



# Careers in Research

## Psychology Careers Event

4 March 2023

**Prof. Suzanne Guerin**  
Professor of Research Design and Analysis



**UCD School of Psychology**

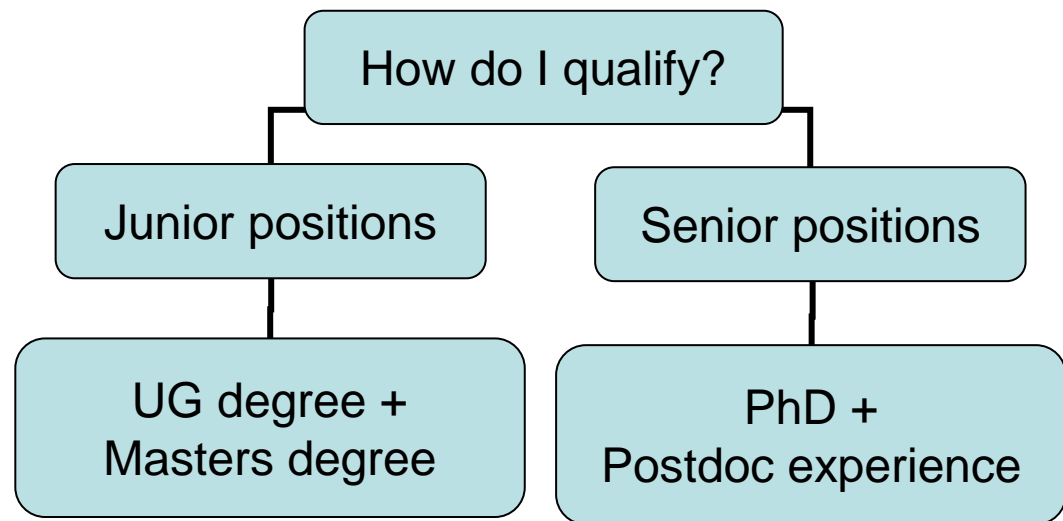
**Scoil na Síceolaíochta UCD**

# 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 - #jobfairy





SAINT JOHN OF GOD  
COMMUNITY SERVICES, CLG

★★★★☆ 26 reviews

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📍 Dublin, Ireland

☎ +353 12831201

🌐 <https://www.sjog.ie>

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# Research Assistant

Saint John of God Community Services, Clg

📍 Dublin South / Dublin

💶 Not disclosed

📁 Contract

🕒 Updated 24/02/2023

👤 Debbie McLoughlin

★ Save

Log in or register to apply

*As part of Saint John of God Community Services, Dublin South East provides a network of education, training, employment, respite and community living supports to children and adults with in*

## The successful candidate must have:

**Research Assistant**  
**6 Month Fixed Term Part Time Contract**  
**(21 hours per week)**

- An undergraduate degree in Psychology from a recognised University or equivalent
- A proven track record in research
- Experience of working with people with intellectual disabilities and their families/carers
- Excellent interpersonal and communications skills
- Excellent computing and analytic skills
- Highly organised, compassionate, and committed to professionalism
- Adaptable, dependable, reliable, and responsible
- Full clean driver's licence and access to a car
- Completed or about to complete a master's degree in Psychology *(desirable)*
- Previous experience preparing written reports for publication *(desirable)*



## ST JAMES'S HOSPITAL

★★★★★ 30 reviews

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8 James St, The Liberties, Dublin,  
Ireland

+353 14162559

<https://www.stjames.ie/Careers>

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Hospital →](#)

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# Post-Doctoral Researcher

## St James's Hospital

Dublin South / Dublin

€46,407 - €55,610 per annum

Temporary

Updated 21/02/2023

Sarah Madden

★ Save

Log in or register to apply

Role Title: Post-I

Job Reference N

Closing Date: Su

Candidates must have at the latest date of application:

- PhD in Psychology or Engineering with focus on Human Factors Ergonomics
- Knowledge of the healthcare environment or evidence of conducting Health Services Research.
- Evidence of research publication.
- Possess sufficient administrative capacity to discharge the functions of the grade.
- Demonstrable experience of quantitative data collection and analysis.
- Demonstrable experience of qualitative data collection and analysis.

Skills:

Research

Project Management

Organisation

# Careers with Research (Comp. closed)

## 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 will disseminate this analysis in a timely manner to stakeholders. Successful candidates will understand and identify patterns in data, identify sources and make recommendations to support policing decision making.

Successful candidates will be creative, enjoy working with qualitative and quantitative data, be focused on achieving quality results, and have effective communication skills, both written 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 (Current Call)



HEADWAY  
★★★★★ 1 review

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📍 Blackhall Green, Blackhall Place,  
Dublin 7

☎ 01 604 0800

🌐 <http://www.headway.ie>

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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 – Feb 23)

Guidelines for Contract Researchers Salary Scales				
Applicable from 1st March 2023				
Research Assistant	Point 1	29,275	<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	30,088		
	Point 3	30,504		
	Point 4	31,355		
	Point 5	32,229		
	Point 6	33,131		
	Point 7	34,062		
	Point 8	34,679		
	Point 9	35,628		
	Point 10	36,430		
	Point 11	37,083		
	Point 12	38,105		
	Point 13	39,158		
Post-Doctoral Researcher	PD1	Point 1	42,033	<p><b>Purpose of the Role:</b> to conduct a specified programme or 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><i>* EU defines PhD equivalent 4 years fulltime research after primary degree</i></p>
		Point 2	42,621	
		Point 3	44,572	
		Point 4	45,819	
		Point 5	47,104	
		Point 6	48,427	
	PD2	Point 1	49,790	
		Point 2	51,193	
		Point 3	52,650	
		Point 4	54,153	
Research Fellow	Point 1	60,412	<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	62,164		
	Point 3	63,969		
	Point 4	65,828		
Senior Research Fellow	Point 1	73,486	<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</p>	
	Point 2	75,630		
	Point 3	76,649		
	Point 4	78,863		



# 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

Childhood

17(4) 545–562

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DOI: 10.1177/0907568210364667

<http://chd.sagepub.com>



### **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.



# 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!

## What we offer

- a stipend of €18,500 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, supervisor and referee forms are provided for information purposes only. All participants must create and submit their forms via the online system.

## Key dates

Key dates	
Call open	08 September 2022
FAQ deadline	16:00 (Irish time) 13 October 2022
Applicant deadline	16:00 (Irish time) 20 October 2022
Supervisor, mentor deadline	16:00 (Irish time) 27 October 2022
Research office endorsement deadline	16:00 (Irish time) 03 November 2022
Call outcome	End of March 2023
Award start date	1 September 2023



# 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 at least four scholarships, each worth €15,000, 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 2023 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
- Can help with access to other postgraduate programmes
- May have an opportunity to do PhD
- May have opportunities to gain teaching experience
- 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
- Career progression can be difficult



# Increasing your chances

- Any research experience is valuable
  - Important to develop a portfolio of skills
- Dissemination is key
  - Presenting at Student Congress
    - Call for abstracts open see Psychology Student Congress 2023 on Social Media
  - 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!!!!***

