

PhD Studentship in Health Economics and Dementia

Evaluating the Preparedness of Irish Healthcare System for Alzheimer's Disease-Modifying Therapies

We are seeking a dedicated and ambitious PhD candidate to join our dynamic interdisciplinary team at the Centre for Health Policy and Management at Trinity College Dublin. This is a **4-year studentship** funded by the **Trinity Research Doctorate Award**.

This position offers a unique opportunity to contribute to ground-breaking research to improve the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's Disease in Ireland. The successful candidate will play a critical role in executing a project designed to assess the readiness of the Irish healthcare system for the implementation of upcoming disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) for Alzheimer's Disease.

This project will allow the candidate to conduct and collaborate on original, high-impact research that can inform critical healthcare system changes, guide national dementia policy, and stimulate public awareness and participation in dementia research. Under the mentorship of experienced researchers, the PhD candidate will develop a robust skill set in health economics, health policy, and health services research, equipping them for a future career in these fields.

The ideal candidate will hold a master's degree in a related field such as health economics, health policy, public health, or epidemiology and will have a strong interest in health services research, particularly in the areas of Alzheimer's Disease, dementia or neurodegenerative diseases. The candidate should also possess excellent analytical and quantitative skills, a solid foundation in research methodologies, and excellent written and oral communication skills.

While not essential, candidates with prior experience working with neurodegenerative diseases, conducting systematic reviews, preference surveys, or with experience in a healthcare setting will be given strong consideration. This position represents an exceptional opportunity for a candidate who is driven by the prospect of conducting research that can lead to real-world change in the lives of those living with Alzheimer's Disease.

We invite you to apply if you are passionate about improving health outcomes for individuals living with Alzheimer's and are ready to contribute your skills and expertise to this transformative project.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

- Carry out research activities as outlined in the project proposal, which includes conducting literature reviews, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and multi-source data collection.
- Analyse the collected data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods to develop a comprehensive understanding of the research topics.
- Work closely with the supervisory team, other research team members, and patient advocacy group representatives throughout the research process. This includes participating in team meetings and discussions.
- Engage with stakeholders, including the public, patients, healthcare providers, and policy-makers. This includes conducting interviews and focus groups, presenting findings, and considering their input and perspectives in the research.
- Write up the results of the research for publication in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals. Present findings at relevant seminars, webinars, conferences, and other events.
- Work with supervisors to ensure high-quality research undertaken with and by members of the public, with PPI core to the research project.

- Actively participate in professional development activities such as training workshops, courses, and seminars to build skills and knowledge relevant to the project and your future career.
- Ensure all research activities adhere to local and international ethical guidelines and data protection regulations.
- Utilise various scholarly networking sites such as ResearchGate, LinkedIn, and Twitter to share and promote the research. Make your work accessible online through Open Access Journals and institutional repositories.

Funding Information

€25,000 annual stipend for four years funded by the Trinity Research Doctorate Award. EU and non-EU tuition fees are covered.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential

Education:

- A master's degree in a relevant field such as Public Health, Health Economics, Epidemiology, Health Policy, Social Sciences, or equivalent.

Knowledge:

- Familiarity with the healthcare system, preferably with specific knowledge about neurodegenerative diseases, Alzheimer's in particular.
- Understanding of both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.

Skills:

- Strong analytical and critical thinking skills, with the ability to analyse and interpret complex data.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills with the ability to communicate research findings effectively to both academic and non-academic audiences.
- Strong organisational skills with the ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines.
- Proficiency in statistical software packages (like R, Stata, or equivalent) and qualitative data analysis software (like NVivo).
- Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to work collaboratively as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Personal Qualities:

- Self-motivated and able to work independently with minimal supervision.
- Demonstrates a high level of initiative, problem-solving capabilities, and a proactive approach to research.
- Ethical and professional conduct, particularly in relation to patient and public involvement in research.
- A commitment to ongoing professional development and learning.

Experience:

- Experience in conducting research, particularly in healthcare or social sciences. This could include previous research conducted during undergraduate or master's studies.
- Prior experience with patient and public involvement in research would be beneficial but not essential.

Other:

- Willingness to travel for data collection, meetings, and conferences.
- Eligibility to work and study in Ireland.

Desirable:

Experience:

- Prior experience working with or researching neurodegenerative diseases, especially Alzheimer's Disease.
- Previous experience in a healthcare setting, such as working with healthcare providers, patients, or in public health.

Skills:

- Experience with advanced statistical methodologies such as conjoint analysis, discrete choice experiments, or latent class analyses.
- Experience in conducting and analysing patient preference surveys.

Education:

- Additional coursework or certification in health economics, health policy, epidemiology, or biostatistics.

Personal Qualities:

- Demonstrated interest in health services research, particularly in the areas of Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, or neurodegenerative diseases.
- Experience or interest in knowledge translation and dissemination of research findings.

Knowledge:

- Understanding of Irish health and social care systems.

Other:

- Publication(s) in peer-reviewed journals or presentations at academic conferences.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit:

- A cover letter, to include specific details and evidence of relevant experience/skills and the motivation for pursuing this research area (1-2 pages).
- Copies of degree certificates (or equivalent) to show the degree has been or will be awarded.
- A full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 3 referees (including email addresses).
- Transcripts for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses to date.
- Evidence of English language proficiency if required (Evaluated according to Postgraduate English Language Requirements, see www.tcd.ie/study/apply/admission-requirements/postgraduate/).

The applications are required to be submitted as one e-mail with all the requested documents attached in PDF format.

Application should be addressed to Dr Irina Kinchin at KINCHINI@tcd.ie.

Please quote the following in the subject heading of the emailed application: "Application for Trinity Research Doctorate PhD Position"

Further Details

Informal queries can also be directed to Dr Irina Kinchin at KINCHINI@tcd.ie.

Closing Date

This position has a required **start date** of either **1st September 2023** or **1st March 2024**. Please note that the position will close as soon as a candidate has been identified for the role, preliminary interviews for the position will be held in August.