



Faculty Research Committee Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Scheme 2019

Project Title: Module testing – eConnect ‘enhanced communication in Nursing through exchange of clinical teaching experiences

Principal Investigator: Dr Daniela Lehwaldt

School/Research Centre: School of Nursing and Human Sciences

The Undergraduate Summer Research Internship that we wish to apply for relates to a *specific defined role in a larger existing project*.

eCoNNECT ‘enhanced Communication iN Nursing through Exchange of Clinical Teaching experiences’ is a project which is funded by Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Education and Training (no: 2017-1-DE02-KA202-004 091). In this project, we are working together with five institutions from across three countries (Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands) to develop an online / blended learning module for nurse teachers and students. The main aim of the module is to enhance communication skills used during practice placements. The project is led by Hanse Institut Oldenburg (Germany), no funding for a research intern has been allocated through the project (not part of Erasmus+ application). DCU leads on the module testing of the project i.e. testing of the online / blended learning format and tools (videos and related learning materials) specifically developed for this module.

The DCU team consists of members from the School of Nursing and Human Sciences (Dr. Daniela Lehwaldt (PI – Assistant Prof), Susan Hourican (Assistant Prof), Dr. Mary Kelly (Assistant Prof) and Patrick Doyle (Senior Technician) and the Head of the Teaching and Enhancement Unit (Dr. Mark Glynn). The PI, as well as all academics on the team, have experience in supervising undergraduate students. The PI also has experience in supervising postgraduate students at MSc and PhD level.

Testing will be with approximately 75 module participants e.g. 5 school-based teachers, 5 practice-based teachers and 5 nursing students from each of the 5 institutions. Two sets of data will be generated (i) online survey data capturing the educational experiences of module participants and (ii) focus group interview data relating to module participants (approximately 6 from each country, n = 18) and the project members (approximately 5 from each country, n=15). The module will be delivered during March/April, online surveys and focus group interviews will be completed in April / May.

The role of the undergraduate research intern, as we envisage it, will relate to the testing of the module i.e. assistance with analysis of quantitative and qualitative data (online surveys and focus group interviews), and assistance with summary reports and dissemination. The testing phase related to eCoNNECT is of particular importance to the overall project, as it will support the development of high quality module content.

As the testing forms a very specific part within the eCoNNECT project, the Intern will be able to contribute at an early stage in the internship and will be engaged quickly and effectively in the research. The PI and DCU team will be available during the summer months to mentor the Intern. The testing phase will have been recently conducted, which will also assist with the integration and orientation of the Intern.

Reporting and mentorship structure for the intern

Week 1: Welcome to DCU project team and orientation, overview of eCoNNECT project and testing phase. Agreeing aims and objectives of the Undergraduate Summer Research Internship (based on job descriptor) and agreeing on internal meeting dates for reporting. Familiarisation with testing materials/Loop training.

Week 2-5: Assistance with analysis of quantitative and qualitative data from the testing phase (online survey and focus group interviews). Assistance with summary reports and planning for dissemination.

Week 6-10 (if granted): dissemination of results e.g. at European Nursing Symposium in Groningen (Netherlands, 12th & 13th September).

The PI and/or DCU eCoNNECT project team will meet the intern at least once per week to facilitate and support the Intern's learning, to provide feedback on the Intern's work and to plan further activities.

Skills development opportunities

The Intern will collaborate virtually and online with eCoNNECT European partners. This is a great opportunity to develop motivation for international research. He/she develop skills in collating and disseminating test results from the virtual learning platform Loop. The Intern will have the opportunity to promote the project via social media and the project website. He/she will be involved in international dissemination of project results, depending on the timespan granted for the internship. This is another opportunity to inspiring the Intern in terms of developing enthusiasm for postgraduate research and competitiveness for postgraduate funding.

This Undergraduate Summer Research Internship relates to a specific defined role in a larger existing project. eCoNNECT 'enhanced Communication iN Nursing through Exchange of Clinical Teaching experiences' is a project to develop an online/blended learning module for nurse teachers and students to enhance communication skills used during practice placements. A team from the School of Nursing and Human Sciences and the Teaching and Enhancement Unit (TEU) at DCU are working together with institutions from across three countries (Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands) in eCoNNECT. DCU leads on the module testing i.e. testing of the online / blended learning format and the tools (videos and related learning materials) specifically developed for this module. The Internship includes:

- Collating testing data from the virtual learning platform Loop.
- Assistance with analysis of quantitative and qualitative research data from eCoNNECT testing phase.
- Promoting the project via the eCoNNECT website (Google sites) and via social media e.g. Twitter and blog posts.
- Dissemination: assistance with summary reports and (international) presentations.

While some training will be provided, the following skills are essential:

- Basic understanding of qualitative and quantitative research,
- Excellent writing skills,
- Good communication skills,
- Ability to work in a team,
- Presentation skills,
- Knowledge relating to social media and basic technologies i.e. email, Google Docs, PowerPoint, Excel.

Desirable skills:

- Skills and knowledge relating to virtual learning environments i.e. Loop / Moodle would be an advantage.
- Knowledge related to nursing practice placements and teaching and assessing in nursing practice would be desirable.

The Intern will collaborate virtually and online with eCoNNECT European partners, together with the DCU team. He/she will be working with the Teaching and Enhancement Unit to collate and disseminate testing data from the virtual learning platform Loop. The Intern will promote the project via social media and the project website. He/she will be involved in international dissemination of project results, depending on the timespan granted for the internship.