



Faculty	Faculty of Science and Health
Post Title	Post-Doctoral Researcher, School Nurse and Social Care Worker Project, DCU/HSE REACH Collaboratory
Level on Framework	Level 1
Post duration	Fixed Term Part-Time Contract up to 2 years

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.

The REACH Collaboratory

Dublin City University (DCU) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) Community Health Organisation for Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) established a joint research partnership called the REACH (Research and Engagement Across Community Health) Collaboratory in January 2022. The Collaboratory brings together academics and researchers from DCU and staff from the HSE Community Health Organisation for Dublin North City and County to support the planning, design and

evaluation of the reconfiguration and implementation of community health networks in the catchment area. The Collaboratory Steering Group wishes to recruit a postdoctoral researcher to work with the advisory team for the School Nurse and Social Care Worker Project for the Collaboratory. The position will be based in the Faculty of Science and Health, DCU, in conjunction with the Educational Disadvantage Centre, in DCU Institute of Education.

The HSE CHO Dublin North City and County

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is one of nine CHOs across the country and is responsible for providing care services to the population of Dublin North City and County. CHO DNCC has a number of unique characteristics including a mixed urban/rural geographic divide. CHO DNCC is currently in a period of major transformation that will significantly shift our operating model to support enhanced patient care by making care accessible as close to people's homes as possible. Under Sláintecare's enhanced community care framework, our CHO will create 12 Community Health Networks across our catchment to enable staff and teams work together in a more coordinated and consistent way. Each network of 50,000 population will work with the local population to enable integrated care across hospital and community services. Networks will therefore provide the building blocks for both future healthcare reform and expansion.

Role Profile

Applications are invited from passionate and suitably qualified candidates for a part-time, two year fixed term position as Postdoctoral Researcher at the REACH Collaboratory. The post offers an excellent opportunity to join a new and unique partnership to contribute to the reconfiguration and implementation of community health networks, the development of research capacity, and assisting individuals and local communities to become more involved in research related to the provision of health services in their area.

Reporting to the Co-Principal Investigators, Professor Veronica Lambert, Head of School, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health and Professor Paul Downes, Director, Educational Disadvantage Centre, Institute of Education, the Postdoctoral Researcher will play a critical role in assisting day-to-day REACH Collaboratory activities for the School Nurse and Social Care Worker Project, including but not limited to, gathering baseline data for key indicators regarding children and young people in the relevant DEIS schools and later data gathering on the distinct impact of the school nurse and the social care worker in separate DEIS schools, including both quantitative and qualitative data collection, conducting literature reviews and summarising research evidence, analysing data, project design and setting up and coordinating research activities.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Postdoctoral Researcher will be responsible for supporting day-to-day REACH Collaboratory activities for the School Nurse and Social Care Worker Project. This will include, but is not limited to:

- Supporting and arranging research activities based on the priorities identified by the Collaboratory for this specific project, including liaising with key stakeholders and participants.
- Conducting literature and systematic reviews around topics of interest to the Collaboratory and relevant to this specific work packages/ projects.

- Conducting secondary analysis of existing reviews and secondary analysis, including analysis of qualitative and quantitative data and meta-analyses where appropriate.
- Conducting data collection with research participants using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Preparing, testing and administering surveys and analysing survey data.
- Analysing qualitative data to hear children, young people and their families' voices as well as those of key stakeholders and quantitative data on key outcomes identified for children and their families.
- Presenting findings and updates to the Steering Group and stakeholders, with a view to system development and reform.
- Supporting report writing, the preparation of research publications, and the dissemination of Collaboratory research activities, materials and resources for the School Nurse and Social Care Worker Project through webpages and other media/forums, including knowledge exchange events.
- Other tasks relevant to the successful delivery of research projects and activities.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience Required

The ideal candidate will have a PhD in a health or other relevant discipline (e.g., social science, psychology, education, anthropology, allied health, health services research). It is essential that the candidate has:

- experience in effective networking and building strong working relationships within and across organisations, disciplines and professions;
- excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills, be able to take initiative and work under pressure to tight deadlines, and have the ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team;
- a range of qualitative and quantitative research skills and experience of research in health /healthcare or a relevant related area;
- experience of working with communities and health service users and/or schools and liaising with multi-stakeholders;
- strong leadership and influencing skills with expertise in project management.

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 in local community and education contexts of poverty and high socio-economic exclusion

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 and engage with local community stakeholders in contexts of poverty and socio-economic exclusion