

Funded 1252 PhD Studentship in Oral Health & Nutrition

ORGANISATION/COMPANY	Trinity College Dublin /Dublin Dental University Hospital
RESEARCH FIELD	Oral Health & Nutrition
RESEARCHER PROFILE	First Stage Researcher (R1)
APPLICATION DEADLINE	13 th September 2018 12:00 - Europe/London
LOCATION	Ireland › Dublin
TYPE OF CONTRACT	Temporary
JOB STATUS	Full-time
HOURS PER WEEK	40

Post Specification

Post Title:	Funded 1252 PhD studentship in Food, Diet and Oral Health
Post Status:	Three year contract, full-time, 4th year extension option
Research Group:	Research Unit in Food, Diet and Oral Health, Department of Restorative Dentistry & Periodontology, Dublin Dental University Hospital.
Location:	Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Michael O’Sullivan (PI), Michael Crowe and Aifric O’Sullivan (Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Human Nutrition, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD).
Terms & Conditions:	The studentship will provide an annual stipend of €18,000 and fees will be paid at the EU rate
Start Date:	End –September 2019

NOTE: Applicants must have been resident in an EU member state for 3 out of the last 5 years to be eligible for EU fees

Post Summary

This research group, which has been in place for four years, have completed a comprehensive analysis of the infant cohort in the same project, which has resulted in multiple invited presentations and publications. We have developed a number of strategic and innovative approaches, including use of decision tree methods and data visualisation techniques to classify and investigate the cohort datasets, unidirectional mapping from the more detailed National Preschool Nutrition Survey (NPNS) to the GUI cohort, and developed a free sugar algorithm to determine the dietary free sugar content of foods in the NPNS database.

Project Title: Diet and other risk indicators associated with dental problems in Irish children.

The specific objective of this project is to determine associations between dental problems in children and risk factors such as dietary intake, body weight, general health and psychosocial factors. Our

research team has focused on exploiting our current expertise and seeks to develop a leading national research group for the analysis of longitudinal surveys of children and young adults.

In Ireland and the UK it is estimated that 30-40% of 2-5 year olds have largely untreated dental decay, which leads to pain, infection and time away from school/preschool. Dental infection is the leading cause of emergency hospital admissions in children. Dental disease is largely preventable, so understanding the prevalence and distribution of risk factors can form the basis of targeted prevention programmes. Intake of unhealthy food and drinks in an Irish population has not been described for large cohorts.

This project will analyse data from the child surveys of the GUI nationwide project, which consisted of the same random sample of 8,500 children at 9, 13 and 17/18 years of age. This research group have published a comprehensive analysis of the younger infant cohort in the same project.

The successful candidate will have a 2.1 or higher undergraduate degree in Biological science such as immunology, biochemistry or genetics. The studentship will provide an annual stipend of €18,000 and fees will be paid at the EU rate. Interested candidates should forward their CV (including contact details for referees) as soon as possible to Dr. Michael O'Sullivan at michael.osullivan@dental.tcd.ie.

Standard duties and Responsibilities of the Post:

Full-time research position registered to undertake a PhD

Funding Information:

The post is part funded by TCD and Dublin Dental University Hospital

Qualifications:

The successful applicant must have a 2.1 or higher undergraduate degree in dental science, nutrition or statistics /mathematics.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential understanding of oral health, nutrition and data analysis skills are desirable.