PhD Scholarship, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin

Post specification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Post title</th>
<th>Provost’s PhD Project Award: Fully funded PhD Scholarship</th>
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<tr>
<td>PhD Scholarship</td>
<td>48 Months, full-time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department / School / Faculty</td>
<td>Discipline of Occupational Therapy / School of Medicine / Faculty of Health Sciences</td>
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<td>Location:</td>
<td>Trinity Centre for Health Sciences, James’s Campus, James’s Street, Dublin 8</td>
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<td>Reports to:</td>
<td>Dr. Geraldine Foley</td>
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<td><a href="http://people.tcd.ie/foleyg3">http://people.tcd.ie/foleyg3</a></td>
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<td>Funding:</td>
<td>Covers tuitions fees (EU or non-EU) and an annual stipend of €16,000 for four years</td>
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<td>Closing date:</td>
<td>5.00pm Friday 22nd March, 2019</td>
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Post Summary

The successful candidate will have a strong academic record and demonstrate a strong commitment to PhD research. **S/he will register as a full-time PhD student in the School of Medicine, by September 2019.**

The successful PhD candidate will work with Dr. Geraldine Foley (Principal Investigator) on a project entitled ‘**Support Exchange between Patients and Family Caregivers in Palliative Care**’. Palliative care research is transdisciplinary. **The research project is not discipline specific and the focus of the research is on the substantive topic and on the research skills development of the successful applicant.**

As directed by the Principal Investigator (PI), the research project will employ the grounded theory qualitative method to develop an explanatory framework that describes and explains mechanisms of support exchange between patients and family caregivers in palliative care. More specifically, the project will identify key contexts that shape support exchange between patients and family caregivers in palliative care, and how support exchange between patients and family caregivers in palliative care impacts on patient and family caregiver decision-making in palliative care. Research participants will include patients and their family caregivers who have accessed palliative care. The research will be conducted in collaboration with the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care. [http://aiihpc.org/](http://aiihpc.org/)
The successful applicant is expected to:

- Produce an independent piece of research in the form of a PhD thesis/dissertation under the guidance and supervision of the Principal Investigator (PI).
- Attend courses and seminars on research methods which underpin the project.
- Publish from the project (both during and immediately after the four-year PhD programme) in quality and impactful academic journals with the PI and the PI’s collaborators on the project.
- Engage with and manage all relevant Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) activities necessary for conducting and disseminating the research.
- Engage with and become a member of the Early Career Researcher Forum of the All-Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIIHPC).
  - [http://www.professionalpalliativehub.com/research/ecrf](http://www.professionalpalliativehub.com/research/ecrf)
- Disseminate the work from the project at relevant conferences.
- As directed by the PI, take responsibility for administrative tasks that arise in relation to the project (e.g. seminars, papers, etc).
- Take opportunities to apply for small-scale funding to optimise dissemination of the research.
- As is the case for all registered PhD students at Trinity College Dublin (TCD), the candidate will undertake and complete a taught module or modules that accrue in total a minimum of 10 ECT credits / maximum of 30 ECT credits. Evidence of ECT credits accrued reflects the structured element to the TCD PhD programme.

The PhD candidate will be provided with office space in an environment that promotes opportunities for learning and development. She/he will be welcomed by other doctoral students and the wider research community at TCD, where she/he can meet and share experiences with other graduate students and researchers who span across a diverse range of research areas. [https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/students/research/](https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/students/research/)

The doctoral programme of the School of Medicine [http://www.tcd.ie/medicine/education/courses/postgraduate/](http://www.tcd.ie/medicine/education/courses/postgraduate/) focuses on educating and training outstanding postgraduate students. Our structured PhD programme has a sustained enrolment of national and international students of high capability, and a structured approach to advanced research. Postgraduate research students from the School integrate closely and share learning experiences with postgraduate research students from cognate disciplines and fields in TCD. The candidate may also have opportunities to contribute to undergraduate teaching.

**Person Specification**

**Essential Qualifications**

- MA or MSc or MPhil in any of the following areas or disciplines: Allied Healthcare / Health & Social Care Professions (HSCPs), Psychology, Healthcare Policy, Health Policy, Health Services Research, Nursing, Social Policy, Sociology, Research Methods or
cognate fields. A candidate’s Masters degree can be from a Masters by research or from a taught Masters. [Students who are currently due to complete a Masters degree before September 2019, are eligible to apply].

