

PhD Scholarship, School of Social Work and Social Policy

Migrant Homelessness in Ireland: A Mixed Methods Study

Post Specification

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| Post Title: | Provost PhD Scholarship Award |
| Post Status: | 48 Months, full-time |
| Research Group / Department / School: | School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin |
| Location: | School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland |
| Reports to: | Dr. Paula Mayock |
| Funding: | Covers tuition fees (EU or non-EU) and an annual stipend of €16,000 for four years |
| Closing Date: | Monday April 16 th , 2018 |

Post Summary

The **School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin (TCD)** is seeking to appoint a **fully funded PhD candidate under the newly established Provost PhD Scholarship Awards**. The successful candidate will have an excellent academic record, demonstrate a strong commitment to PhD research and the ability and motivation to write a PhD dissertation that is of exceptional quality. **S/he will register as a PhD student in the School of Social Work and Social Policy in September 2018.**

The successful PhD candidate will work with Dr. Paula Mayock on a study entitled '**Migrant Homelessness in Ireland: A Mixed Methods Study**'. This research will combine an analysis of longitudinal administrative quantitative data and primary qualitative data, with the aim of generating robust empirical evidence on the range of factors and processes that: lead migrants into homelessness; influence their patterns of movement through service systems; and impact their ability to access and maintain housing over time. The research aims to employ a sequential mixed methods design comprising two distinct phases of longitudinal data collection, management and analysis:

- 1) The quantitative phase of the research will utilise existing quantitative administrative data to examine prevalence rates of migrant homelessness, identify key population characteristics (e.g. age, employment, gender, family size/type, and so on) and 'track' homeless migrants' service utilisation patterns over time;
- 2) The qualitative phase will involve the conduct of a longitudinal panel study of 30 homeless migrants, interviewed twice at 6-9month intervals (approximately), and the conduct of ethnographic observation at a number of strategically chosen service and street-based sites where migrants experiencing homelessness are present.

The successful applicant is expected to produce an independent piece of research in the form of a PhD dissertation and will work under the supervision of Dr. Paula Mayock.

Importantly, there is scope to refine and make some modifications to the research plan outlined here and this can be agreed in consultation with Dr. Mayock. The successful candidate is also expected to assist with broader research and administrative tasks related to the project (for example, the organisation of seminars/events and the preparation of conference papers and publications). As is the case for all registered PhD students at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, the candidate will undertake taught modules and will be provided with advanced training in the conduct of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The candidate will have opportunities to contribute to teaching/tutoring at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the School of Social Work and Social Policy.

The PhD candidate will be provided with an office space in an environment that promotes opportunities for learning and professional development. S/he will be welcomed by other Doctoral students and the wider research community at TCD, where s/he can meet, share and collaborate with other graduate students and researchers with a diverse range of research interests. The School of Social Work and Social Policy has wide-ranging national and international research links, all of which create a stimulating environment for research students.

Person Specification

Essential Qualifications

- MA, MSc or MPhil in Social Research Methods, Sociology, Social Policy, Anthropology, Psychology or cognate fields [students who are currently undertaking and due to complete a Masters degree in September 2018 are eligible to apply].
- Training in the conduct of both quantitative and qualitative social research, including research design, the conduct of data collection/fieldwork and data analysis.

Expected Skills

- Knowledge and some experience of undertaking both quantitative and qualitative research.
- Solid training and skills in quantitative data analysis.
- Solid qualitative interviewing skills and the ability to analyse complex qualitative data.
- The ability and motivation to undertake ethnographic fieldwork.
- Basic knowledge, as well as strong potential and motivation, to apply mixed-methods (quantitative and qualitative) research techniques.
- An understanding of the complexities of undertaking research with homeless or other marginalised and 'hard-to-reach' populations.
- Excellent English language writing skills.
- Excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to negotiate with 'gatekeepers' to the research population.
- Strong organisational skills and the ability to set and adhere to research goals.
- The ability to work as part of a team.

Desirable Skills

- Prior experience of conducting research in the fields of homelessness and/or migration.
- An appreciation of the range of ethical considerations relevant to the conduct of research on homeless or other marginalised and potentially vulnerable populations.

Output Expected

- Writing a PhD dissertation.
- Preparation and delivery of national and international conference presentations.
- Submission of work to high-ranking international scientific journals.

The School of Social Work and Social Policy

The School of Social Work and Social Policy hosts a vibrant and creative research community. Perhaps our most distinctive feature is the close connection to 'real world' issues, as represented by the policy and practice spheres in Irish society. As a global university Trinity seeks to bring an international perspective to the solving of problems, and this is a hallmark of research within the School where research carried out with colleagues internationally helps illuminate the issues in an Irish context, whilst reciprocally, research carried out in Ireland informs policy and practice in other nations. The span of research interests reflects both policy and practice dimensions, but also captures the trajectory across the life-course, with research into childhood issues, through adulthood, with particular focus here on addiction, disability and mental health, and into older age, with research on grand-parenting completing the circle to childhood research.

The doctoral programme of the School of Social Work & Social Policy focuses on educating and training outstanding postgraduate students. Our structured Ph.D. programme has a sustained enrolment of students of high capability, exceptional success in winning scholarships, and a structured approach to advanced research. Over the past five years, some 40 students have graduated with a PhD from our programme, and we currently have 25 PhD students who form a very diverse, international group. The quality of these theses can be gauged by the significant number of high quality publications stemming from these theses, and by the career trajectories of our PhD graduates.

Trinity College Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's premier university, with a proud tradition of excellence stretching back to its foundation in 1592. The oldest university in Ireland, and one of the oldest in Europe, today Trinity sits at the intersection of the past and the future, and is ideally positioned as a major university in the European Union. Our 47-acre campus is located in the heart of Dublin city centre and is home to historic buildings dating from the University's establishment, as well as some of the most cutting-edge teaching and research facilities in Ireland. Students at Trinity benefit from a unique educational experience across a range of disciplines in our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences. The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of

a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success.

Trinity attracts top students from Ireland and abroad and prides itself on the consistently high standard of student admitted to the University every year. These students are drawn to Trinity for the excellence of our research-led teaching and for the quality and prestige a degree from this University confers. Trinity has also pioneered accessibility to education in Ireland, becoming the first university in the country to reserve 15% of its undergraduate places for students from non-traditional learning groups. Trinity is the top-ranked European university for student entrepreneurship and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Application Procedure

The deadline for receipt of applications is: Monday April 16th, 2018.

Candidates should submit the application by email to Noreen O'Sullivan, Executive Officer, School of Social Work and Social Policy (noreen.osullivan@tcd.ie) copied to Dr. Paula Mayock (pmayock@tcd.ie). The subject line in the email should read: 'Application for Provost PhD Award'.

The following documentation only must be submitted in order to be considered for the post:

- 1. A full Curriculum Vitae** (including the names and contact details of two academic referees).
- 2. A covering letter** (no longer than 2 A4 pages) outlining the applicant's profile and skills and including a statement of motivation for applying for the PhD Scholarship.
- 3. A writing sample**, written in English, not longer than 10,000 words. This writing sample should be submitted as a word or pdf document and can be: a) a chapter from your Master's dissertation; b) a published article where you are a named author; c) a research report where you are a named author.

Inquiries about this PhD Scholarship should be directed to Dr. Paula Mayock (pmayock@tcd.ie).