Research Degrees
UL is ideally placed to provide the resources necessary to undertake Ph.D. work. Throughout the academic year the Graduate School co-ordinates transferable skills workshops for postgraduate research students as required. Workshops which may be of general use to students during the academic year include: Questionnaire Design; Survey & Sampling; Introduction to SPSS; Basic Statistics; Project Management for Researchers; and Thesis Writing. The graduate training modules give an insight into a variety of skills necessary at post graduate level including planning, structuring, effective writing, proof reading, and research. The modules provide an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to deliver a paper at a conference and also assist with the skills required to publish by giving guidance in how to adapt a conference paper into a research article for an academic journal.

The Law School is housed in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS). Each Ph.D. student is entitled to a desk and computer in a dedicated Postgraduate Centre with an administrator. Students also have access to a fund provided by the Assistant Dean for travel to conferences and/or fieldwork (max 800 euro). AHSS also provides summer and winter schools for its research students. They help to familiarise students with various methodological approaches to research questions. They also afford students the opportunity to gain experience in qualitative and quantitative research methods.

The School of Law at UL boasts outstanding academic staff members who are internationally recognised as experts in their fields. The School houses three very active Centres of Research: the Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies, the International Commercial and Economic Law Group (ICEL), and the Research Cluster for Understanding Emotions in Society (CUES) all of which are at the cutting edge of legal research. The School of Law has created an excellent research environment through its Library holdings, Postgraduate research facilities, infrastructural support for Research related activities (conferences, CPD seminars, summer schools, funding applications etc). The School has over 60 postgraduate students. Each Ph.D. student in the School is required to undertake a standard review annually with an independent panel. Each academic year, the Law School runs a series of seminars on postgraduate research including methodologies, research question design, how to survive a viva, and empirical data gathering.

We are looking forward to meeting you
Dr Alan Cusack
Lecturer in Law
Director of Postgraduate Studies

For more details contact: Dr Alan Cusack, email: alan.cusack@ul.ie
Ph.: +353 61 202546
The School of Law is an ideal environment for students to engage in research at a postgraduate level. All research students are allocated a personal desk with computer and telephone, have access to world-class library facilities and are supervised by faculty members who are international experts in their fields. The School offers two main opportunities for engaging in postgraduate research: the LLM by Research and the PhD by Research and Thesis.

**Master of Laws (LLM) by Research**

The School of Law offers the degree of Master of Laws (LLM) by research to suitably qualified candidates. The degree has no formal taught element and consists primarily of a substantial piece of original research conducted under the supervision of a full time member of faculty. Applications from suitably qualified candidates are accepted at any stage during the year. Candidates should usually have at least a 2.1 honours degree. All applications are subject to the School having the capacity and expertise to supervise the student. An LLM by Research can be conducted part time or full time. If full time, the student must be registered for no less than one year and no more than three years. If part time, the student must be registered for no less than two years and no more than four years. On occasion, a student who has started conducting

**PhD by Research**

The School of Law offers the degree of PhD by Research to suitably qualified candidates. The degree has no formal taught element and consists primarily of a substantial piece of original research conducted under the supervision of a full time member of faculty. Applications from suitably qualified candidates are accepted at any stage during the year. Candidates should usually have at least a 2.1 honours degree. All applications are subject to the School having the capacity and expertise to supervise the student.

A PhD by Research can be conducted part time or full time. If full time, the student must be registered for no less than three years and no more than five years. If part time, the student must be registered for no less than four years and no more than ten years if the student does not have an LLM degree, and no less than three years and no more than six years if the student does have an LLM degree.

**Fee Waivers and Scholarships**

Fee waivers and scholarships are sometimes offered. Please refer to our newsfeed and Facebook for details or contact Dr Una Woods.

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- Outstanding academic staff who are internationally recognised as experts in their fields
- Diverse research areas
- Competitive Fees
- Fees waiver and Scholarship opportunities
- Tutoring opportunities
Research Groups

Faculty are the leading national authorities in such diverse areas as criminology, criminal law, contract, tort, competition, property and land law, penology, sport land the law and victim studies together with hate crimes.

Our researchers believe that our research must have an impact in the real world, providing workable solutions to the increasing legal challenges our society faces. In addition to publishing regularly in leading national and international prestigious journals, at the heart of our approach is the breaking down of barriers not only between different academic disciplines but between the academy and the wider community. With that in mind, faculty at the Law School are constantly interacting with our stakeholders to provide relevant research of outstanding quality. Research led teaching is a core element to that approach and, in addition to inculcating a research ethos in all our students from the very beginning of their journey in law, the Advanced Lawyering programme enables faculty to share specific high level research projects with our undergraduate students.

The reputation of Law faculty among our peers is clearly evidenced in a number of key indicators, including strategic participation in national and internationally funded research projects worth millions of euros, appointment of faculty to various government agencies and committees, editorial positions with prestigious journals, the hosting of and participation in prestigious international conferences, strong interaction with professional bodies, robust PhD recruitment, and an extensive network of international partners including a significant presence of top flight visiting scholars from overseas.

Core to this success alongside individual research activities are our two primary research Centres: ICEL and the CCJVS.

