



Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Positions

LIFELANGS Living Observatory of Shared Languages & Identities

The LIFELANGS project is seeking to recruit **four highly motivated and outstanding post-doctoral research fellows for a period of four years (48 months)**. The project is one of four new cross-border large-scale research projects supported by the North-South Research Programme (NSRP), administered by Ireland's Higher Education Authority. This research programme is a key pillar of the Government of Ireland's Shared Island strategy, advancing an all-island research agenda that strengthens cross-border ties and delivers real, lasting impact for communities across Ireland and Northern Ireland. Funded under the Emerging Hubs of Excellence Strand, the LIFELANGS observatory aims to secure a more inclusive and resilient future for all and create a critical mass of interdisciplinary expertise and evidence-based resources in languages, education, and social sciences.

- Two of the Post-Doctoral Research Fellows will be based, respectively, at Queen's University Belfast, and at Trinity College Dublin.
- Close intra-institutional collaboration and cross-border mobility is a key feature of the project.
- LIFELANGS employs a mixed method approach to study everyday phenomenon of language learning, language use, and the construction and (re)presentation of identities.
- In addition to four new Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, the project consortium comprises two Co-PIs (Prof. Lorna Carson, TCD, and Dr Aisling O'Boyle, QUB), a team of eight academic Co-Leads drawn from TCD and QUB, and four PhD student researchers.
- Each Post-Doctoral Research Fellow will report to and work directly with their Co-PI. They will also collaborate with the full project consortium as well as external partners. The LIFELANGS Observatory Post-Doctoral Research Fellows will each work on an identified research stream. Each research stream will have an assigned PhD student researcher, co-supervised by the stream's Post-Doctoral Research Fellow.
- Successful candidates will have a strong interest and background in the subject area of the LIFELANGS project and be intrinsically motivated to work on an identified research stream.

Research Stream 1 - Language Riches

To evidence the rich linguistic and cultural diversities of communities on the shared island of Ireland.

Research Stream 2 - Lived Identities

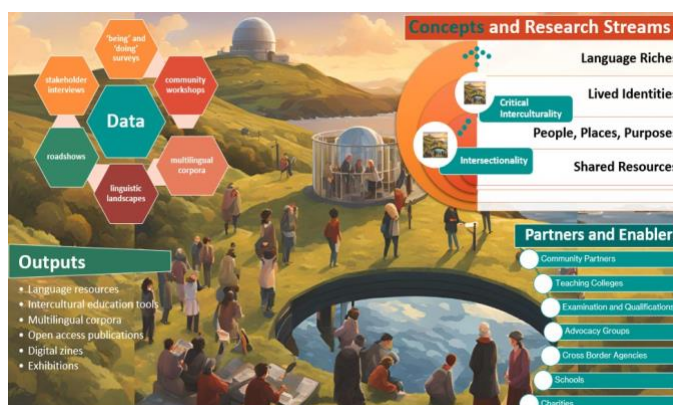
To examine how cultural and linguistic identities intersect with dimensions such as age, gender, class, health, disability, sexuality, race, religion, and ethnicity.

Research Stream 3 - People, Places, Purposes

To better understand how speakers and communities learn, use, and teach their languages (spoken and signed) in formal, non-formal, informal contexts throughout the lifespan.

Research Stream 4 - Shared Resources

To develop evidence-based language and intercultural awareness education tools essential for a shared island.





LANGUAGE RICHES (lead institution TCD)

- Contributing to the creation of a multilingual and multimodal corpus representing the linguistic diversity on island, through collecting naturally occurring examples of 'language in use' balanced across spoken, written, and signed data representing the languages spoken by more than 500 speakers and users on the island of Ireland.
- Contributing to the collection, encoding, and analysis of audio and visual data to evidence cultural diversities across the island of Ireland - collect soundscapes and linguistic landscapes of cultural representations in different rural and urban settings across the island.
- Contributing to the production of project outputs across the research streams including a web-based archival and interactive platform, academic publications, practice-based outputs, public engagement artefacts, annual reports, roadshows, exhibitions, policy and research briefs.

Typical research activities within Language Riches include:

- Corpus development; Collecting and curating examples of language in use, ensuring balanced coverage across spoken, written, and signed data. Undertaking fieldwork to gather high-quality, ethically sourced linguistic data. Annotating, encoding, and documenting corpus materials in line with best practice standards in corpus linguistics.
- Collecting environmental and social audio recordings, photographs and other visual documentation of signage and public texts. Cataloging and managing datasets to ensure consistency, accessibility, and usability for research analysis.
- Applying qualitative and quantitative methods to examine multilingual language practices and cultural representations across modalities. Using digital tools for transcription, multimodal analysis, and metadata management. Identifying and interpreting patterns linking language, culture, and place across the island of Ireland.

