



the british  
psychological society  
promoting excellence in psychology

# Careers in Research

## Psychology Careers Event

2 March 2024

Prof. Suzanne Guerin  
Professor of Research Design and Analysis



UCD School of Psychology

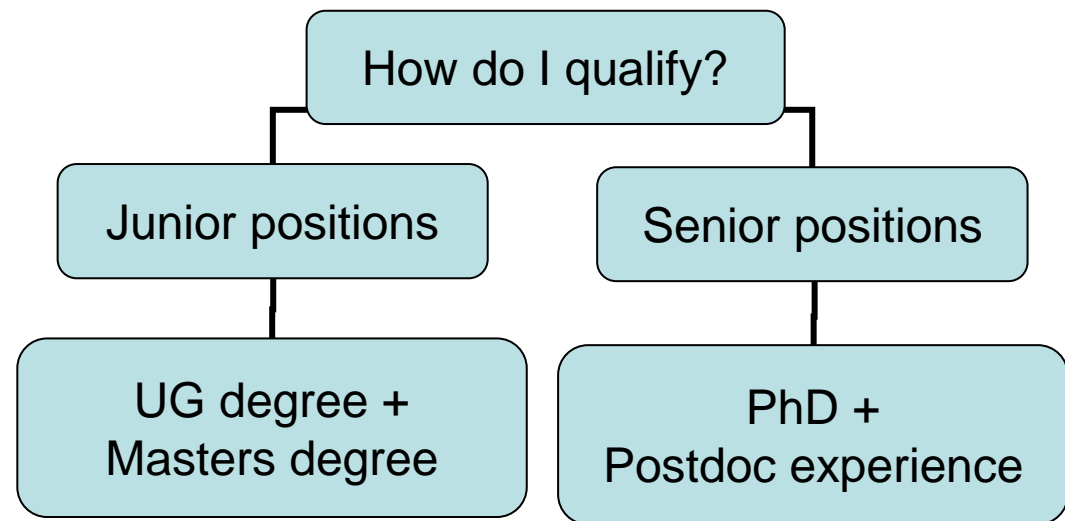
Scoil na Síceolaíochta UCD

# Research central to all areas of psychology



# Training pathways

- Most major third level institutions have Masters by research (MA, MSc, Mlitt) and PhD programmes
- Some institutions offer one-year taught Masters programmes, with advanced research skills training, PG thesis
- Masters by research is typically 2 years while a PhD can be 3 or 4 years (depends whether you have a masters already)



# Working as a researcher

- You are (nearly) a researcher!
- Opportunities in a variety of settings
- Junior positions vs Senior positions
- Finding positions
  - School/Department websites
  - National and local newspapers
  - BPS and PSI publications
  - Job websites, e.g. [www.gradireland.ie](http://www.gradireland.ie)
  - Twitter/Social media - #jobfair



## Graduate Research Assistant (Psychology)

[Zevo Health](#) | Dublin, County Dublin • Hybrid remote

Apply now



## Full job description

### Graduate Research Assistant (Psychology)

Zevo Health is seeking a **Graduate Research Assistant** to the Research & Development department to compile, analyze and report on evidence-based research projects.

Please note that while it is not essential to have in-depth Trust and Safety knowledge, it would be desirable for candidates to have a general understanding of Trust and Safety and content moderation work.



## Research Assistant

[Trinity College Dublin](#) | Dublin, County Dublin

You must create an Indeed account before continuing to the company website to apply

Apply now



## Full job description

### Post Summary

The Research Assistant will work part-time on a study which aims to understand the use of trauma-informed care in low and middle income countries. Specifically, the candidate will join a team that is currently conducting a scoping review of current trauma-informed care efforts.

This is an early-career post offering the right candidate an opportunity to learn about the field of trauma-informed care and contribute to an analysis and synthesis of current literature. Applications are encouraged who come from a broad range of related backgrounds and interests (e.g., psychology, public health, social work, gender studies).

## Postdoctoral Researcher: Qualitative Research

RCSI  | Dublin, County Dublin | €50,540 a year

You must create an Indeed account before continuing to the company website to apply

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**Department:** School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences

**Reporting to:** Dr Michelle Flood or nominee.

**Location:** RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dublin 2

**Contract/Duration:** 4 Years

**Remuneration:** €50,540 per year (IUA Scale PD2 Pt 1 - annual increments will apply)

**Closing Date:** March 3rd 2024

**Starting Date:** October 1st 2024

### Qualifications – (Essential):

- PhD in a relevant field (e.g. health services research, social sciences, psychology, social policy, or similar).

### Knowledge & Experience – (Essential):

- Excellent writing skills and experience of publication in international peer review journals in a relevant field.
- Significant experience with at least one of the following method(ologie)s: qualitative research, evidence synthesis, guideline development or policy development
- Experience communicating research to academic, policy-maker and/or public audiences.
- Practical experience of evaluating and interpreting complex scientific literature;
- Understanding of the role of evidence synthesis to inform development of clinical guidelines;
- Strong organisational and administrative skills with the ability to prioritise objectives and work under deadlines;



# Careers with Research

## Crime and Data Analyst

The recruitment campaign for this role is managed by the Public Appointments Service.

