

Postdoctoral Researcher – Cognitive Programme for people with Multiple Sclerosis

School of Health Sciences, College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

NUI Galway

Ref. No. NUIG-080-19

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time, fixed term position as a Postdoctoral Researcher with Discipline of Occupational Therapy at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

This position is funded by Health Research Board and is available from July 1st 2019. This is a specific purpose contract circa 30 months.

Information on project:

The trial is of a cognitive rehabilitation intervention for people living with multiple sclerosis who have cognitive symptoms. We will test the feasibility of a novel MS-specific programme: Cognitive Occupation-Based programme for people with Multiple Sclerosis (COB-MS) developed by Principal Investigator (PI; Dr Hynes). The COB-MS aims to improve patient care and has potential to have a strong positive impact on clinical care. The main aim is to test the integrity of the protocol for a full-scale randomised controlled trial. This is a single-blind cluster randomised control pilot trial. Both clinical and feasibility outcomes will be examined as part of feasibility testing.

Job Description:

The purpose of this post is to support an externally funded, national research project investigating the feasibility of an occupation-based cognitive rehabilitation programme for people living with multiple sclerosis (COB-MS). This is a feasibility trial funded by the Health Research Board (HRB) and based in the School of Health Sciences in NUI Galway. We are seeing to appoint an effective, full-time postdoctoral researcher for the duration of the trial (30 months). The postdoctoral researcher will report to the principal investigator on the trial, Dr Sinéad Hynes and/or the Head of School.

The postdoctoral researcher will be responsible for managing the trial (in collaboration with the PI). The post holder will have responsibility for ensuring research objectives are met through implementation of protocols, alongside the PI and research team.

Duties:

- To contribute to the COB-MS research programme under the guidance of the PI.
- To contribute to the research project set-up (in collaboration with the PI)
- To be responsible for recruitment, randomisation and support of participants on the trial.
- To monitor trial progress to ensure compliance with, and adherence to, the project plan and to identify, evaluate and rectify problems.
- To train and support the occupational therapists on the trial.
- To work with patient and public (PPI) representatives throughout the project.
- To contribute to analysis, write-up and dissemination of the findings, including public events.
- To present information on research progress and outcomes e.g. to sponsors; at conferences; steering groups, as agreed with the PI.
- To support and supervise junior research staff members on the project.
- To liaise with the Trial Steering Committee with a particular view on compliance with Research Governance, Good Clinical Practice, Data Protection and Ethical Requirements
- To contribute to collaborative decision making.
- To have up-to-date knowledge on the policy, practices and procedures, relevant to the role, e.g. research ethics, confidentiality, GDPR.

Qualifications/Skills required:

Essential Requirements:

- Applicants should have a PhD (level 10 NFQ) in a health-related discipline (such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology, cognitive neuroscience). Candidates awaiting Viva are eligible to apply but please give date of Viva in application.
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills.
- Excellent organisational and time management skills.
- Competence in experimental behavioural research.

Desirable Requirements:

- Experience of research trial management.
- Research or clinical experience working with people with multiple sclerosis or people with cognitive difficulties.
- Demonstrated ability to conduct independent research in addition to working effectively as a member of a research team.
- A developing track record in research publications in national and international journals.
- Demonstrated proficiency carrying out literature reviews within academic databases.
- Experience working with PPI members during the research process.
- Attention to detail and thoroughness in work practices and an ability to work to deadlines.
- Competence in qualitative research processes.
- Competence in quantitative data analysis and statistics.
- Ability to solve problems and adapt to situations as required.
- An ability to foster and sustain academic relationships internally and externally.

Salary: €39,530 - €41,828.00 per annum

Start date: Position is available from July 1st 2019

Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at NUI Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans.

Further information on research and working at NUI Galway is available on [Research at NUI Galway](#)

For information on moving to Ireland please see www.euraxess.ie

Further information about research at the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences is available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/medicine-nursing-and-health-sciences/>

Informal enquiries concerning the post may be made to Dr Sinéad Hynes at sinead.hynes@nuigalway.ie

NB: Garda vetting is a requirement for this post.

To Apply:

Applications to include a covering letter, CV, and the contact details of three referees should be sent, via e-mail (in word or PDF only) to Dr Sinéad Hynes at sinead.hynes@nuigalway.ie

Please put reference number **NUIG-080-19** in subject line of e-mail application.

Or by post to Dr Sinéad Hynes, School of Health Sciences, Áras Moyola, NUI Galway.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm 31st May 2019

Interviews are planned to be held on 13th June 2019

All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment

National University of Ireland, Galway is an equal opportunities employer.