



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Assistant
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract
Department/Faculty:	School of Psychology
Reports To:	Prof. David Hevey
Location:	Main Campus Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2
Salary:	Point 1 on the IUA Research Assistant Scale
Hours of Work	1 FTE
Closing Date:	Noon on Thursday 27 th November 2025

Position Summary:

You will contribute to a Health Research Board Applied Partnership Award held between Trinity College Dublin and Tusla Child and Family Agency, entitled “*Improving outcomes for children in care*”. This study will:

- 1) gather data that identifies the specific psychosocial needs of children entering care in Ireland
- 2) develop the evidence base by identifying the most effective ways to “measure” therapeutic interventions for this population
- 3) Test this approach to outcome measurement via the TUSLA Area Based Therapy Team (ABTT) pilot sites
- 4) Estimate the projected short-, medium-, and long-term costs and benefits for the state if the pilot sites are rolled out nationally.

We will conduct a mixture of qualitative and quantitative studies to gather data.

You will work closely with the TCD Principal Investigators (Prof. Ben Butlin and Prof. David Hevey) and TUSLA (Mr Robert O Connor), as well a research oversight team. This is a research-focused role, where you will conduct a specified programme of research supported under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigators.

The primary purpose of the role is to further develop your research management skills and competences, including the processes of publication in peer-reviewed academic publications, and project report submission.

Informal enquiries can be made to:

Prof. David Hevey, School of Psychology by e-mail: heveydt@tcd.ie

Prof. Ben Butlin, School of Psychology by e-mail: bbutlin@tcd.ie



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Standard Duties of Post

The successful candidate will:

- Conduct a specified programme of research under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigators.
- Manage the day to day running of the project
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities as required
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which you are engaged as directed by and with the support of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigators
- Mentor and assist, as appropriate and as directed, any research students contributing to the project
- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research.

Person Specification for Post

Qualifications

The person appointed to this post will have:

- A good (2.1 or higher) primary degree in Psychology or relevant social science discipline

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

- Understanding of theory and research related to health outcome assessment- **Essential**
- Excellent communication skills (oral, written, presentation, etc) - **Essential**
- Excellent IT skills - **Essential**
- Experience of working to tight deadlines, multi-tasking and managing different and conflicting demands - **Essential**.
- Experience fostering collaborative working relationships across a diverse range of
- stakeholders - **Desirable**
- Evidence of research activity (peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, awards and commitment future scholarly output (working papers, research proposals, and ability to outline a research project. - **Desirable**



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- Experience in health research, including direct contact with at risk adolescents - ***Desirable***
- Ability to conduct statistical analyses- ***Desirable***
- Ability to conduct qualitative analyses, such as thematic analysis- ***Desirable***
- Experience setting own research agenda- ***Desirable***

Skills & Competencies for the Post:

- Excellent interpersonal skills and service-mindedness with the ability to interface collegially and effectively with others and foster good working relationships.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills: convincing and confident when speaking to others; clear, concise, and error-free writing with the ability to communicate with different audiences.
- Relationship management and interpersonal skills with demonstrable ability to build trust and relay expertise. Ability to network and build partnerships.
- Interpersonal and teamwork and skills: has a flexible approach with a “can-do” attitude.
- Operates effectively as part of a team; shares work and information and ability to establish and maintain a professional rapport.
- Ability to operate flexibly within a busy work environment and be able to shift focus when required.
- Ability to problem-solve, prioritise, and work on own initiative



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Application Procedure

Candidates should submit a cover letter together with a full curriculum vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (email addresses if possible) to

heveydt@tcd.ie

General enquires concerning this post can be addressed to heveydt@tcd.ie

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
EMPLOYER



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Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 98th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023). 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 12th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and is also the highest ranked university in Ireland.

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 University Report 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.

Rankings

Trinity College Dublin is the top ranked university in Ireland. Using the QS methodology we are ranked 98th in the world and using the Times Higher Education World University Ranking methodology we are 146th in the World.

- Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's No.1 University (QS World University Ranking 2023, Times Higher Education Rankings 2022)
- Trinity is ranked 98th in the World (QS World University Ranking 2023)



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- 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. 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 hiring lead 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. The Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing or in person interview.

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



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join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Pension Entitlements

Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant. Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment. Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.