### Crime and Data Analysts

An Garda Síochána is the national police service of Ireland. The Analysis Service is a specialist section of An Garda Síochána that provides high quality analysis to support the delivery of policing across the country.

#### Eligibility Requirements

Crime and Data Analysts provide situational and strategic policing through analytic analysis of a wide range of information. Successful candidates disseminate this analysis in a way that is understood by stakeholders. Successful candidates understand and identify patterns in data sources and make recommendations to support policing decision making.

Successful candidates will be creative, enjoy working with qualitative and quantitative data, focused on achieving quality results, and have effective communication skills in writing and oral.

### Employing Department/Authority

An Garda Síochána

### Location

Nationwide

**(a)** Candidates must satisfy the all of the following requirements:

- On or before the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 have achieved a first or second class degree (minimum level 7 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications) in a related discipline, or a qualification which is of a standard, in terms of both level and volume of learning, that is of at least an equivalent or higher standard acceptable to the Public Appointments Service; **or**
- On or before 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 have obtained in the Leaving Certificate Examination (or equivalent) a minimum of grade D at Ordinary (or Pass) level in Mathematics and Irish or English, having obtained a minimum of Grade C in at least five subjects at Higher (or Honours) level papers.

#### And

- have experience in dealing with qualitative and quantitative data;
- good Information Technology skills with the aptitude to develop to expert level;
- the requisite knowledge and general ability for the proper discharge of the duties of the office.

# Careers with Research



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Dublin 7

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## Quality, Training & Research Officer

Headway

📍 Dublin

€ €40,000 - €60,000 per annum

We are currently seeking a Quality, Training and Research Officer to join our team. This permanent role will report to the CEO and will be based in our head office in Dublin 7, with an option for some home working. We will consider both full-time (35 hours per week, Mon-Fri) and part-time (3/4 days per week) applicants.

We are happy to meet with applicants from a range of professional backgrounds (e.g., Rehabilitation, Training, Research) commensurate with experience.

**Location:** Blackhall Place, Dublin 7

**Hours:** Full-time (35 hours per week)

**Contract type:** Permanent (subject to funding)

**Closing date:** 10th March 2023

### Background:

- Experience in managing quality improvement or other relevant processes in the social care/disabilities or related sectors.
- Strong project management experience, preferably including experience or working knowledge of preparation for accreditation, performance management process, quality management activities, outcome measures and evidence-based practices.
- Experience in leading staff training and development or knowledge management programmes.
- Research experience desirable.
- Knowledge of the sector an advantage.
- Relevant third level qualification.



# Sample Research Pay Scales (IUA – Oct 23)

Researcher Salary Scales		Gross Salary/ annum (€)	<b>HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY?</b>
			<b>The salary scale for the role will relate to the grading of the post, as defined in the Researcher Career Development and Employment Framework. These are the expected qualifications and experience appropriate for this level of remuneration.</b>
Research Assistant	Point 1	30,025	<p><b>Purpose of the role:</b> to assist in the performance of research. .</p> <p><b>Qualifications and Experience:</b> Minimum of primary Degree in relevant discipline with little or no research experience.</p>
	Point 2	30,838	
	Point 3	31,254	
	Point 4	32,105	
	Point 5	32,979	
	Point 6	33,881	
	Point 7	34,812	
	Point 8	35,429	
	Point 9	36,378	
	Point 10	37,180	
	Point 11	37,833	
	Point 12	38,855	
	Point 13	39,908	
Post-Doctoral Researcher	PD1	Point 1	<p><b>Purpose of the Role:</b> to conduct a specified programme of research under supervision of a PI while developing skills and competencies with respect to the role and future career options.</p> <p><b>Qualification:</b> Minimum of PhD, or exceptionally, equivalent* research experience (including industrial R&amp;D).</p> <p><b>Purpose of Role:</b> to conduct a specified programme of research under supervision of a PI while also supervising PhD students and PD1s. Continuing to develop skills and competencies with respect to the role and future career options.</p> <p>* EU defines PhD equivalent 4 years fulltime research after primary degree</p>
		Point 2	
		Point 3	
		Point 4	
		Point 5	
		Point 6	
	PD2	Point 1	
		Point 2	
		Point 3	
		Point 4	
Research Fellow	Point 1	<p><b>Experience:</b> The appointed candidate will generally have 4-6 years postdoctoral research experience.</p> <p><b>Qualification:</b> Minimum of PhD, or exceptionally, equivalent* research experience (including industrial R&amp;D)</p> <p><b>Purpose of Role:</b> Design &amp; implement a specific research programme/s in association with a PI. This role is a prestigious role which represents a step change from Post-Doctoral researcher roles.</p>	
	Point 2		
	Point 3		
	Point 4		
Senior Research Fellow	Point 1	<p><b>Purpose of Role:</b> This role reflects the EU Framework Level 4 role of 'Leading Researcher', which is described as: "a researcher leading their research area or field. It would include the team leader of a research group ... In particular disciplines as an exception, leading researchers may</p>	
	Point 2		
	Point 3		
	Point 4		