Faculty and students are working in the following areas:

**Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies (CCJVS)**
- Cross disciplinary research on the underlying theories of why people commit crimes and the unsatisfactory nature of an over reliance on prison based sanctions
- The European Arrest warrant and the investigation and prosecution of transnational crimes within the EU and the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.
- The rights of victims in the criminal justice process and the internationalization of crime.

**International Commercial and Economic Law Group (ICEL)**
- The impact of science, technology and innovation on traditional legal regulatory and liability frameworks, including autonomous driver assisted safety devices, drones, 3D printing
- Intellectual Property protection, management and exploitation including the new Patent Court, valuation of IP assets, medical treatments and innovation, the role of employees in IP development, tort based liability for IP infringement and the role of data protection and manipulation across new technologies
- The changing nature of property law rights, including the case for and/or implications of property law reform in such areas as family property law including succession rights, the importance of adverse possession theories and practice, the treatment of business leases consistent with freedom of contract as well as shifting concepts of property to include data exploitation and trespass
- Tort law, focused on accident compensation and private actions for the enforcement of civil rights, encompassing analytical methodology in tort, compensation culture, violation of privacy and state liability, including vicarious liability for sexual abuse, police liability and public authority liability
- The role and legal regulation of animals in sports, including the historical evolution of the law combined with the advances in understanding animal physiology and psychology and the economic impact and constraints to legal responses
- The shifting regulation of business activities, particularly through competition (anti-trust) law in an increasing digital environment and the changing social environment which requires new approaches to commercial wrongdoing and the increasing criminalization of commercial malpractice through the regulatory process provides interesting avenues of collaboration between commercial lawyers and criminal justice experts
- The ‘Uberisation of the workforce’ a term coined in the US to describe the phenomenon of crowdsourcing, i.e. sourcing skills/supplies from individuals who are chosen from large groups, all of whom have made themselves available for selection. The key point is that the traditional workforce is being replaced by online fora where potential workers tend to congregate essentially promote the idea of the workers competing with each other for the available work. The European concept of flexibility may provide answers.

**Cluster for Understanding Emotions in Society (CUES)**
- CUES is a cross university initiative that seeks to address an understanding of the role of emotions in law and society and provides a forum within which disciplines from every area can share their knowledge.

**Hate and Hostility Group**
- The Hate and Hostility group is a multidisciplinary group dedicated to providing an holistic response to hate crimes, including the need to formulate specific legislative responses with an appropriate response to these sorts of activities.
Why the University of Limerick

- 13000 students with students from 95 countries (13.5% International students)
- Five purpose built student villages with a capacity of over 2,400 students
- 24 hour campus security
- One of the world’s top green Universities (UL is ranked 29 out of 300 Universities)
- National 50m Swimming Pool Ireland’s First Olympic Sized Pool
- Ireland's largest All-Weather Floodlit Park
- UL Sport Arena
- Over 70 Clubs and Societies
- Each Ph.D. student is entitled to a desk and computer in a dedicated Postgraduate Centre with an administrator.
- Students also have access to a fund provided by the Faculty for travel to conferences and/or fieldwork

Our graduate employment rate is 22% higher than the average for the other seven universities in Ireland
With the River Shannon as a unifying focal point, UL is situated on a state-of-the-art, 133-hectare campus. Our unrivalled recreational, cultural and sporting facilities further enhance the UL experience and make the university environment among the very best there is anywhere in the world. UL is an easy-to-navigate campus, located five kilometres from Limerick city and 20 kilometres from Shannon International Airport.

**PhD in Law**

“Before starting my PhD at the School of Law at the University of Limerick, I had worked for several years in the construction industry in Ireland, where I began as a civil engineer and became increasingly involved in the management aspects of projects. I had previously attained an MBA, and was interested in augmenting my technical and managerial experience with a legal qualification in the construction field. There were several options available to me, but a PhD in Law gave me the freedom to choose my preferred area of focus: variations to construction contracts.

The position I now hold with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), a multilateral development bank with an exclusively social mandate, is as Technical Advisor responsible for a cross-sectoral portfolio of approximately 15 projects with a loan value of almost €1 billion and a total project value of about €2 billion. My work includes structuring projects prior to loan approval, ensuring that the Bank’s technical loan contract conditions are met before disbursement of funds, and safeguarding that the social objectives and outcomes of the projects are achieved. Furthermore, my sector-specific responsibility is for the CEB’s Judicial Infrastructure projects which aim to improve prison living conditions, often in pre-accession countries such as Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Moldova. Working in this sector requires a firm understanding of international standard minimum prison rules and recommendations, typically produced by the UN and the Council of Europe, and distilling judgments of the European Court of Human Rights to determine leading practices in this sector. Additionally, I work closely with the CEB’s procurement department and advise internal and external clients on specific aspects relating to the FIDIC conditions of contract for construction. Altogether, this is for me a perfect combination of involvement in the technical, managerial and legal aspects of complex infrastructure projects in an international financial institution. I find the skills gained in my legal education to be a distinct advantage every day!

If I compare what I was doing before my PhD to what I am doing now, the difference is immeasurable. My time at UL was transformational; it opened me up to new opportunities, new ways of thinking, and ultimately a whole new life in Paris. I have many lasting memories of my time in UL, but my undoubted highlight was the very special day where both my wife and I graduated together with our PhDs.”

Dr Conor Mooney, BEng(Hons)  
MBA PhD CEng FIEI  
Technical Advisor, Council of Europe Development Bank