St James Hospital/Trinity College Dublin, School of Nursing & Midwifery

Post Specification

Post Title:	PhD Studentship
Post Status:	One 6-year part-time PhD scholarship
Research Group / Department / School:	St James Hospital and Trinity Centre for Practice & Healthcare Innovation, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	St James Hospital and 24 D'Olier Street, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Primary Supervisor
Terms & Conditions:	Part time: EU academic fees
Hours of Work:	TBC
Closing Date:	December 17th 2026

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

St. James Hospital and the School of Nursing and Midwifery is offering one part-time funded scholarships for entry into the PhD programme March or September 2027.

The scholarships are open to nurses and midwives who are not currently registered for a PhD, but who have a strong desire to discover new practices and knowledge through evidence-based approaches. The Joint PhD Scholarship offers a pathway to nurses to conduct research that advances innovation in practice within St James Hospital and associated partners, for example to improve the integration of care, services or health systems. The Scholarships offer

opportunities for suitably qualified nurses to pursue a Structured PhD which must align with one of with the nursing strategy pillars in St. James Hospital and of the Trinity Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation (TCPHI) research centre in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin offers leading expertise: https://nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/research/research-themes/index.php

Areas of subject focus

- Integrated Care
- Workforce and People
- Digital & Data
- Chronic Illness
- Cancer care & survivorship
- Evidence-based nursing practice, Research & Innovation

These are suggested areas, but the list is not exhaustive. Other fields of study that seek to enhance health outcomes for service users of St James Hospital will be considered.

Applications will be scored according to the following criteria:

- Quality of research proposal including how the proposed research will advance and contribute to existing knowledge.
- Alignment of the research with St James nursing research priorities and TCD Nursing & Midwifery School's research strategy
- The applicant's academic track record and research potential including a well-defined career development plan,
- How the proposed research will benefit the applicant, society, and the profession of nursing.
- Must be a registered nurse and employed in St James's Hospital for at least 2 years

Prospective students are advised that they **must** secure the agreement and support of an academic in the school who will become the primary supervisor for the PhD for the application to be eligible for review. The research proposal will be developed, in consultation with the primary supervisor. In addition, formal application to TCD must be advanced to the TCD PhD programme (link provided below).

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

If awarded the scholarship, students must register with the School of Nursing and Midwifery in Trinity College Dublin and have a member of the academic staff in the School of Nursing and Midwifery as the primary supervisor for the PhD. As a registered student in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, you will become a member of the school's research community and are warmly encouraged to participate in the many and varied research activities and events during the academic year. It is required that successful applicants will contribute to shared learning with nursing colleagues in St James's Hospital. This includes update meetings with the Director of Nursing and ADoN for Evidence-Based Nursing Research & Innovation, as well as participating in research councils/committees, presenting at Nursing Grand Rounds, Nurse Executive meetings and other leadership /education forums relevant to the PhD topic.

All students must comply with the Regulations for Higher Degrees by Research are contained in the University Calendar Part III. The University Calendar is available in all College libraries, the Departmental offices and online (http://www.tcd.ie/calendar/).

Funding Information

Part time: EU academic fees

Person Specification

- The applicant must be a registered general nurse with a minimum of 2 years work experience in St James's Hospital.
- **The scholarship is open to nurses who are not currently registered for a PhD.**

Qualifications

A minimum of 2.1 Honours degree (level 8) and/or a postgraduate qualification (level 9).

Residency

- Applicants must have been resident in an EU member state for 3 out of the last 5 years to be eligible for EU fees.
- Employment status with St James Hospital
- Eligibility for the scholarship is open to staff who have been employed by St James's Hospital on a permanent basis, either full-time or part-time, for two or more years.

- Successful applicants must maintain a minimum employment commitment of 0.5 WTE with St James's Hospital throughout the duration of the scholarship
- Scholarship arrangements for individual students will be contingent upon the person remaining employed in St. James Hospital.
- Should the student leave employment before completion of the PhD, they will be required to relinquish the scholarship and to self-fund for the remainder of their PhD studies.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

An understanding of the research process in healthcare would be beneficial to the post.

Skills & Competencies

- A self-motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic approach to work
- Excellent organisation, communication skills and IT skills
- Strong writing and analytical skills

Application Procedure

Applications for the part-time Scholarships are submitted via the following link: https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/postgraduate-research/health-sciences/school-of-nursing-and-midwifery/

The following documentation must be attached to the application:

- Cover letter and CV
- Personal statement including career plan (500 words)
- Two letters of reference (academic) and one from clinical area (e.g. Assistant Director of Nursing)
- *Research proposal of approx. 3,000 words, to include specifically the following elements:
    - Abstract (300 words, approx.)
    - Background context and rationale for the research
    - Aims, objectives and central research questions

- Methodology including details of any specialist knowledge/data required
- Relevant ethical issues
- Milestones and deliverables (Gantt chart)
- Where the research fits within the School and College research strategies
- Dissemination plans and potential impact

The applicant will work with a potential supervisor from TCPHI to develop a robust Research Proposal to be submitted as part of the application process. Trinity College Dublin will charge an application fee. You may receive notification following your application to college that your application to be a PhD student has been accepted. This is a separate process from your application for the Scholarship. You will be notified of the outcome of your Scholarship application separately.