Expected Skills

- Knowledge and some experience of undertaking qualitative research.
- Training/experience/skills in conducting qualitative interviews.
- Training/experience/skills in analysing qualitative data.
- The motivation to enhance his/her research skills in order to conduct research at PhD level.
- An understanding of the complexities of undertaking research with vulnerable populations.
- Strong English language writing skills
- Strong 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

- Evidence of research dissemination (e.g. conference papers/presentations, published abstracts, journal articles, etc).
- Prior experience of conducting research with people who live with life-limiting conditions and/or family caregivers of people with life-limiting conditions.
- An appreciation of the range of ethical considerations relevant to the conduct of research on people with life-limiting conditions and/or their family.

Trinity College Dublin, the University of 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.

Our alumni have gone on to shape the history of Ireland and of Western Europe in a wide range of fields. These include such notable figures as Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, William Rowan Hamilton, Edmund Burke, William Stokes, Denis Burkitt, Louise Richardson, Lenny Abrahamson, and Anne Enright. Three of Trinity’s graduates have been awarded Nobel prizes: Ernest Walton for Physics in 1951; Samuel Beckett for Literature in 1968; and William Campbell for Physiology / Medicine in 2015. Trinity also counts the first female President of Ireland among its alumni in Mary Robinson, as well as other notable former Presidents Douglas Hyde and Mary McAleese. At Trinity we are justifiably proud of our tradition, and we strive to uphold this excellence as we face the demands of the 21st century.

Ranking Facts

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland. Using the QS methodology, the University is ranked 104th in the world and using the Times Higher Education World University Rankings methodology Trinity is 117th in the world.

Overall

- Trinity is Ireland’s No.1 University in the QS World University Ranking, THE World University Ranking and the Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai).
- Trinity is ranked 104th in the World, and 36th in Europe, in the 2018/2019 QS World University Ranking.
- Trinity is ranked in the Top 120 for Graduate Employability in the QS 2018 Rankings.

- Trinity is in the Top 50 most innovative universities in Europe according to Reuters.¹

- Between 2010 and 2015, Trinity was ranked the top university in Europe for entrepreneurship according to Pitchbook’s independent analysis.²

**Internationalisation**

- Trinity is ranked 52nd in the world in the THE World University Ranking for international outlook.

**Research Performance**

- Of the 981 institutions included in the THE World University Rankings for 2017, Trinity is in the top 15% internationally for research performance.

- Trinity is ranked in the top 15% internationally by QS for citations.

**In the QS World University Subject Rankings:**

- Trinity is ranked in the top 50 worldwide in four subject areas according to the QS World University Subject Rankings 2018. The University is ranked in the top 100 globally for 20 subjects overall.

- Trinity’s Top 50 subjects include Nursing (25th), Classics (28th), English (28th) and Politics (43rd).

- Trinity is ranked in the top 100 for each of the following 16 subjects: History, Languages, Philosophy, Theology, Computer Science, Biology, Medicine, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Geography, Materials Science, Education, Law, Social Policy, Sociology and Sport.

- The University is ranked in the top 100 for three broad subject areas: Arts & Humanities (57th), Life Sciences & Medicine (87th), and Engineering & Technology (89th).

**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](https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement)

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¹ [http://www.reuters.com/article/us-innovative-stories-europe-idUSKCN0Z00CT](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-innovative-stories-europe-idUSKCN0Z00CT)

Application Procedure

The deadline for receipt of applications is 5.00pm, Friday 22nd March, 2019

Applicants should submit their application by email to Dr. Geraldine Foley (foleyg3@tcd.ie) Assistant Professor. The subject line in the email should read: ‘Application for Provost’s PhD Award’.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to make direct contact with Dr. Geraldine Foley (email: foleyg3@tcd.ie / Tel: +353 1 8963217) prior to their application, in order to learn more about the project and to ask any questions they may have about the PhD Scholarship. Applicants are encouraged to make enquires to Dr. Geraldine Foley as soon as possible.

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). Please include in the CV any research outputs in which the applicant is a named author (e.g. conference presentations/papers, journals articles, published abstracts, etc).

2. A Cover Letter (no longer than 2 A4 pages) outlining:
   a) The applicant’s profile and skills relevant and/or transferrable to the project.
   b) A statement of motivation to pursue the PhD.