



**School:** School of Nursing and Human Sciences

**Post Title:** Postdoctoral Researcher – Level 1 The SEA-CHANGE study: a pilot randomised controlled trial of the SELF-management After Cancer of the Head And Neck Group intervention

**Term:** Three Year Fixed Term Contact

### **Research Career Framework**

As part of this role the postdoctoral researcher will be required to participate in the Dublin City University Research Career Framework. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

DCU has a strong track record in attracting both Irish and European Union research funding under Horizon 2020 (and all previous Framework Programmes), Marie Curie Actions and Erasmus. We offer a dynamic and internationally-focused environment in which to advance your academic career.

### **Background & Role**

We are seeking to recruit a Postdoctoral Researcher from November 2017. The post offers an exciting opportunity to join an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration in head and neck cancer survivorship research between Dublin City University (DCU), Maynooth University, St James Hospital, Dublin, St Luke's Hospital, Dublin and Newcastle University, UK. This research aims to test the feasibility of implementing a theory-based self-management intervention (SEA-CHANGE) to increase quality of life and participation in life activities and decrease distress in head and neck cancer survivors following primary cancer treatment as compared to usual care. The research is funded by the Health Research Board, Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Award Scheme.

The Postdoctoral Researcher will be based in the School of Nursing and Human Sciences, DCU. Fieldwork will be undertaken at participating clinical sites.

### **Duties & Responsibilities**

Reporting to the Principal Investigator, Prof Pamela Gallagher, the postdoctoral researcher will:

- Conduct a specified programme of research on self-management in survivors of head and neck cancer under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigator. This will include:
  - Day to day management of the research project;
  - Conducting a pilot randomized study to evaluate the fidelity, feasibility and acceptability of the intervention;
  - Conducting a qualitative process evaluation of the intervention;

- Synthesising and assessing the progression criteria to a definitive trial;
- Preparing ethical approval documentation and detailed protocols for the study; recruiting participants, implementing and delivering the intervention; conducting interviews with patients and healthcare professionals; data collection and analysis;
- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders including clinical, research and academic partners/collaborators;
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which he/she is engaged at national/international conferences and publish research outputs in high impact international journals with the support of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator;
- Assist the Principal Investigator in identifying and developing future research and funding initiatives;
- Supervise research assistants, undergraduate and postgraduate students working in this area with their research;
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Principal Investigator, the School or Research Centre, or the University;
- Engage in teaching and teaching support as assigned by and in agreement with the Head of School, under the direction of the Principal Investigator;
- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary including regular funding agency reports and internal reports;
- Carry out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants will have a PhD in a relevant area such as psychology, social science, health services research, allied health disciplines or related disciplines relevant to the research topic. Applicants for this position will also have experience in implementing and delivering a psychosocial/behaviour change/self-management or health-related intervention or have experience in setting up and running clinical trials. It is essential that the applicant has experience in health related research and experience in negotiating a clinical environment, recruiting patients and liaising with clinical personnel. Excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills, being able to take initiative and work under pressure to tight deadlines, and the ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary, multi-centre team are also required. In addition, it is essential that the candidate has well-developed qualitative and quantitative research skills with a publication track record. It is desirable that applicants have experience of cancer survivorship 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 with particular reference to conducting pilot randomised controlled trials, implementing psychosocial/behaviour change/self-management interventions, recruiting participants, negotiating the clinical environment, and qualitative and quantitative analysis.

**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 project including the supervision of research assistants and undergraduate/postgraduate students.

**Salary: €36,488 - €43,394**

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

**Closing date: 09<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Informal enquiries to:**

Prof Pamela Gallagher, School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University, Dublin 9, Ireland. Phone: +353 (0)1 7008958; E-mail: [pamela.gallagher@dcu.ie](mailto:pamela.gallagher@dcu.ie)

**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 Email: [hr.applications@dcu.ie](mailto:hr.applications@dcu.ie). **Along with the application form, please submit a CV and cover letter.**

**Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject line:  
Job Ref 626 Postdoctoral Researcher – SEACHANGE Study.**

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to [hr.applications@dcu.ie](mailto:hr.applications@dcu.ie) or by post to the Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Dublin 9.

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