



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Research Centre</b>	School of Nursing, Psychotherapy & Community Health
<b>Post title</b>	Postdoctoral Researcher
<b>Level on Framework</b>	Level 1
<b>Post duration</b>	16-month fixed term contract, Part time 50% FTE

### **Dublin City University**

Dublin City University (DCU) is a leading innovative European University. It is proud to be one of the world's leading Young Universities and is among the world's top 2% globally. DCU is known as Ireland's University of Impact, with a mission to 'transform lives and societies' and focuses on addressing global challenges in collaboration with key national and international partners and stakeholders.

DCU has over 20,000 students in five faculties spread across three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra area of North Dublin. Thanks to its innovative approach to teaching and learning, the University offers a 'transformative student experience' that helps to develop highly sought-after graduates. DCU is currently No. 1 in Ireland for Graduate Employment Rate, and for graduate income (CSO).

DCU is a research-intensive University and is home to a number of SFI-funded Research Centres. The University participates in a range of European and international research partnerships. DCU is also the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

As a 'People First' institution, DCU is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - a University that helps staff and students to thrive. The University is a leader in terms of its work to increase access to education, and is placed in the world's Top 10 for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU 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.

## Background & Role

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for this position at Dublin City University. This position, funded by the Irish Cancer Society, is available from May 2023 and offers an opportunity to join a project team which includes a multidisciplinary collaboration of academic, clinical and other key patient and public stakeholders in oncology and palliative care.

This is a mixed methods study which aims to explore specialist oncology professionals working in hospitals experiences of integrating generalist palliative care within their practice. The goal is to produce findings that will be benchmarked against existing national guidance associated with generalist palliative care provision. Knowledge will be used to identify recommendations to assist oncology education and practice.

Ireland's population is ageing and as a result over the next thirty years the amount of people with palliative care needs will greatly increase. People with advanced cancer have significant unmet palliative care needs and most will be referred to specialist palliative care services (level 3) late in the course of their illness, or not at all. The requirement for all healthcare practitioners to be competent to deliver palliative care has been a national policy directive for over twenty years, and national clinical competency guidelines associated with generalist palliative care (level 2) provision are nearly ten years in existence. However, the level of engagement with, and effect of these guidelines within specialist oncology care provision has not been explored and is urgently required. This new evidence aims to inform policy, practice, education and ultimately improve the care experiences of people with cancer in hospitals.

The work package objectives are:

1. To co-design a survey tool based on current evidence and the palliative care level 2 competencies published by the Health Service Executive (HSE) (2014).
2. Utilizing this online survey, elicit specialist oncology professionals' knowledge and understanding of the HSE clinical competency guidance for generalist (level 2) palliative care.
3. Utilizing focus groups, explore barriers, facilitators and educational needs associated with integrating generalist (level 2) palliative care from the perspectives of specialist oncology professionals.
4. Integrate the survey and focus group findings to create strategic implementation guidance to assist clinical practice recommendations for the integration of generalist palliative care within specialist oncology clinical practice.

## **Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

Reporting to the Principal Investigator Dr Mary Nevin, the duties of the Researcher will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assist and oversee project management coordination under supervision
- Take significant responsibility for planning and implementation of specific elements of the research activities under the direction and supervision of the project's Principal Investigator
- Facilitate Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) input into all aspects of the research, including research design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination
- Assist all elements of fieldwork associated with the project, including managing and assisting with quantitative and qualitative data collection, management and analysis
- Foster and maintain effective collaboration and communication with all team members, collaborators, and key stakeholders
- Coordinate and co-facilitate multi-stakeholder consultations and focus group workshops
- Support and assist with PPI activities across the research cycle
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which he/she is engaged with the assistance of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Principal Investigator, the School or Research Centre, or the University
- Carry out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post

## **Minimum Criteria**

Applicants should have a PhD in a related health science, psychology, or social science discipline, or substantial acquired experience in a third-level environment. In addition, it is desirable that the candidate has experience in conducting research or assisting those who conduct research, including:

- Experience in qualitative and/or quantitative methods.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and networking skills.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills, including project management skills, have the ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team, and a proven ability to work to agreed deadlines.
- Excellent IT skills in Microsoft Office.
- Experience in use of web technology (Zoom, MS Teams), and social media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn).

## **Desirable Criteria**

- Experience of liaising with multi-stakeholders, and knowledge of engaged research and co-producing with public and patient involvement
- Ability to produce research and scholarship with a portfolio of peer reviewed articles, and conference presentations etc.
- Experience working with and/or managing large and inter-disciplinary research consortiums

## **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 project including the supervision of undergraduate students

## **Essential Training**

The successful individual will be required to undertake the following essential compliance training: Orientation, Health & Safety and Data Protection (GDPR). Other training may need to be undertaken when required.