



Position: Post Doctoral Researcher in Adolescent Health Literacy

Commencement Date: End January 2019

Duration: 11 Months

Minimum Qualification Required: PhD

Salary: IUA post Doctoral Researcher Salary Scale (commensurate with experience)

Post description:

A project manager is sought to oversee and contribute to the development of a flagship post-primary school intervention as part of the Irish Heart Foundation schools programme suite. The targeted aim of this intervention is to focus on reducing the alarming rate of childhood obesity through a public health and health literacy intervention. The ultimate goal is to instil positive health behaviours in young people, harnessing technology as a tool to bring this message to life through schools. The intervention will focus on DEIS schools but ultimately allow for expansion to meet the needs of all cohorts, and reach national dissemination.

The successful candidate will work closely with a number of stakeholders to research and design a health literacy intervention for national dissemination. A working group is currently established with academic, education and commercial partners. Over the coming months, the successful candidate will be the driving force behind the project working with key stakeholders to design and implement a cohesive and comprehensive intervention. The manager will be employed within the physical activity research group at the School of Health and Human Performance in DCU, and working between DCU and the Irish Heart Foundation will contribute as part of a larger team to achieving the Irish Heart Foundation's strategic priorities on health inequalities.

Further information on the role can be found in the Major Duties, and Skills and Experience Required sections overleaf. Information on the application process is given at the end of this document.

Closing Date for Applications: 16.00 on Monday 17th December 2018

Major Duties:

- Working under the supervision of research Principal Investigator Dr. Sarahjane Belton, and the IHF Health Promotion, Information, and Training team, lead on the development of a school-based health literacy intervention, undertaking appropriate research analysis of the area.
- Represent DCU and the Irish Heart Foundation in a variety of settings including academic, education and corporate.
- Develop a project plan for implementation within the timeframe; identifying key resources requires, deliverables, and ensuring all objectives are delivered.
- Co-ordinate, manage and collaborate with the project working group to ensure alignment of key deliverables are achieved and in progress. Act as a point of contact for this project.
- Using a health literacy framework conduct and measure health literacy (and wellbeing) amongst young people. Conduct a needs analysis, identify the needs of post-primary schools and their communities through focus groups, and examine the key strengths and limitations of health literacy of this cohort. Collect and report on key findings of the programme.
- Working with key stakeholders design, pilot and execute a cohesive programme within schools to fit within a wellbeing framework, with a target of national dissemination. Refine and modify the intervention based on feedback and evidence of the pilot programme.
- Identify, define, communicate and direct the technology requirements with our technology partner and the working group.
- Recruit and engage post-primary school leadership to take part in the initial pilots, support and develop CPD for teaching staff with the schools.
- Develop schools and parental engagement strategy.
- Evaluate the intervention working closely with academic partners and post-primary schools.
- Perform basic and applied research in line with the objectives and workplan of under direction from the project Principal Investigator, including but not limited to;
 - Collect and analyse physical data including fitness testing, accelerometry, and blood pressure
 - Collect and analyse quantitative questionnaire data regarding health literacy and wellbeing
 - Collect and analyse qualitative data, including open ended questionnaires, semi structured interviews and focus groups
- Contribute to the writing of research articles, research reports, and updates for funding agencies and project stakeholders.
- Contribute to the dissemination of research results via publication in scientific conferences and journals
- Participate in the supervision team of relevant undergraduate and postgraduate research students
- Contribute to the development of related research funding proposals
- Contribute to research dissemination, knowledge sharing and training activities

Skills and Experience Required

- The ideal candidate will have experience in the at least one of the following areas: e-health technology, public health/health promotion or education.
- A PhD qualification in a related field with appropriate field research.
- Relationship management experience with multiple stakeholders.
- Demonstrated experience of project management with at least 2 years experience.
- Proven track record in programme development; needs analysis, pilot development, programme refinement, and evaluation.
- Knowledge of and experience working with schools and post-primary children is an advantage.
- Demonstrable experience of delivering results in a pressurised environment with quick turnaround times.
- Ability to prioritise workload, plan and to work to multiple deadlines in a demanding environment.
- Familiarity with technology and software for educational or health use, ability to understand and communicate technical requirements.
- Strong communication (verbal and written) and interpersonal skills.
- A proven track record of working collaboratively in a variety of settings; ideally in a school-based/educational, academic and corporate environments.
- Knowledge of theory and practice of health promotion/public health.
- Full, clean driving licence.
- Given the nature of the work, a successful outcome will be dependant upon Garda vetting.

Application Procedure: Applicants must submit a loose leaf CV and cover letter outlining why they are a suitable candidate for this post **via email** to sarahjane.belton@dcu.ie. Any documents in excess of this requirement will be deleted. **Please mark your e.mail clearly with ‘ IHF Post Doctoral Application’ in the subject line.**

The project team will consider all applications, and will then short list to interview those applicants who appear from the information available, to be the most suitable, in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the post. It is anticipated interviews will be held early January 2019.

This post is subject to Garda Vetting.

Informal enquiries to Dr. Sarahjane Belton (sarahjane.belton@dcu.ie)