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# Securing a place: Postgraduate research

- Generally requires an upper 2nd class honours degree or higher
- Choosing a thesis topic:
  - Could develop undergraduate project
  - Could develop a new project
  - Masters' topics - Should make a contribution to understanding in the area
  - PhD topics - *Must* be research of publishable quality and make a *substantial and novel/unique contribution* to the area



# An example – HDip to PhD

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## **‘My favourite things to do’ and ‘my favourite people’: Exploring salient aspects of children’s self-concept**

**Mimi Tatlow-Golden and Suzanne Guerin**

University College Dublin, Ireland

### **Abstract**

This study explores the potential of the ‘draw-and-write’ method for inviting children to communicate salient aspects of their self-concept. Irish primary school children aged 10–13 years drew and wrote about their favourite people and things to do (social and active self). Children drew and described many salient activities (39 in total) and people – including pets. Results suggest that widely used, adult-constructed self-esteem scales for children, while multidimensional, are limited, and that ‘draw-and-write’ is an effective multimodal method with which children can express their social and active self-concepts.

Childhood

17(4) 545–562

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DOI: 10.1177/0907568210364667

<http://chd.sagepub.com>



# Research programme content

- Predominantly thesis based - student should be willing/able to work on their own or as part of a team
- Some programmes offer optional taught modules in research methods, ethics, etc.
- Some programmes have required taught modules
  - Structured PhD programmes



# Postgraduate research: Key task

- Identifying a supervisor
  - Should be selected based on the proposed topic or methodology
  - More often than not need to secure a supervisor in advance of applying for a course
  - Supervisor can provide support with funding applications



# Funding your PG research

- National sources of funding
- Some apply for positions on funded projects
- Potential supervisors will know of opportunities
- Psych students trained to a high level, skills relevant to PhD research in a range of areas
- Increasingly students are based in UK on funded projects
- Opportunities to work & self fund



# Irish Research Council ([www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie))

- Typically annual funding calls
- Guidelines and conditions available online
- Highly competitive, require significant preparation!
- Information from 2023 call

## What we offer

The value of the scholarship will be up to a maximum of €28,000 per annum in any approved year and will consist of the following:

- a stipend of €19,000 per annum;
- a contribution to fees, including non-EU fees, up to a maximum of €5,750 per annum; and
- eligible direct research expenses of €3,250 per annum.

## How to apply

Potential applicants should read the call documentation carefully to ascertain whether or not they are eligible to apply. Indicative versions of the applicant and supervisor forms are provided for information purposes only. All participants must create and submit their forms via the online system.

## Key dates

Call open	31 August 2023
FAQ deadline	16:00 (Irish time) 05 October 2023
Applicant deadline	16:00 (Irish time) 12 October 2023
Supervisor /Mentor deadline	16:00 (Irish time) 19 October 2023
Research office endorsement deadline	16:00 (Irish time) 26 October 2023
Call outcome	April 2024
Award start date	1 September 2024



# Other programmes with PhD funding



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### North/South Postgraduate Scholarships

The aim of this scheme is to encourage outstanding students from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to cross the border to undertake postgraduate study and experience life in the other Irish jurisdiction. This year, Universities Ireland will offer four scholarships, each worth €25,000, to students who have been accepted to undertake a recognised Master's Degree or are entering the first year of a PhD programme at a university in the island of Ireland that is not in the same jurisdiction as the university where they have previously studied.

Strict eligibility rules apply – please read the Guidance for Applicants carefully.

#### APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications for the 2024 North/South Postgraduate Scholarships are now open.

#### Guidance notes for Applicants

[Apply Now](#)



# Pros of a career in research

- Work on a wide range of projects
- Work in multidisciplinary research teams
- May have an opportunity to do PhD
- May have opportunities to gain teaching experience
- LOTS of transferable skills (particularly from postgraduate training)
- International opportunities
- Pathway to a career in academia
  - PhD -> Postdoc -> Lecturing roles



# Cons ...

- Often short-term or temporary contracts
- Positions can be dependent on securing funding
- Might have limited opportunities to develop your own research ideas in junior posts
- Pathways into lecturing can be particularly competitive as many PhDs/Postdocs apply for jobs internationally
- Career progression can be difficult



# Increasing your chances

- Any research experience is valuable
  - Important to develop a portfolio of skills
- Dissemination is key
  - Presenting your research
    - Call for abstracts open for Psychology Student Congress 2024
  - PSI and NIBPS Annual Conferences
- Write for publication
  - *PSI and NIBPS publications (e.g., The Irish Psychologist see [www.psychologicalsociety.ie](http://www.psychologicalsociety.ie))*
- ***GET INVOLVED in your local Society!!!!***

