



## HRB Funded PhD Studentship Opportunity Available at the School of Nursing and Human Sciences Dublin City University

Applications are invited from candidates interested in pursuing a Health Research Board (HRB) funded PhD in the School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University. For the duration of this studentship, the successful candidate will be based at the School of Nursing and Human Sciences in Dublin City University and will be supervised by Dr Veronica Lambert and Dr Pamela Gallagher. Other collaborators on the project include the Neurology Team based at the Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Brainwave-the Irish Epilepsy Association, Dr Colin Doherty (Clinical Lead in Epilepsy in Ireland) and Dr Joan Austin (Distinguished Professor of Emerita at the Indiana University School of Nursing in Indianapolis).

The School of Nursing and Human Sciences at Dublin City University brings together interdisciplinary research within nursing, psychology, biomedical science, allied health care and social science. The PhD studentship is aligned with the strategic research themes of the Schools Health4Life Research Portfolio. A PhD project is available in the following area: ***breaking the cycle of invisibility: a mixed method inquiry of disclosure challenges faced by children living with epilepsy***. This PhD project provides an exciting opportunity to engage with children and their parents to explore challenges (positive and negative) they experience when deciding to disclose, or conceal, their epilepsy to/from others. The relationship between disclosure practices and children's self-perception, perceived stigmatisation, quality of life and epilepsy management will also be investigated. Using a cross sectional survey and semi-structured interviews, this mixed method study will explore the experiences of children living with epilepsy through completion of a series of psychometric tests (e.g. stigma, self-perception, quality of life) and direct engagements with children using a one to one interview process and innovative techniques such as drawings/collages and storytelling.

Candidates for the studentship must have at least a 2.1 undergraduate degree (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline e.g. nursing, psychology, sociology and allied health professionals. Relevant professional experience will also be considered. All candidates must be fluent in English and have good writing skills. The studentship contributes to university fees and a tax-free stipend of €16,000 per annum for 3 years (October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2015). To apply, please submit your curriculum vitae, a targeted cover letter (expressing your suitability for the position and why you wish to pursue a PhD in the area of childhood epilepsy), a sample of written work (e.g. thesis, paper, essay) and two letters of reference electronically to: [veronica.lambert@dcu.ie](mailto:veronica.lambert@dcu.ie).

*The closing date for applications is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012.  
Please note that interviews will be arranged for Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.*

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr Veronica Lambert on (01) 7007161 or by email to [veronica.lambert@dcu.ie](mailto:veronica.lambert@dcu.ie) and Dr Pamela Gallagher on (01) 7008958 or by email to [pamela.gallagher@dcu.ie](mailto:pamela.gallagher@dcu.ie).