Maynooth University Department of Computer Science
Policy on PhD by Publication

PhD by Publication is appropriate for consideration by students that have published a significant portion of the research carried out during their PhD. As specified in the University rules and procedures [1], it is expected that a PhD by publication will include a number of papers reporting separate contributions all based around a coherent topic. The normal expectation will be that each of the papers meeting the requirements of the PhD by Publication will be published in a leading peer-reviewed journal or top-tier peer-reviewed international conference.

Further to the Maynooth University policy on PhD by Publication [1] the purpose of this appendix is to stipulate the specific requirements for PhD by Publication for Computer Science PhD students.

In order to apply to do a PhD by Publication, a student must (i) have completed at least one year of their PhD, (ii) be at least one year from submission, and (iii) have at least one journal publication accepted prior to application. Application to pursue the PhD by Publication should be made in writing to the DRSPC and should include the submission of a publication strategy, to include details of planned publications and publication outlets. Approval of any application will be based on a majority vote of the DRSPC. A student may appeal the decision of the DRSPC to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

PhD by Publication requires a minimum of three papers accepted for publication, at least one of which must be a journal article. However, a greater number of publications may be proposed depending on the candidate's PhD topic. The specific number of publications and composition (i.e. number of journal papers vs. number of conference papers) should be agreed between the student and their supervisor(s), and proposed and justified by the student when applying to follow the PhD by publication route. Any deviation from the plan must be approved by the DRSPC.

All papers included in the thesis must report on original work carried out whilst the student was registered as a PhD student in the department, and must have the student as the primary author. The student must be sole first author on a minimum of one of the included papers. Joint first authorship will be considered on a subset of papers according to the contribution of the student. The thesis must contain, in an appendix, an account of the candidate's specific contributions to any included paper which has co-authors aside from their academic supervisors. It is expected that the viva committee will consider this information carefully in their deliberations.

Should a single paper be used in multiple dissertations, it is expected that particular care will be taken with regard to consideration of specific contributions, with an eye towards avoiding multiple people being given credit for the same work. Any possibility of such multiple use must be discussed in supplementary information.

Further to the included published work, the thesis must provide (i) a general introduction to the work that contextualises the candidate's research with respect to the state-of-the-art, and, (ii) a concluding chapter that discusses the contributions and significance of the research reported in the thesis with regard to the existing work in the area.

Prior to submission of PhD by Publication based thesis for examination, the candidate must demonstrate to the DRSPC that the approved publication plan is adhered to.

As is the case in the traditional route, and as specified in [1], the awarding of the PhD will be based on the outcome of the viva-voce. In the case of PhD by Publication, examiners will be made aware that the student has chosen this route in advance of the viva-voce and will be provided with a copy of [1] and a copy of this appendix. The range of outcomes of the examination is the same as those of the standard PhD.

References:
[1] Proposed rules and procedures for submission and examination of a PhD by publication. https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/PhD-by-Publication-AC-30-05-16_0.pdf