



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

## Postdoctoral Researcher in Behaviour/ Health Psychology

Schools of Psychology and Medicine

National University of Ireland Galway

Ref. No. NUIG 145-17

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time fixed term position for 12 months as a Postdoctoral Researcher on the D1 Now Study that spans the Schools of Psychology and Medicine at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

This position is funded by Health Research Board (HRB) and is available from January 2018 for 12 months.

[Prof Sean Dinneen](https://d1now.ie/), School of Medicine, is Lead Applicant of the D1 Now Study (<https://d1now.ie/>). He is seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed Postdoctoral Researcher who will assist in leading a programme of research to improve outcomes for young adults with Type 1 Diabetes. The Postdoctoral Researcher will report directly to [Dr Molly Byrne](http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbcrg/), Health Research Board Research Leader and Director of the Health Behaviour Change Research Group, School of Psychology (<http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbcrg/>). The Postdoctoral Researcher will be based in the School of Psychology and will also work closely with the D1 Now Study Programme Manager and Prof Dinneen.

### D1 Now Study

From January 2014 until January 2017, the study team, that spans NUI Galway and the Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Galway University Hospitals campuses, have been working on a HRB-funded study to develop a new intervention to improve outcomes for young adults with type 1 diabetes. The team have used both the Medical Research Council (MRC) guidelines for developing and evaluating complex interventions (2010) and the Behaviour Change Wheel (BCW) for characterising and designing behaviour change interventions (Michie and colleagues, 2011). The team have established an evidence base from a [systematic review](#), a Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) panel ([Young Adult Panel](#)) and a qualitative engagement study with key stakeholders to develop a new intervention called D1 Now. D1 Now emphasises better engagement between young adults and their diabetes team. It includes a key worker, a Young Adult Service Portal and an agenda setting tool.

The D1 Now Study team have received funding from the HRB through their Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Award to test the feasibility and acceptability of the D1 Now intervention in a multi-centre, cluster randomised pilot in advance of a definitive cluster randomised controlled trial. The team will continue to adhere to the MRC and BCW guidelines in all 4 work packages:

1. Developing, modelling and refining the D1 Now intervention
2. Feasibility of the D1 Now intervention
3. Cluster randomised pilot of the D1 Now intervention
4. Formation of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in research: our Young Adult Panels

The study team will use the findings from the feasibility and pilot phases to seek future research funding and publish a protocol for a future definitive trial.

### Job Description:

The successful candidate will lead on the intervention development aspects of the D1 Now feasibility and pilot study. She/ he should ideally have some experience in testing, modeling, refining and evaluating health behavioural change interventions and randomised controlled trials. She/ he should have a track record of publishing in peer reviewed journals and presenting at scientific conferences. Experience working with young adults would be desirable.

### Duties/ Key Responsibilities:

- To work closely with the D1 Now project team to develop the intervention. This will include work closely with the Young Adult Panel to co-design all aspects of the intervention.
- To assist in testing the feasibility and acceptability of the entire D1 Now intervention package and make appropriate refinements
- To work closely with the Young Adult Panel and PM to co-design all aspects of the D1 Now intervention as required
- To assist in the preparation of 1-2 manuscripts (feasibility paper and pilot protocol paper) for publication in high quality, peer-reviewed journals and for presentation at scientific conferences
- To lead on the preparation of D1 Now intervention reports where required, e.g., annual reports for ethics committees and funding agency

**Qualifications/Skills required:**

**Essential Requirements:**

- PhD (or close to completion) in Psychology (preferably Health Psychology), Social Science, or related discipline
- Experience of Population Health and Health Services Research
- Experience of using both quantitative and qualitative analysis and reporting mixed methods research
- Evidence of publication in peer reviewed journals (commensurate with career stage)
- Evidence of the ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Evidence of excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly motivated, with excellent organisation skills

**Desirable Requirements:**

- Research in the area of health behaviour change intervention development and/ or evaluation
- Experience in testing, modelling and refining health behaviour change interventions through iterative qualitative focus groups
- Experience using qualitative software packages, in particular NVivo
- Experience working with young adults
- Research in the area of chronic disease, in particular diabetes
- Experience of randomised controlled trials, in particular in the area of health behaviour change interventions
- Experience in applying for research funding
- Familiarity with key framework/ guideline documents such as the Medical Research Council for developing and evaluating complex interventions and the Behaviour Change Wheel

**Salary:** €37,750 - €38,860 per annum.

**Start date:** Not later than February 2018

**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. Alongside the key responsibilities for this role, Dr Byrne will assist and support the Postdoctoral Researcher in developing their own personal research and academic career plan, and in achieving their career development goals.

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](http://www.euraxess.ie)

Informal enquiries concerning this position may be made to Dr. Deirdre Walsh [deirdre.m.walsh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:deirdre.m.walsh@nuigalway.ie), telephone +353 (0)91 492731/ Dr Molly Byrne, [molly.byrne@nuigalway.ie](mailto:molly.byrne@nuigalway.ie), telephone +353 (0)91 495182

**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. Deirdre Walsh ([deirdre.m.walsh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:deirdre.m.walsh@nuigalway.ie)) Please put reference number **NUIG-145-17** in subject line of e-mail application.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00pm, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Proposed date for interviews is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment. Commitment to this principle of appointment on merit reflects the University's Policy on Equal Opportunities (<http://www.nuigalway.ie/equality/policies.html>).

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

