



Position: Post Doctoral Researcher in Adolescent Health Literacy

Commencement Date: September 2019

Duration: 36 months

Minimum Qualification Required: PhD

Post description

This post offers an exciting opportunity for a suitable candidate to join the DCU and the IHF team and contribute to the development of an adolescent Health Literacy intervention, the only World Health Organisation approved Health Literacy demonstration project for adolescents internationally.

A project manager is sought to oversee and contribute to the development of this flagship post-primary school intervention as part of the Irish Heart Foundation (IHF) schools programme suite. The targeted aim of this intervention is to focus on reducing the alarming rate of childhood obesity through a public health and health literacy intervention. The ultimate goal is to instil positive health behaviours in young people, harnessing technology as a tool to bring this message to life through schools. The intervention will focus on DEIS schools but ultimately allow for expansion to meet the needs of all cohorts, and reach national dissemination.

The successful candidate will work closely with a number of stakeholders to research and lead the co-design of a health literacy intervention in disadvantaged post primary schools for national dissemination. A working group is currently established with academic, education and commercial partners. Over the coming months, the successful candidate will be the driving force behind the project, working with DCU and the IHF, and coordinating key stakeholders to design and implement a cohesive and comprehensive intervention. The manager will be employed within the physical activity research group at the School of Health and Human Performance in DCU, and working between DCU and the Irish Heart Foundation will contribute as part of a larger team to achieving the Irish Heart Foundation's strategic priorities on health inequalities.

Further information on the role can be found in the Major Duties, and Skills and Experience Required sections overleaf. Information on the application process is given at the end of this document.

This role will be on the DCU Research Career Framework and as such will have access to teaching and learning responsibilities to aid the progress of the successful candidates academic career.

Major Duties:

- Working under the supervision of research Principal Investigator Dr. Sarahjane Belton, and the IHF Health Promotion, Information, and Training team, lead on the co-design of a school-based health literacy intervention, undertaking appropriate research analysis of the area.
- Represent DCU and the Irish Heart Foundation in a variety of settings including academic, education and corporate.
- Develop a project plan for implementation within the timeframe; identifying key resources requires, deliverables, and ensuring all objectives are delivered.
- Co-ordinate, manage and collaborate with the project working group to ensure key deliverables are achieved and in progress.
- Act as a primary point of contact for this project representing DCU and the IHF.
- Working with key stakeholders, and following the steps of the OPHELIA process, design core intervention components.
- Identify, define, and communicate the technology requirements with our technology partner and the working group.
- Develop and enact parental engagement strategy.
- Pilot and execute these components as part of a cohesive health literacy programme within schools to fit within a wellbeing framework, with a target of national dissemination.
- Maintain engagement of existing post-primary school leadership, teachers and students throughout the three years of the study, supporting and developing CPD as may be needed for teaching staff with the schools.
- Feasibility trial the intervention in partner schools, working closely with the academic partners and staff and students in post-primary schools, and refine and modify the intervention based on feedback and evidence from the feasibility trial.
- Perform basic and applied research in line with the objectives and workplan under direction from the project Principal Investigator, including but not limited to;
 - Collect and analyse qualitative data, including open ended questionnaires, semi structured interviews and focus groups
 - Collect and analyse quantitative questionnaire data regarding health literacy and wellbeing
 - Collect and analyse physical data including fitness testing, accelerometry, and blood pressure
- Contribute to the writing of research articles, research reports, grant applications, and updates for funding agencies and project stakeholders.
- Contribute to the dissemination of research results via publication in scientific conferences and journals
- Participate in the supervision team of relevant undergraduate and postgraduate research students
- Contribute to research dissemination, knowledge sharing and training activities

Skills and Experience Required

- The ideal candidate will have experience in at least one, and preferably two, of the following areas: education, public health/health promotion, or e-health technology
- A PhD qualification in a related field with appropriate field research experience.
- Relationship management experience with multiple stakeholders.
- Demonstrated experience of project management.
- Experience working with young people. Knowledge of and experience working with schools and post-primary children is a significant advantage.
- Proven track record in programme development; needs analysis, pilot development, feasibility trialling, and programme refinement.
- Demonstrable experience of delivering results in a pressurised environment with quick turnaround times. Ability to prioritise workload, plan and deliver on multiple deadlines in a demanding environment is required.
- Familiarity with technology and software for educational or health use, ability to understand and communicate technical requirements.
- Strong communication (verbal and written) and interpersonal skills.
- A proven track record of working collaboratively in a variety of settings; ideally in school-based/educational, academic and/or corporate environments.
- Knowledge of theory and practice of health promotion/public health.
- Full, clean driving licence.
- Given the nature of the work, a successful outcome will be dependant upon Garda vetting.

Mandatory Training

- The postholder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: Professional Skills for Research Leaders. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.

The project team will consider all applications, and will then short list to interview those applicants who appear from the information available, to be the most suitable, in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the post. It is anticipated interviews will be held in early September 2019.

Salary: Point 1 – 6 of IUA Post Doctoral Researcher Salary Scale €37,223 - €43,029 (commensurate with experience)

Informal enquiries to Dr. Sarahjane Belton (sarahjane.belton@dcu.ie) copying **Dr. Clare McDermott** (CMcDermott@irishheart.ie)

Application Procedure

Application forms are available from the DCU Current Vacancies (open Competitions) website at <http://dcu.ie/hr/vacancies/current.shtml> and also from the Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel: +353 (0) 1 700 5149

Applications should be submitted by email to hr.applications@dcu.ie or by Fax to +353 (0)1 700 5500 or by post to: Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Glasnevin Campus, Dublin 9.

Please clearly state the role you are applying for in your application and email subject line, as follows:

Job Ref # RF1257 Post Doctoral Researcher in Adolescent Health Literacy

Closing Date for Applications: Friday 23rd August 2019

This post is subject to Garda Vetting.

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