

### *Dublin descriptors for third cycle studies*

#### **Doctoral degrees are awarded to students who:**

- have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity;
- have made a contribution through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication;
- advancement in a knowledge based society;
- are capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
- can communicate with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about their areas of expertise;
- can be expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge based society;

The objective of a doctoral program is to motivate and prepare PhD candidates in such a way that they are able:

- to carry out research independently,
- to analyse scientific events with wide and deep perception,
- to determine necessary steps to reach new synthesis,
- to make original contributions to science.

It is this special characteristic, **the creation of new knowledge**, which distinguishes Doctoral from the two preceding levels (BSc and MSc) of higher education.