



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Research Centre</b> | School of Psychology<br>The PANO Trial: Physical Activity and Nutrition Optimisation<br>Prehabilitation in Cancer Patients |
| <b>Post Title</b>      | Research Assistant   |
| <b>Post Duration</b>   | Up to 10 months fixed term contract  |

### **Dublin City University**

Dublin City University (DCU) is a young, ambitious and vibrant university, with a mission 'to transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation and engagement'. Known as Ireland's 'University of Enterprise', DCU is a values-based institution, committed to the delivery of impact for the public good. DCU was named Sunday Times Irish University of the Year 2021.

DCU is based on three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra region of north Dublin. More than 18,000 students are enrolled across five faculties – Science and Health, DCU Business School, Computing and Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences and DCU Institute of Education.

DCU is committed to excellence across all its activities. This is demonstrated by its world-class research initiatives, its cutting-edge approach to teaching and learning, its focus on delivering a transformative student experience, and its positive social and economic impact. The university continues to develop innovative programmes in collaboration with industry, such as the DCU Futures suite of degrees, which are designed to equip graduates with the skills and knowledge required in a rapidly evolving economy.

DCU's pursuit of excellence has led to its current ranking among the top 2% of universities globally. It is also one of the world's Top Young Universities (QS Top 100 Under 50, Times Higher Top 150 Under 100). In the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2021, DCU ranked 23rd in the world for its approach to widening participation in higher education and its ongoing commitment to eradicating poverty, while it ranks 38th globally for its work in reducing inequality and 89th globally for gender equality.

The university is ranked 23rd in the world and first in Ireland for its graduate employment rate, according to the 2020 QS Graduate Employability Rankings. Over the past decade, DCU has been the

leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer, as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

### **Background & Role**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for this full-time fixed-term position as a research assistant at Dublin City University. This position is funded by the Irish Research Council Coalesce grant and is available from October 2022. The post offers an opportunity to join an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration between Dublin City University (DCU), Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Dublin and ExWell Medical Ltd. The research team includes experts in the fields of exercise oncology, psychology, nutrition, colorectal surgery, biotherapeutics and statistics. There are also patient and public members embedded into every aspect of the trial.

This research will involve a feasibility trial on cancer prehabilitation (exercise and nutrition optimisation based) programme in Cancer Patients who will be treated by Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) and surgery. The trial is registered on [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT05305820) (Identifier: NCT05305820). Primary physical fitness outcomes as well as secondary psychological, health-related quality of life and other serology markers will be captured pre and post intervention. The overall aim is to identify the impacts of prehabilitation on outcomes of interest. The trial is at an exciting phase where recruitment has just commenced.

This is an ideal opportunity for individuals seeking to gain clinical and academic exposure in patient-centred oncology research. The successful candidate will receive mentorship from a wide team including the principal investigators, postdoctoral researcher and PhD student and will work alongside and guide individuals undertaking internships. They will assist in the performance of the research and will be based in the School of Psychology, DCU. Fieldwork will be undertaken at participating sites.

### **Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

Reporting to their Principal Investigator Dr. Lorraine Boran, the research assistant will:

- Assist in the performance of a specified programme of research under the supervision of the Principal Investigators and including but not limited to:

#### Research Delivery

- Assist the research team in the recruitment, screening and consenting of participants
- Assisting with the scheduling and set-up of assessments
- Administering and scoring quantitative measurements and assessments
- Assisting with monitoring progress of the research programme
- Assisting with the filing, data entry and analysis of quantitative data
- Assisting with the administration, transcription and fidelity checking of participant interviews
- Assist with patient reports
- Assisting with collection, processing and transportation of serology markers.

#### Communication

- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders including industry and academic partners/collaborators

#### Reporting

- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary including regular funding agency reports and internal reports

#### Other

- Carry out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.
- Assist in other areas surrounding the project's aim as required or self-determined to enhance the project objectives.
- Other duties as required by the project manager. This job description is not exhaustive; it merely acts as a guide and may be amended to meet the changing requirements at any time after discussion with the post holder.

### **Qualifications and Experience:**

#### **Minimum Criteria**

- Applicants must have an honours Level 8 qualification in a relevant area such as Health Psychology or Psycho-oncology, Clinical Exercise, Sport Science and Health, Dietetics, Nutrition or related disciplines relevant to the research topic.
- Knowledge of MS office suite; Knowledge of SPSS or equivalent data analysis software.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm for the role and project.
- Ability to excellently communicate through verbal and written means.
- The ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary, multi-centre team. Willing to share work and help others.
- Hard working with the ability to take initiative and work under pressure to tight deadlines

#### **Desirable:**

- Experience and knowledge of qualitative research
- Experience and knowledge of quantitative research
- Experience in laboratory work for assisting with collection and processing of serology markers.