



School of Nursing and Human Sciences

Post-Doctoral Researcher Level 1

Fixed Term Contract up to Three Years

Project: Enhancing evidence-based infant feeding policy implementation in Malawi

Research Career Framework

As part of this role you will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework <http://dcu.ie/hr/ResearchersFramework/index.shtml>. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

Background:

Dublin City University is a research-intensive, globally-engaged, dynamic institution that is distinguished by both the quality and impact of its graduates, and its focus on the translation of knowledge into societal and economic benefit. DCU prepares its students well for success in life, and in the workplace, by providing a high-quality rounded and transformative education appropriate to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Excellence in its education and research activities has led to DCU's consistent presence in the rankings of the world's top young universities. We offer a dynamic and internationally focused environment in which to advance your academic career. Staff within the School of Nursing and Human Sciences at DCU have expertise in the provision of nursing, psychology, psychotherapy, sexuality studies, health & society and other multidisciplinary educational programmes, research and engagement activities.

Project Background and Description

This is a three year implementation research project, funded by the Irish Research Council (IRC) under the COALESCE programme. It is being led by researchers at the School of Nursing & Human Sciences DCU and the Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN), University of Malawi, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Nutrition, Malawi and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs) for the project are Professor Anne Matthews of DCU, and Professor Ellen Chirwa of KCN, University of Malawi. Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN) has its origins in the National School of Nursing which was established in 1965. The school was upgraded to a Constituent College of the University of Malawi in 1979. The College is a World Health Organization collaborating centre for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice. Faculty members in the college have expertise in providing adult and child health nursing, community nursing, midwifery and reproductive health programmes and in conducting research across these areas.

Based on strong research evidence, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that all newborn babies are exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months. The Ministry of Health and Population in Malawi endorsed these guidelines as per the Infant and Young Child Nutrition Policy and Guidelines 2003-2020 (and again in the 2018 Nutrition Plan). Despite this, rates remain below target. We will evaluate policy implementation to promote exclusive breastfeeding of newborns for the first 6 months in Malawi. We will build capacity in implementation and realist research for the Irish and Malawian partners and relevant stakeholders. Adopting the Sustainable Development Goals' focus on leaving no-one behind, we will also focus on the most vulnerable populations, such as for babies born preterm, which is the strongest risk factor for newborn mortality in Malawi.

The Role:

The successful candidate will lead the day-to-day implementation of the project. They will also lead and manage aspects of the research (including a realist review and realist evaluation), training, policy synthesis and engagement and dissemination. The post will involve travel to, and periods of working in, Malawi.

Principal duties and responsibilities:

Reporting to the co-Principal Investigators, the post-doctoral researcher will:

- Plan stakeholder and community engagement, including workshops and communication activities.
- Conduct a realist review and realist evaluation on effective infant feeding policy implementation, under the supervision of the co-Principal investigators,
- Prepare ethical approval application documents.
- Plan and arrange an implementation research training programme, including resource mapping, needs assessment, sourcing trainers and evaluation.
- Develop the policy synthesis outputs, including strategy and framework.
- Engage in dissemination of results at project events, and national and international conferences, and prepare research outputs for submission to high impact international journals and to a lay audience.
- Support as required, the development of proposals for further research funding.
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the co-Principal Investigators, or the University.

Variation of these duties and any other relevant duties as assigned by the co-Principal Investigators.

Experience and Qualifications:

Applicants should have

- A doctoral level degree in a relevant discipline (such as nursing, midwifery, nutrition, medicine, public health, international development, social policy, anthropology).
- experience in health and/or nutrition research
- experience in implementation research
- experience in realist research

Desirable experience includes:

- experience researching or working in Malawi or a similar context
- research experience on infant feeding, breastfeeding, infant health

Applicants should also have:

- Evidence of producing research outputs, including academic article writing and presentation skills.
- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English.
- Evidence of excellent research skills, including quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis skills
- Demonstrable ability to work independently and as a collaborative team member within a multidisciplinary team.
- Knowledge of the relevant academic literature in the general area of infant feeding, implementation research, realist research.

Candidates will be assessed on the following competencies:

- **Discipline knowledge and Research skills** – Demonstrates knowledge of a research discipline and the ability to conduct a specific programme of research within that discipline.
- **Understanding the Research Environment** – Demonstrates an awareness of the research environment (for example funding bodies) and the ability to contribute to grant applications.
- **Communicating Research** – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research with their peers and the wider research community (for example presenting at conferences and publishing research in relevant journals) and the potential to teach and tutor students.
- **Managing & Leadership skills** - Demonstrates the potential to manage a research projects including the supervision of undergraduate students.

Salary Scale: *€37,223 - €45,540 p.a. (i.e. up to point 8, IUA Post-Doctoral Researcher scale).

** Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience, and will be made on the appropriate point of the IUA Post-doctoral Researcher salary scale in line with current Government pay policy.*

Closing date: 12th April 2019

Informal enquiries:

Informal enquiries may be addressed to the DCU-based co-PI: Professor Anne Matthews, School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University, Dublin 9 Ireland. Phone +353 (1)7008957, Email: anne.matthews@dcu.ie.

Please do not send applications to this email address, instead apply as described below.

Application procedure:

Application forms are available from the DCU Current Vacancies (Open Competitions) website at <http://www4.dcu.ie/hr/vacancies/current.shtml> and also from the Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel: +353 (0)1 700 5149; Fax +353 (0)1 700 5500 Email: hr.applications@dcu.ie.

Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject line: Job Reference #1193– Postdoctoral Researcher - Enhancing evidence-based infant feeding policy implementation in Malawi - School of Nursing and Human Sciences

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to hr.applications@dcu.ie or by Fax: +353 (0)1 700 5500 or by post to the Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, DCU Glasnevin Campus, Dublin 9, D09W6Y4.

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