PEOPLE, PLACES, PURPOSES (lead institution QUB)

LIVED IDENTITIES (lead institution TCD)

- Contributing to the design, piloting, administration and analysis of a large cross-border online survey entitled "Focus on Being" which will examine relationships between identities and languages, targeting each province on the island of Ireland.
- Contributing to the production of project outputs across the research streams including a web-based archival and interactive platform, academic publications, practice-based outputs, public engagement artefacts, annual reports, roadshows, exhibitions, policy and research briefs.

Typical research activities within Lived Identities include:

- Designing, piloting, and administration of a large national online survey examining the relationship between identities and languages across Ireland.
- Participant recruitment, survey testing, and troubleshooting to ensure data quality and accessibility.
- Supporting data management, cleaning, and preparation for statistical analysis using appropriate software.
- Applying a range of quantitative methods of analysis to survey data
- Contributing to reporting, dissemination of findings, and maintaining ethical research standards.

SHARED RESOURCES (lead institution QUB)



- Contributing to the design, piloting, administration and analysis of a large cross-border online survey entitled “Focus on Doing” which will how speakers and communities learn, use, and teach their languages (spoken and signed) in formal, non-formal, informal contexts throughout the lifespan, targeting each province on the island of Ireland
- Contributing to the design, delivery, and facilitation of data gathering community workshops to identify and evidence language learning practices in different settings across different age groups
- Contributing to the production of project outputs across the research streams including a web-based archival and interactive platform, academic publications, practice-based outputs, public engagement artefacts, annual reports, roadshows, exhibitions, policy and research briefs.

Typical research activities within People, Places, Purposes include:

- Contributing to the design, piloting, and administration of a large national online survey examining how speakers and communities learn, use, and teach their languages (spoken and signed) in formal, non-formal, informal contexts throughout the lifespan.
- Assisting with participant recruitment, survey testing, and troubleshooting to ensure data quality and accessibility.
- Contributing to the co-design, delivery, and facilitation of data gathering community workshops. Maintaining relationships and liaising with external partners to co-organize community workshops.
- Applying qualitative and quantitative methods to survey and workshops data to examine language learning and teaching practices
- Supporting quantitative and qualitative data management and analysis using appropriate methods of analysis and software.
- Contributing to reporting, dissemination of findings, and maintaining ethical research standards.

- Contributing to the creation of evidence-based language and intercultural awareness education tools essential for a shared island.
- Developing appropriate measures to pilot, test, and evaluate teaching and learning resources for language learning and intercultural awareness
- Sharing teaching and learning educational tools through resources roadshows across the provinces
- Contributing to the production of project outputs across the research streams including a web-based archival and interactive platform, academic publications, practice-based outputs, public engagement artefacts, annual reports, roadshows, exhibitions, policy and research briefs.

Typical research activities within Shared Resources include:

- Contributing to the design, piloting, and creation of evidence-based language and intercultural awareness education tools.
- Collecting evidence on the use and feasibility of the shared resources

Applying qualitative and quantitative methods to test the quality and accessibility of resources.

- Collecting feedback on pilot resources from external partners and public fora. Ensuring feedback loops from external partners and public engagement are part of resource development.
- Contributing to the design of evaluation criteria for the sustainability of shared resources.
- Supporting quantitative and qualitative data management and analysis using appropriate methods of analysis and software.
- Contributing to reporting, dissemination of findings, and maintaining ethical research standards.



Post Specification – Trinity College Dublin

Post Title:	Research Fellow (two positions)
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract – Full-time
Research Group / Department / School:	LIFELANGS, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	7-9 South Leinster Street Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Professor Lorna Carson
Salary:	Appointment will be made on the Irish Universities Researcher Salary Scale, (Post-Doctoral Researcher Scale), point 1, with annual increments.
Hours of Work:	39
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), 27 October 2025

Please note that Garda vetting will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

Post Summary

This position will contribute to the HEA North South Research Programme project LIFELANGS: Living Observatory of Shared Languages and Identities, reporting to co-PI Professor Lorna Carson and based in Trinity College Dublin. LIFELANGS is a joint project, with co-PI Dr Aisling O'Boyle based in Queen's University Belfast. We are seeking to recruit four Post-Doctoral Research Fellows.

