



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh

MOORE
INSTITUTE
INSTITIÚID de MÓRA

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Research in the Humanities: Relevance to the Knowledge Economy

1. Qualifications to speak on the subject
 - (a) Supervisor in traditional mode
 - (b) Experience with mechanisms for change
2. Re-thinking the role of the humanities in a rapidly changing context
3. How researchers in the humanities are positioning themselves in this new context
4. Blockages in the way of achievement
5. Pathways to resolution of problems
 - (a) in the short term
 - (b) in the medium term

Traditional Supervisor:

- One to one relationship – Supervisor/Researcher
- More often research masters rather than PhD or post-doctoral supervisor/mentoring
- Choice of research topic frequently outgrowth of undergraduate experience
- Research topics normally an Irish focus
- Career ambitions of supervisor/student limited
- Academic Career/Public Service/ Teaching

Moderately successful by those standards:

- 1) Most students taken on brought to successful submission
- 2) Good range of placements: Career Placements

Royal Irish Academy

University of Limerick

University College, Dublin

University of Cambridge – 2

University of Hamburg

University of Virginia

Clark University Mass.

St. Michael's College, Vermont

Placement for further research:

University of Oxford

University of Cambridge

European University, Florence

University of Hamburg

2 Post-doc, Trinity College, Dublin

Experience With Mechanisms Of Change

1. European Science Foundation/Erasmus Networks Programme
2. RIA overtures for Humanities Research Council
3. PRTL
4. IRCHSS
 - (a) Traditional Mode
 - (b) Innovative Mode
5. EU Funding Agencies
 - (a) Marie Curie Schemes: RTN, TOK, individual fellowships
 - (b) Expert Group on Infrastructural Requirements for HSS. FP7
6. Adjudicator for several foreign funding bodies for research in HSS
7. Direct experience with funding bodies in Ireland for Science/Engineering/Medicine
Wellcome Trust, HRB, IRCSET, SFI
8. Experience with Industrial Partners – on oversight board of two SFI CSETS
9. Graduate School Planning Applications

Rapidly Changing Context

1. **New funding opportunities:**

ESF

PRTL

IRCHSS (thematic grants, joint funding)

Graduate School possibilities:

multi-disciplinary, inter-institutional,
innovative

2. **IUQB:**

Team Supervision : Mentoring Team

Team Training in Generic Skills

Multi-Disciplinary involvement

3. **Government:**

Increase Graduate Numbers

RAM

4. **Logical follow up:**

Transferable Skills Training

Humanities Research In This Changing Context

1. Positive response by clusters of researchers in almost every institution to each opportunity
2. Appreciation of educational role of IRCHSS
3. Confidence that traditional values can be maintained in new environment: multi-disciplinary rather than inter-disciplinary
4. Continued appreciation of intrinsic value of research training in humanities disciplines
 - (a) Forensic Skills
 - (b) Presentation Skills
 - (c) Linguistic Competencies
5. Growing appreciation of value of research training in humanities to the knowledge economy, especially when matched with exposure to transferable skills:
 - (a) Communications/Multi-media; Advocacy
 - (b) The Creative Industries
 - (c) Cultural Life, including cultural tourism
 - (d) Imaging/web-technology, ICT generally
 - (e) Publishing – including publicity within industry

Blockages In Way Of Achieving Ambitions

1. Fees Issue
2. Inadequate resource provision for IRCHSS with resulting frustrations
3. Prejudice of would-be funding bodies
Applied Social Science V Humanities
EU as well as Ireland
Relative preparedness to strike claim to resources
4. Shortcoming of **Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation, 2006-2013** (2006); absence of understanding how research training in humanities can contribute to innovation

Resolutions

Short Term

- Fees: end to fee inflation where humanities is concerned; blockage to planning and solicitation from private endowment
- (a) IRCHSS to be established on a statutory basis
(b) Greater funding for multi-disciplinary thematic research projects
(c) Guarantee of matching grants when money is secured from external agencies; EU, Cross-border; funding bodies in other countries

Resolutions

Medium Term

- Extension of government departmental budget lines to ensure that there will be funding for multi-disciplinary, inter- institutional graduate schools in the humanities that will train people to participate in an ever more complex knowledge economy
Environment Heritage and Local Government
Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
Arts, Sports and Tourism
Education and Science
- Infrastructural support to enable (1) better inter-institutional collaboration, (2) assembly and maintenance of data-banks/web-sites to highest international standard