



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Research Assistant- GERONTE project School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health, DCU 24 Month 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.

#### **Overview of the department**

The Centre for e-Integrated Care (CeIC) is an active research centre in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health. CeIC focuses on supporting the health of people, and on health and social care delivery. We have created a research intensive environment which offers a safe space for exploration and testing, and adds value in any setting where health and social care services are needed. Working in partnership through our established networks we concentrate on service improvement through an evolving digital healthcare ecosystem.

Contributing to the development of new modes of technical and societal innovation, we underpin our research with health informatics standards. This will assist in progressing access to and use of shared data and information.

In the midst of global and national transition, CeIC researchers are working towards sustainability seeking to combine societal pull and technology push. We are partnering with organisations and considering how we can improve service delivery, create sustainable integrated, interconnected and digitalised software and tools to bring about quality safety and effectiveness. Embracing pHealth (technologies for personal health) our intent is to contribute to solutions which are personalised participative and preventive, which support patients, clients, carers and care delivery staff, including nurses, doctors, care workers and others, and which can provide health services to people anywhere and anytime.

### **Role Profile**

GERONTE is a 5-year research and innovation project (April 2021 to March 2026) funded by the European Union within the framework of the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. The overall aim of GERONTE is to improve quality of life – defined as well-being on three levels: global health status, physical functioning and social functioning- for older multimorbid patients, while reducing overall costs of care. To this end, GERONTE will co-design, test, in a large scale clinical trial in sixteen hospitals in Belgium, the Netherlands and France, and prepare for deployment an innovative cost-effective patient-centred holistic health management system, hereafter referred to as the GERONTE intervention (<https://geronteproject.eu/>).

Dublin City University is leading GERONTE Implementation Evaluation. Complex contextual factors challenge the adoption, scale-up, spread, and sustainability of evidenced-based intervention into health systems leading to the abandonment of many beneficial interventions. Implementation Science (IS) is the scientific study of methods and strategies that facilitate the uptake of an intervention in a way that holds the ‘mechanism of action’ and the effectiveness of the intervention. DCU is using established IS theories and frameworks to document, analyse, and develop an implementation guide for the future deployment of the GERONTE Intervention across Europe.

Working within a Participatory Rapid Appraisal frame, DCU is using a Realist Evaluation approach that involves detailed documentation and ongoing analysis of the complex contextual factors that impact implementation. Realist Evaluation looks at the desired outcomes and the ‘mechanisms of action’ of an intervention.

The key role of this post is to carry out, and rapidly report on, on-line interviews and on-site fieldwork in sixteen hospital sites in France, Belgium and the Netherlands, in conjunction with our partners. Reporting to Professor Anthony Staines / Dr. Paul Davis, the successful candidate will organise and carry out field work in sixteen hospital sites in three countries. Country partners will assist with identifying the necessary people for interview, and making initial contacts. We expect each fieldwork session to take 2 days, and each site will be visited two or three times over the course of the project. Field work will include interviews with staff, patients and their families, document review, and limited observation of clinical work, for example a multi-disciplinary team meeting. The candidate will report and present on the findings. The successful candidate will be a key part of the project team, with many opportunities for publications and further career development.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

The duties and responsibilities of the position include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Undertaking research at clinical sites related to gathering of primary or secondary data e.g. literature reviews, questionnaires, interviews and focus groups
- Supporting and carrying out data collection
- Coordinating with fieldworkers in France, Belgium and other project sites;
- Writing reports for project use
- Writing articles for publication in peer reviewed journals in collaboration with other GERONTE staff
- Analysing qualitative and quantitative data
- Holding seminars
- Actively provide assistance to research students within the wider group

## **Qualifications and Experience**

### **Essential:**

- Experience of working in a multidisciplinary team
- A self-starting attitude and excellent social skills are essential.
- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English
- Strong organisational and problem solving abilities.
- Excellent communication and stakeholder management skills.
- Proven ability to prioritise workload and work to strict deadlines

### **Desirable:**

- A working knowledge of French is desirable (CEFR Reference Level B1). A working knowledge of Flemish or Dutch would also be helpful.
- A willingness to travel and work across countries within Europe