

## Post Specification

<b>Post Title:</b>	Research Assistant for Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Care (UnPAC) study
<b>Post Status:</b>	Fixed-term Contract – Full-time.
<b>Research Group / Department / School:</b>	Dr Catherine Conlon, Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Care Study Research Group, School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
<b>Location:</b>	School of Social Work & Social Policy (working remotely will be required in accordance with public health guidelines) Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
<b>Reports to:</b>	Dr Catherine Conlon
<b>Salary:</b>	Appointment will be made on the IUA Researcher Salary Pay Scale for Research Assistant Grade at a point in line with Government Pay Policy [€22 496 to €34245 per annum], appointment will be made no higher than point [16]
<b>Hours of Work:</b>	
<b>Closing Date:</b>	12 Noon (GMT), [23 OCTOBER 2020]

## **Post Summary**

### **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

#### **Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Care (UnPAC) Study, School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.**

Dr Catherine Conlon of the School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin has been commissioned by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme to carry out research to understand people's experiences of using abortion care services and unplanned pregnancy supports since abortion care was introduced in Ireland in January 2019. The Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Care (UnPAC) study began in November 2019 and will report in March 2021. People using abortion care and unplanned pregnancy support services and health professionals providing such care e.g. doctors, nurses and counsellors, as well as key stakeholders in service planning and policy implementation are being interviewed to share insights as users and providers of services. Data analysis focuses on how well services are meeting people's needs for accessible, available, acceptable and quality care. This research has ethics approval from Trinity College Dublin and two Irish hospitals where fieldwork is being carried out.

The core study data-set comprises qualitative interviews with 40-50 people attending abortion care and unplanned pregnancy support services including:

1. People attending unplanned pregnancy counselling services who may decide to continue the pregnancy or not
2. People under 12 week's gestation seeking abortion care whose care pathway begins by consulting GP or WHC doctor.
3. People under 12 week's gestation seeking abortion care whose care pathway involves them attending hospital services.
4. People over 12 week's gestation who qualify for abortion care under 2018 Act.
5. People living in Ireland accessing abortion care outside the jurisdiction.

The findings of this research will inform HSE service planning and development and provide an evidence base to inform the review of the Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 scheduled for 2021.

This position is attached to the UnPAC Research Team of Dr Catherine Conlon based in the School of Social Work & Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin. The university is currently implementing a policy of half-time remote working for staff with encouragement for staff to work remotely as much as possible as a measure to comply with regulations relating to COVID-19. A comprehensive remote working infrastructure using MSTeams and Onedrive is well established by the research team and the Research Officer joining the team will be expected to work remotely in line with current circumstances. A suitable remote working environment and good, reliable internet access is essential in order to be able to fulfil this role. All necessary software for data analysis and remote working will be provided by TCD.

### **Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post**

We are looking for a full-time Research Officer with strong expertise in qualitative data analysis, a background in sexual and reproductive health policy, excellent writing skills, able to work to deadlines with an aptitude for working as part of a team. The RA will join the PI and a Post-Doctoral Researcher already in place.

#### **Duties:**

- Writing up literature review
- Coding qualitative interview data
- Writing up data analysis
- Contributing to preparation of manuscripts for publication
- Contributing to preparation of a research report for submission to commissioning body
- Implementing project Data Management Plan for data management and stewardship.

### **Person Specification**

#### **Qualifications**

- Education: Masters in Social Science or Cognate area (essential) or PhD in Social Science or Cognate area (preferable)

#### **Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable) /Skills & Competencies**

- Previous experience in qualitative research and qualitative data analysis is essential
- Area of expertise: sexual and reproductive health and policies is essential
- Excellent writing skills to publication standard is essential
- Excellent professional oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills is essential
- Excellent organisational skills, attention to detail, and reliability is essential
- Ability to work independently and under supervision and as part of a team is essential
- Expertise in Grounded Theory research methods is desirable
- Knowledge of CADQAS and experience using NVivo is desirable
- Expertise in Irish reproductive health policy is desirable

#### **Nature/Duration of Contract**

Fixed term: 5-6 months from October 2020 (or as soon as possible thereafter) to March 31 2021)

Full-time (40 hour per week)

**Starting date:** Oct 2020

**Salary:** Point 10 €29, 502- Point 17 €35,218 on IUA Researcher Salary Scale commensurate with qualifications and experience. Appointment will be made at no higher than Point 16 on the scale.

**Inquiries:**

Inquiries about the post are very welcome to PI Dr Catherine Conlon on [conlonce@tcd.ie](mailto:conlonce@tcd.ie) with Research Assistant Post in the subject line.

**Application Procedure**

Applicants are invited to write a **TWO-PAGE** application (to include CV) where they explain how and why they meet the above selection criteria, including any relevant qualifications and experience. The application must also contain email and phone contact details of the applicant and the name, position and email and phone contact details of ONE referee. Applications that are longer than two pages will not be considered. Interested applicants should be in a position to take up the role immediately and on a full-time basis, if offered the post. Applications are invited by email for the attention of: Dr Catherine Conlon (Principal Investigator) [conlonce@tcd.ie](mailto:conlonce@tcd.ie).

**Closing date: October 23<sup>rd</sup>** 12 noon GMT (Interviews will take place week beginning October 25<sup>th</sup>)

**Funding Information**

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme are funding this research project and post.

Dr Catherine Conlon

[conlonce@tcd.ie](mailto:conlonce@tcd.ie)

**Further Information for Applicants**

URL Link to Area	<a href="http://www.tcd.ie/swsp">www.tcd.ie/swsp</a>
URL Link to Human Resources	<a href="https://www.tcd.ie/hr/">https://www.tcd.ie/hr/</a>

## **Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin**

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). 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 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) 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 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 the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

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 is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world on 6 subjects and in the top 100 in 20 subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019). Full details are available at: [www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings](http://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 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>.

## **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.

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.



## Application Procedure

### Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to:-

**Name**

**Email Address**



**UNIVERSITY  
VACANCIES IRELAND**  
universityvacancies.com

