

Faculty of Science and Health

FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE



Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Scheme 2017

Project Title: *Child sexual abuse disclosures: helping children tell*

Principal Investigator: *Dr. Rosaleen McElvaney*

School/Research Centre: *School of Nursing and Human Sciences*

Project Description

Project Aims

The aim of this project is to investigate the factors that influence early disclosure of experiences of children who have been sexually abused and who have been seen for assessment in a child sexual abuse assessment service where they have given a credible account of child sexual abuse. The project involves assisting with both qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data extracted from 250 children's files. This data consists of information pertaining to children's experiences of disclosing sexual abuse. There is currently an Excel spreadsheet containing quantitative and qualitative data, and an SPSS file containing quantitative data that is ready for analysis.

Potential Candidates

The Intern will complete an induction process under the supervision of the Principal Investigator and will have the benefit of support from a small research team engaged on various CSA research projects. The induction process involves: reading relevant research articles; a visit to a child sexual abuse assessment unit; and reviewing coding already completed in the study. This induction phase familiarizes the Intern with the assessment process, from which the data was gathered, and the field of child sexual abuse.

The Intern will avail of the opportunity to learn about child sexual abuse, the challenges children experience in disclosing such experiences. They will learn how to conduct systematic literature reviews, writing summaries of relevant research articles and receiving feedback on their writing skills. The Intern will conduct a quantitative and qualitative analysis on a small dataset with a view to submitting a paper for presentation at the Psychological Society of Ireland Annual Conference to be held in November 2017. This will provide them with the opportunity to learn to use/develop their skills with analysis software used in both qualitative (nVivo) and quantitative (SPSS) data analysis and to present at a national conference.

Formal regular supervision will be provided by the Principal Investigator and informal supervision will be provided on an ongoing basis by a post doctoral researcher and other research staff on the PI's research team. This system of support has been successful with previous Interns whose feedback has been invaluable in establishing appropriate support structures in this project.