

**DCU School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health invites applications for the following PhD scholarship:**

**PhD Title:** Unsalaries health workers in Sierra Leone: What impact does their unpaid status have on their lives and on the health services they deliver to populations?

**Duration:** 4 years

**Background:**

This research explores the issue of unsalaried health workers in Sierra Leone, asking the question: What impact does their unpaid status have on their lives and on the health services they deliver to populations? Sierra Leone's maternal and child mortality indices are among the worst in the world. In Sierra Leone, approximately half of the health workforce is not registered on the payroll and receives no salary. The large majority of unsalaried staff are female clinical staff. Sierra Leone's unsalaried health workers have never been studied in detail; it is thus unclear to what extent their unremunerated status contributes to high levels of informal charging for free primary healthcare. Cost remains a significant barrier to accessing healthcare for pregnant women and children under five, entitled to free care. The issue is likely to have serious a socio-economic impact and is relevant to migration of the skilled labour force and efforts to tackle public sector corruption.

**PhD Objective:**

The Unsalaries Health Workers research project will produce evidence that will highlight the causes and consequences of failing to prioritise the issue of low-paid and unsalaried health workers; in Sierra Leone but also in other Low Income Countries.

**Eligibility:**

- Master's Degree in a health related field, international relations, public administration, gender studies, or similar, and/or relevant work experience in global health or international development.
- Eligible candidate need to be based in Ireland for the majority of the PhD period, but willing and able to travel to Sierra Leone for a minimum of 4 weeks per year.
- English Language Requirement: ability to speak, read and write to a high standard (as demonstrated by a written sample of your work).

**Essential Skills:**

- Ability to write to a high standard.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Self-starter who can work well independently, has the confidence to travel to Sierra Leone, ability to work and stay in low-income settings for several weeks at a time.
- Interest in global health, health systems, gender and international affairs.

**Desirable skills:**

- Previous experience of carrying out research or work in a low-income country setting.
- Previous life, work or study experience that overlaps with the key themes of this research: global health, health systems, gender and corruption.



**Benefits:**

-The fully-funded PhD position covers the payment of annual PhD research fees (full fee coverage, or partial coverage if you have not resided in the EU for the 3 years leading up to the PhD) for four years. The position also comes with a tax-free scholarship of €18,500 per year for four years, plus IT resources and conference travel expenses.

- The applicant will have access to the core facilities of the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health, including access to office space and a mentor at our school and full support to avail of the school's structured course programme with potential to take up Graduate Training Elements available from across the university's five faculties.

-The candidate will gain access to DCU student facilities and services (such as social clubs, concerts, sports centre, campus pubs, etc.).

**Starting Date:**

The PhD studies can commence any time between acceptance of the position and September 2022.

**Supervisors:**

Dr Pieterella Pieterse (the Principal Investigator on this project) and Professor Anne Matthews.

**Informal Enquiries:**

Get in touch by email with Pieterella Pieterse ([pieterella.pieterse@dcu.ie](mailto:pieterella.pieterse@dcu.ie))

**Application:**

Send your application in a **single pdf file** by email to Dr Pieterella Pieterse ([pieterella.pieterse@dcu.ie](mailto:pieterella.pieterse@dcu.ie))

All applications should include:

- CV
- Cover Letter
- A one-page sample of something you have written during your Master's course or work that demonstrates your writing skills
- Contact details of 2 academic referees

**Application End Date:**

Deadline for applications **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. Interviews will be carried out.