



## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Research Centre</b>	School of Psychology The PANO Trial: Physical Activity and Nutrition Optimisation Prehabilitation in Cancer Patients
<b>Post Title</b>	Postdoctoral Researcher
<b>Level on Framework</b>	Level 1.
<b>Post Duration</b>	Up to 21 months fixed term contract

### **Dublin City University**

Dublin City University [www.DCU.ie](http://www.DCU.ie) 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 and Transformation', it is committed to the development of talent, and the discovery and translation of knowledge that advances society and the economy. DCU is the Sunday Times Irish University of the Year 2021.

The University is based on three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra region of north Dublin. It currently has more than 18,000 students 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 creating a transformative student experience, and its positive social and economic impact. This exceptional commitment on the part of its staff and students has led to DCU's ranking among the top 2% of universities globally. It also consistently features in the world's Top 100 Young Universities (currently in QS Top 70 Under 50, Times Higher Top 150 Under 100).

DCU is placed 84th in the world, in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings – measuring higher education institutions' contributions towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Over the past decade, DCU has also been the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer, as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

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 full-time fixed-term position as a postdoctoral researcher at Dublin City University. This position is funded by the Irish Research Council Coalesce grant and is available from December 2021. 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. This research will involve a feasibility trial on cancer prehabilitation (exercise and nutrition optimisation based) programme in Cancer Patients with Peritoneal Malignancy. 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 successful individual 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, the Postdoctoral Researcher will:
- Conduct a specified programme of research under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigator including but not limited to:
  - Submission of ethics applications to various bodies
  - Recruiting patients and study participant administration
  - Developing, administering and scoring quantitative measurements and assessments
  - Organising and conducting interviews, and associated Patient and Public Involvement events
- Analysing qualitative and quantitative data
- Producing data analytics and visualisation for various reporting and dissemination activities with the support of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator
- Support the publication and dissemination of research outputs through preparation of articles for peer-reviewed journals
- Assist in identifying and developing future research and funding initiatives
- Supervise and assist undergraduate 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 the Head of School under the direction of the Principal Investigator
- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders including industry and academic partners/collaborators
- 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.
- Assist in other areas surrounding the projects aim as required or self-determined to enhance the project objectives.
- Other duties as required by manager. This job description is not exhaustive; it merely acts as a guide and may be amended to meet the changing requirements of the at any time after discussion with the post holder.

## Minimum Criteria

- Applicants will have a PhD in a relevant area such as health psychology or psychoncology, clinical exercise, sport science and health, or related disciplines relevant to the research topic.
- Applicants for this position will have experience in both quantitative and qualitative methods and analysis. Experience in intervention studies is desirable.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills.
- Being able to take initiative and work under pressure to tight deadlines
- The ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary, multi-centre team are also required.
- In addition, the candidate will have a publication track record.

## 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 research assistants and undergraduate/postgraduate students.

## Essential Training

The post holder will be required to undertake the following essential compliance training: Orientation, Health and Safety and Intellectual Property and Data Protection training. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.