

### **Presentation of the PHD on Information and Knowledge Society**

As a research centre, the IN3 plays home and offers support to the **PhD on the Information and Knowledge Society Programme**, the only PhD offered by the UOC. Offered for the first time in 2000, this programme was one of the first PhDs created in this field of research and, indeed, the first to be offered in its entirety over the internet.

The rise and constant updating of information and communication technologies during the second half of the last century has seen them enter all spheres of human activity: culture, economy, education, media, business management, public services administration and the apparatus of the political system. Analysis of the uses of these technologies in the different spheres and of the profound transformations that accompany them is key for understanding today's society and developing professional activities therein.

The links between the different social, economic, political and cultural systems mean that the traditional disciplinary barriers have to be overcome so as to be able to conduct a thorough and in-depth analysis. Thus, this PhD programme is based on an **interdisciplinary perspective** that involves different theoretical standpoints and different methodological tools.

Specifically, the PhD on the Information and Knowledge Society, designed in line with the directives established by the Royal Decree regulating postgraduate courses (Royal Decree 56/2005, January 21 2005), bases this interdisciplinary perspective on the relationship between the PhD Programme and the Research Groups recognised by the UOC. Consequently, these groups offer a limited **number of places**, be they at a distance or in-house, on their research lines or projects.

These places offer the students that join the conditions needed to carry out academic research that leads to the submission and defence of a PhD thesis on any of the aspects that characterise the Information and Knowledge Society.

**Additional information:** Homepage of IN3 [ <http://in3.uoc.edu> ]

## PHD Positions Available

The **Software Engineering Research Group (GRES-UOC)** at the Open University of Catalonia offers one PhD position:

**Description of the line of research:** Advances in Software Engineering such as Model-Driven Development allow a greater degree of automation in the software development process. In this context, the quality of the final software product depends on the quality of the inputs to the development process, the *models* (e.g. UML diagrams, integrity constraints, etc.). The candidate will research methods for the verification of UML models, using techniques such as Constraint Programming. The ideal candidate should have a strong background in one or more of the following areas: Software Engineering, Formal Verification and Constraint Programming.

**Additional information:** Homepage of the Research Group [ <http://gres.uoc.edu> ]

## ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

To apply for admission to the PhD on the Information and Knowledge Society, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Have sufficient research experience or an Advanced Studies Diploma (DEA) from a Spanish university.
- Have studied the research syllabus for one of the UOC's official master's degrees from the official postgraduate programme on the Information and Knowledge Society or have studied a minimum of 60 ECTS on official postgraduate programmes with a research syllabus. In both cases, students must have also obtained a total of at least 300 ECTS in all their studies.

For the purposes of applying these requirements, the following equivalences will be taken into account:

- A bachelor's degree equates to 240 degree ECTS.
- A diploma equates to 180 degree ECTS.
- An Advanced Studies Diploma (DEA) or sufficient research experience equates to 60 postgraduate research ECTS.

Students with degrees not recognised by the Spanish government may be admitted on to the PhD programme (following checks to ensure that the level of studies corresponds to that of Spanish degrees or official master's degrees); the PhD qualification will have full official validity.

Meeting any of these conditions does not guarantee admission to the programme, **they are necessary conditions for entry to the selection process for places on the PhD.**

Should none of these conditions be met, **the necessary postgraduate ECTS credits need to be studied in order to meet one of the requirements before applying for admission to the PhD, except in the case of applying for an IN3-UOC Grant.**

As well as meeting any of these conditions, a high level of English is also vital for admission to the PhD.

## GRANTS

The UOC's research institute, the IN3, offers **10 grants for full-time PhDs** that are carried out physically in its headquarters in Castelldefels's Mediterranean Technology Park.

The specific requirements for receiving one of these grants and the application form can be consulted at:

- Call for applications  
[[http://in3.uoc.edu/index.php/in3web\\_eng/content/download/15519/1251186/file/Call\\_for\\_applications.pdf](http://in3.uoc.edu/index.php/in3web_eng/content/download/15519/1251186/file/Call_for_applications.pdf)]
- Grant application form  
[[http://in3.uoc.edu/index.php/in3web\\_eng/content/download/15521/1251192/file/Grant\\_application\\_form.pdf](http://in3.uoc.edu/index.php/in3web_eng/content/download/15521/1251192/file/Grant_application_form.pdf)]

## DOCUMENTATION

The formal application for one of the PhD places for the 2008 academic year will be deemed complete when the application form has been filled in and sent, and **the following documentation sent in electronic format to ddoctorat@uoc.edu**

- Covering letter in English specifying the reasons for the candidacy and the candidate's research interests (no more than 1,000 words).
- CV (with full postal address, contact telephone number and email address) specifying the postgraduate or master's courses taken relating to the research interests expressed in the covering letter.

- Degree and postgraduate academic record.
- Name, institutional affiliation, postal and email address of three referees.
- A sample of recent academic work.
- ID or Passport.

The candidates admitted will submit an attested photocopy of the degrees and academic record required for admission to the programme. Failure to submit this documentation or the details therein not corresponding to those stated on the application may lead to candidates not being accepted on the PhD programme.

## **FEES**

In accordance with Catalan Regional Government's Decree 151/2007, July 10 2007, which sets the fees for the provision of academic services at public universities for the academic year 2007-2008, the UOC must apply the fees set by the government.

For this academic year, thesis supervision fees for students admitted on the PhD programme within the framework of an official postgraduate programme are set at €98.75.

The Board of Trustees of the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya sets the fees for connection to the Virtual Campus and the services that the UOC offers PhD students, among other items. For the academic year 2007-2008, these fees are set at €60 per semester.

## **CALENDAR**

- Admission application period: October 15 to November 15 2007
- Communication of admissions: from December 10 2007.
- Incorporation on the PhD programme: from January 1 2008.