Further Information for Applicants

SJH Contact info: Snehal Prabhukeluskar Assistant Director of Evidence Based Nursing Research & Innovation SPrabhukeluskar@STJAMES.IE

TCD Contact Info: Professor Anne-Marie Brady Director of Trinity Centre for Practice & Healthcare Innovation abrady4@tcd.ie

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 87th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2025). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 31St most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2024) and has students and staff from over 160 countries.

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 has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is 1st in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities
(Pitchbook 2021-2022).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.
With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

School of Nursing and Midwifery

As the second highest-ranking School of Nursing and Midwifery in Ireland (Ranked 20th worldwide) we are committed to the provision of a first-rate educational experience for the high-quality students that we serve. Our vision is to be the best school possible for Nursing and Midwifery education and research. We aim to position our nurse and midwife graduates for work at the forefront of cutting-edge developments in modern health care building upon a foundation of core values for nursing and midwifery i.e. care, compassion and competence. Our nurse and midwife graduates enjoy a worldwide reputation for excellence and are highly employable undertaking diverse roles at all levels within health systems both nationally and internationally.
Trinity College Dublin is closely aligned with several partner healthcare organisations including large academic teaching hospitals, regional hospitals, maternity hospitals, children's' hospitals, mental health services, and a wide range of community health and social care services. We are the linked university to the Dublin Midlands Hospital Groups- a network of hospitals including St. James Hospital, Tallaght Hospital, Naas General Hospital, Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise, Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital and the St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network.

A review of our website will demonstrate why we developed a national and international reputation for undertaking innovative and world class research that is positively impacting the quality of the health care experience and delivery in Ireland and beyond.

We are one of only two schools of Nursing and Midwifery in Ireland that provide undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in all Nursing disciplines (Children's, General, Intellectual Disability, and Psychiatric Nursing) and in Midwifery. The multidisciplinary team within the School and our health service partners are committed to providing you with an exceptional clinical and theoretical educational experience within a nurturing environment. When you study at the Trinity College School of Nursing and Midwifery you will develop the skills and knowledge to meet the challenges and complexities of working and practicing in the health care service of the future, as well as the innovative skills and leadership abilities required to influence future policy and service provision.

The School's Strategic Plan for the next number of years seeks to continually re-invigorate the student and academic experience across our undergraduate, postgraduate, international, research, practice and community engagement roles. If you wish to learn more about the vision and activities within the School, or you would like to study within the School please contact us; our administrative and academic staff will be glad to help you.

St James's Hospital Dublin:

As Irelands leading academic teaching hospital, St James's aims to deliver healthcare, education and innovation for the benefit of patients, the wider community and the knowledge economy. St James's Hospital received Pathway to Excellence designation in March 2025, the first hospital in Ireland to successfully achieve this highly regarded nursing designation. The hospital has also recently been designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Centre and is among the top 80 places to work in 2025 according to Sunday Independent / Statista list of Irelands 200 Best Employers [Ireland's Best Employers 2025: Full list of top 200 employers revealed, as workers value stability | Irish Independent]

We will be the first digital hospital campus and shortly will have co-location with the National Children's Hospital. One of the strategic ambitions of the hospital is to create a comprehensive World Class Health System which will be a recognised leader nationally and internationally. It will function within an Academic Health Science Campus (AHSC) framework

constituted formally with its prime Academic Partner, Trinity College Dublin and will be designed to leverage the value of the integrating the tri-partite mission of Service, Education, Research & Innovation. Our mission is to create a caring environment for every patient with high quality care that addresses all healthcare needs across the patient's journey. Our core values (as identified by nursing staff in 2024) are Care, Compassion, Empathy, Teamwork and Professionalism.

The St James Nursing Strategy (2023 – 2026) outlines 4 key pillars in line with organisational mission, vision and values. These are:

Workforce & People: create a healthy workforce for all staff where St James's is a great place to work

Integrated Care: Positive health through collaboration and partnership

Research & Innovation: To support, enable and build research capacity for nursing.

Digital & Data: Nurturing and optimising digital data in nursing.

Contact info-

Snehal Prabhukeluskar, Assistant Director of Nursing Research & Innovation

SPrabhukeluskar@STJAMES.IE

Link to St James's Hospital: https://www.stjames.ie/services/nursing/

Rankings

Trinity College Dublin is the top ranked university in Ireland. Using the QS methodology we are ranked 87th in the world and using the Times Higher Education World University Ranking methodology we are 139th in the World.

- Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's No.1 University
  (QS World University Ranking 2025, Times Higher Education Rankings 2025)
- Trinity is ranked 87th in the World
  (QS World University Ranking 2025)
- Trinity is ranked No.1 in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row
  Pitchbook 2021-2022

Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area and St James's Hospital Director of Nursing. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/ and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/ . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to

interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

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. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement.