Two of the Post-Doctoral Research Fellows will be based, respectively, at Queen's University Belfast, and at Trinity College Dublin. Close intra-institutional collaboration and cross-border mobility is a key feature of the project. **This Post Specification refers to the two positions based at Trinity College Dublin (Language Riches and Lived Identities research streams).**

LIFELANGS employs a mixed method approach to study everyday phenomenon of language learning, language use, and the construction and (re)presentation of identities. In addition to four new Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, the project consortium comprises two Co-PIs (Prof. Lorna Carson, TCD, and Dr Aisling O'Boyle, QUB), a team of eight academic Co-Leads drawn from TCD and QUB, and four PhD student researchers. The Post-Doctoral Research Fellow will report to and work directly with their Co-PI. They will also collaborate with the full project consortium as well as external partners. The LIFELANGS Observatory Post-Doctoral Research Fellows will each work on an identified research stream. Each research stream will have an assigned PhD student researcher, co-supervised by the stream's Post-Doctoral



Research Fellow. It is anticipated that the two Post-Doctoral posts at TCD will start in December 2025.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

- Actively participate as a member of the LIFELANGS research team including leading some of the project research activities in one of the four research streams
- Provide co-supervision and mentorship to the research stream's assigned doctoral student
- Collect, analyse, write up and disseminate results of research activity
- Contribute to the publication of research findings from the project
- Develop their own career and reputation
- Contribute to the research culture and agenda within the Living Observatory
- Under general guidance of the project's Co-Principal Investigators, define research objectives and proposals for own (or joint) research in line with the project's goals
- Assist the Co-PIs with project management and admin tasks
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this level of post

Funding Information

LIFELANGS is funded by a research grant from the North South Research Programme (NRSP), administered by Ireland's Higher Education Authority. Funded under the NRSP's Emerging Hubs of Excellence Strand.

Person Specification

Qualifications

PhD in Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Education, Identity Studies, Anthropology or cognate discipline (PhD must be awarded by start date of post).

Knowledge & Experience

Essential

- Research Expertise and Track Record
 - Demonstrated ability to conduct independent, high-quality research, evidenced by peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, or equivalent outputs commensurate with career stage
- Project Planning and Execution
 - Experience in planning and delivering research projects or work packages to defined deadlines and standards.
- Data Analysis and Methodological Skills
 - Proficiency in relevant qualitative and/or quantitative research methodologies, data analysis techniques, and research tools specific to the discipline.
- Academic Writing and Communication
 - Strong academic writing and communication skills, including experience in drafting research papers, reports, or funding applications.
- Teaching or Supervision Experience



- Experience in delivering teaching, training, or research supervision at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Desirable

- Collaborative Research Experience
 - Evidence of effective collaboration within interdisciplinary or multi-institutional teams, or with stakeholders outside academia such as cultural groups
- Funded Research Project Experience
 - Experience in contributing to funded research projects
- Engagement and Dissemination
 - Experience in research dissemination beyond academia (e.g., public engagement, policy influence, stakeholder events).
- Knowledge of Research Ethics and Governance
 - Familiarity with research ethics processes, data protection, and good research governance practices.
- Digital Tools or Technical Skills
 - Competence in using research-relevant software, tools, or platforms (e.g., statistical software, language corpora, speech processing, GIS, etc.).
- International or Interdisciplinary Research Exposure
 - Experience working in international or cross-disciplinary contexts, including cross-border/cross-cultural collaboration
- Language qualifications
 - Proficiency in languages relevant to the LIFELANGS project to facilitate research across the island of Ireland, including primary source analysis and stakeholder communication.

Skills & Competencies

The successful post-holder will demonstrate the following skills and competencies:

- Research Excellence
 - Applies strong analytical and critical thinking skills to design, conduct, and evaluate original research that contributes meaningfully to the discipline.
- Academic Writing & Dissemination
 - Produces high-quality academic outputs and effectively communicates research findings through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and public or stakeholder engagement.
- Initiative and Ownership
 - Demonstrates initiative and takes ownership of their professional development, research agenda, and academic goals.
- Results-Driven
 - Delivers high-quality research outcomes by setting clear objectives, planning effectively, executing tasks efficiently, and evaluating the impact of their work.
- Communication
 - Communicates clearly and respectfully, fostering trust and productive collaboration with colleagues, students, partners, and wider stakeholders.



- Collaboration & Teamwork
 - Works effectively within interdisciplinary teams and contributes to a positive, collegial, and inclusive research environment.
- Stakeholder Engagement
 - Proactively builds relationships with internal team and external partners and is committed to delivering research activities that meet or exceed expectations.
- Project & Time Management
 - Manages research project activities and competing priorities efficiently to meet deadlines and funding requirements.
- Adaptability & Problem Solving
 - Demonstrates flexibility and resilience in responding to challenges and adapting research approaches in dynamic or changing environments.
- Linguistic and Interpersonal Skills
 - Exhibits excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to influence, negotiate, and engage constructively with diverse individuals and groups. Competence in using one or more relevant languages effectively to carry out research-related tasks, such as reading and interpreting source material, conducting interviews, or collaborating across linguistic contexts.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to Professor Lorna Carson, carsonle@tcd.ie.

