes will look at joining accreditation by validating the programme in their Institutes

# Programme Delivery

1. Inter-institutional distance delivery programmes, including web platforms
2. Blended learning with a variety of T&A strategies
3. Initial iteration for the first cohort will be 2x9 hour contact sessions per module with mandatory modules (Year 1) delivered in Sligo and the elective modules delivered in Galway (Year 2).
4. A second cohort will be located in Waterford (mandatory) and Dundalk (electives). A third will be located in Cork (mandatory) and Tallaght (electives)

# Benefits to the Student

1. Early achievement of key Learning Outcomes
2. Enhancement of Apprenticeship model of supervision
3. Quality assurance of substantive research
4. Engagement in inter-institutional interdisciplinary communities
5. Diploma supplement additions

# Benefits to Staff

1. Early Learning Outcomes met and assessed by structured study
2. Allows early focus on substantive research question
3. Provides skills for staff
4. Engagement in inter-institutional, interdisciplinary communities
5. CPD additions

# Questions ?



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