Applicants must include a cover letter that indicates their suitability for the post and their alignment with one (or more) of the project's four research streams.

We anticipate that shortlisted applicants will be interviewed online during the week of 3 November. A short presentation will be expected of all shortlisted applicants.

Please note that the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform requires that all staff, including Research staff, working in Irish public sector must discharge duties from the jurisdiction of Ireland.

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to TCD area	www.tcd.ie/slscs
URL Link to QUB area	https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforLanguageEducationResearch/
URL Link to Project	www.lifelangs.com

GARDA CLEARANCE

Police vetting will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants will be required to complete and return a Garda vetting form should they come under consideration for appointment. In some cases they may be requested to complete the form on the day of interview. This form will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána (Irish Police) for security checks on all



Irish addresses at which they have resided. An Garda Síochána will make enquiries with the Police Service of Northern Ireland with respect to addresses in Northern Ireland. If an applicant is not successful in obtaining the post for whatever reason, this information will be destroyed. If an applicant, therefore, subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

While applicants must complete information in relation to all addresses at which they have resided, the vetting is only done on addresses on the island of Ireland.

If an applicant has resided / studied in countries outside of Ireland for a period of 6 months or more, it is mandatory for them to furnish a Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate from those countries stating that they have no convictions recorded against them while residing there. Applicants will need to provide a separate Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate for each country in which they have resided. The Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate must be dated after the date the applicant left the relevant country. Applicants should provide documentation in the English and/or Irish language. Translations must be provided by a registered translation company/institute in the Republic of Ireland; all costs will be borne by the applicant. Only original version documents will be accepted.

Applicants should be aware that any information obtained in the Garda Vetting process can be made available to the employing area.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to seek security clearances in a timely fashion as they can take some time. No applicant will be appointed without this information being provided and being in order.

The following websites may be of assistance in this regard:

www.disclosurescotland.co.uk

www.psni.police.uk

This website provides information on obtaining a national police clearance certificate for Australia

www.afp.gov.au

This website provides information on obtaining police clearance in New Zealand.

www.courts.govt.nz

For other countries not listed above applicants may find it helpful to contact the relevant embassies who could provide information on seeking Police Clearance. Original Police Clearance documentation should be forwarded to Human Resources where it will be copied and the original returned to the applicant by post. **Any cost incurred in this process will be borne by the Applicant.**

About Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 75th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2026). 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 21,000 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 in the Times Higher Education rankings 2022 and 91st in the QS Graduate Employability Ranking 202. Trinity is a highly international university



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

and has students and staff from over 120 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 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.

The **School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences** at TCD is home to a team of world-class scholars who all share a passion for human language in its various facets. We foster inclusive diversity as a powerful resource through the study of linguistics, communication, speech, and swallowing. Our work benefits individuals and communities through the lifespan. The School's vision is to be an internationally recognised reference point for the scientific study of language, communication, speech and swallowing, characterised by a distinctive focus on communication diversity and inclusion. The School's research and teaching areas include the following: Linguistics; Applied Linguistics; Computational Linguistics; Speech Science and Phonetics; Speech and Language Pathology; Dysphagia; Deaf Studies; Irish Sign Language; English Language Teaching; Irish Language Technology; and Asian Studies.

About Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University Belfast (QUB) is recognised as a research-intensive university with a global reputation for excellence. This is evidenced in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023, where QUB is ranked in the top 200 and in recent UK-based research evaluation exercises where it was noted that 99% of our research environment is world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2021). As a global institution, QUB is a signatory of the UN Accord which recognises the role that universities have in developing a culture of sustainability. The Queen's University Social Charter establishes the importance on research which makes a positive impact on and with society. Further information available at: www.qub.ac.uk.

The **Centre for Language Education Research** is housed within the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at QUB, and is a vibrant and diverse academic community who share a vision to produce research which expands knowledge and informs policy and practice. The Centre for Language Education Research was founded by applied linguists, educationalists, and social scientists with extensive expertise in conducting local, national, and international research in language, education, and cross-cutting themes. Academics in the Centre for Language Education Research have diverse specialisms such as language education, bilingualism, digital literacy, indigenous language reclamation, refugee language education, decolonial critical ethnography, applied corpus linguistics, culturally responsive educational assessment, and teacher education. Further information available at: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforLanguageEducationResearch/>



The Selection Process in Trinity

Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview. Applications will be acknowledged by email. 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.

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.

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>.

Trinity College Dublin has won a Silver institutional Athena Swan award for advancing gender equality. The School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences holds a Bronze Athena Swan award.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. 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.



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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.