



## Post Specification

<b>Post Title:</b>	PhD Studentship – Provost Award
<b>Post Status:</b>	4 year, full-time, fully funded PhD studentship
<b>Research Group / Department / School:</b>	School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
<b>Location:</b>	7-9 Leinster Street, Trinity Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
<b>Reports to:</b>	Dr Kristin Hadfield
<b>Terms &amp; Conditions:</b>	PhD research stipend, with fees covered. Details here: <a href="https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/phdawards/">https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/phdawards/</a>
<b>Hours of Work:</b>	Flexible hours, full-time
<b>Closing Date:</b>	12 Noon (Irish Standard Time), 09 April 2021

### Post Summary:

#### PhD Studentship examining the impacts of war and displacement on refugee mother-child relationships

Dr. Kristin Hadfield at Trinity College Dublin has funding for a PhD student to study mother-child relationships among refugees. This project will be embedded within Dr. Hadfield and colleagues' British Academy-funded FIERCE project (<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/projects/education-learning-in-crises-developing-implementing-transformational-intervention/>), which is a study of Syrian refugee mothers and children in Jordan. For the FIERCE project, we are currently collecting baseline and endline data from 360 Syrian refugee mothers and their 4-8-year-old children in Jordan as part of the wait-listed cluster randomized controlled trial. Data collection is taking place in Amman and in the Za'atari refugee camp and will be completed before the start of this studentship.

In this PhD project, the student will lead a systematic review to examine the evidence base on what impacts mother-child relationships in refugee families and then will conduct analyses using the FIERCE dataset, which includes observational, survey, and behavioural data from Syrian refugee mothers and their children in Jordan. This work has substantial potential for

impact, by providing researchers and humanitarian organizations the information needed to develop targeted family-focused interventions for use with Syrian refugee mothers and children.

The ideal candidate is a highly motivated person that is passionate about understanding family relationships and how those relationships are impacted by substantial adversity. They must have outstanding written and oral communication skills and make a commitment to learning advanced data analysis techniques.

The PhD studentship is funded for 4 years (though can be completed in 3), starting October 2021. The PhD student will be embedded into an interdisciplinary research team at multiple institutions, including a postdoctoral researcher, PhD student, project manager, and multiple research assistants. The student will have the opportunity to attend national and international conferences.

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

The PhD project involves two major components: a systematic review and analyses of mother-child interactions. The goal of the systematic review is to narratively synthesize available evidence on predictors of mother-child relationship quality in refugee families. The analyses of the mother-child interactions will involve coding vocalizations and non-verbal behaviours (such as touch, gestures, displays of affect) from videos of mother-child interactions. These videos consist of a free play task and a shared book reading task. The student would then combine this coded observational data with survey data and behavioural assessments to examine 1) the extent to which war exposure, displacement experiences, and poverty predict the quality of the mother-child relationship and 2) dyadic processes in these relationships over time. Note that this project does not involve collection of data by the student themselves; they will be working solely with published work (for the systematic review) and secondary data (for the mother-child relationship analyses).

### **Funding Information**

This role is funded through the Provost's PhD Project Award. Details on this PhD studentship are available at: <https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/phdawards/>

### **Person Specification**

Below is a list of several qualities and qualifications of an ideal candidate for the position, but please know that no PhD candidate will have them all! Strength in one area can make up for less experience in another. That said, in order to be offered the position, candidates do need to meet the essential criteria, including fluency in both Arabic and English.

Carefully consider your motivation for embarking on a PhD, the skills/experience that you think make you well suited to a career in science and why would be a good fit for this project. These points should form the basis of a cover letter expressing your interest in the role.

## **Qualifications**

- A bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, anthropology, gender studies, family studies, global health, or a related field (Essential)
- A master's degree in a relevant field (Desirable)

## **Knowledge & Experience**

- Familiarity with Jordanian and Syrian cultural contexts (Desirable)
- Experience conducting research on families and/or with children (Desirable)
- Experience coding observational data (Desirable)
- Experience working with or doing research on refugee populations (Desirable)
- Experience presenting results of research in written and oral format (Desirable)

## **Skills & Competencies**

- Fluency in both Arabic and English (Essential)
- Strong written and oral communication skills in both Arabic and English (Essential)
- Strong record keeping and data handling skills (Essential)
- Critical thinking / analytical skills (Essential)
- Attention to detail (Essential)
- Basic data analysis skills (any software) (Essential)
- Intermediate data analysis skills (SPSS, python, etc) (Desirable)

## **Application Procedure**

Applicants should submit a full curriculum vitae (including the names and contact details of two referees) by 09 April at noon Dublin time to:

Dr. Kristin Hadfield

[Kristin.Hadfield@tcd.ie](mailto:Kristin.Hadfield@tcd.ie)

Your CV should include grades and any other academic distinctions you think are relevant. Transcripts will be required to support this, should your application progress to the final Stages, but are not necessary for initial application. It is important that the CV gets across the

extent of your practical experience in research to date. Have you held any research positions before? Do you have any experience with research on refugees or families specifically? Have you interned or completed a dissertation project? If so, what were the projects that you completed and what were your specific responsibilities? Did you give presentations, write a report or paper, what competencies do you have (statistical skills, working with observational data), etc. The cover letter is perhaps the most important part of your application – please take the time to carefully outline your interests, your experience, your goals for the future, and why you are a good fit for this project.

### **School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin**

**([www.psychology.tcd.ie](http://www.psychology.tcd.ie))**

The School of Psychology has a strong identity nationally and internationally for excellence in research and teaching. The School offers a four-year BA degree in psychology to single honours students. It also offers a range of postgraduate taught programmes as well as research MSc and PhD degrees. It is the key participating school in the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience ([www.neuroscience.tcd.ie](http://www.neuroscience.tcd.ie)) and leads other TCD Research Centres including the Centre for Innovative Human Systems (<https://www.tcd.ie/cihs/>), the Centre for Global Health ([www.global-health.tcd.ie/](http://www.global-health.tcd.ie/)) and the Centre for Psychological Health ([www.tcd.ie/Psychology/CPH.php](http://www.tcd.ie/Psychology/CPH.php)).

The School currently has approximately 35 academic staff (30 full-time and 5 part-time), 20 postdoctoral research fellows. The School currently has approximately 50 postgraduate students studying for MSc or PhD degrees by research, 90 students following professional doctorates in Clinical and Counselling Psychology and 70 students following taught postgraduate courses. The taught postgraduate programmes include an MSc in Managing Risk and System Changer, MSc in Applied Psychology, MSc in Clinical Supervision, MSc in Applied Behaviour Analysis, MPhil in Psychoanalytic Studies, MSc Conversion Course in Psychology, and a Psychology Conversion Course

Members of the School have established its international research profile through publications in leading high-impact journals; presentations at major conferences; grants from agencies such as IRC, HRB, SFI, Enterprise Ireland, EU Commission, and Wellcome Trust. Members of the School maintain many research links with colleagues in universities elsewhere in Ireland as well as in Europe, America, Africa and Australia.

### **Trinity Centre for Global Health**

Founded in 2006, the TCGH is an interdisciplinary partnership between the Schools of Medicine and Psychology. We are committed to excellence in teaching and interdisciplinary research that engages with important conceptual and theoretical debates which shape our world including globalisation, liberalisation, feminism, human rights and equality.

Our teaching and scholarship is informed by extensive practical experience in a range of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern and Western Europe and we

have influenced policy for overseas development assistance at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Our understanding of the importance of context ensures that the socio-political, economic and historical drivers of health inequality are central to our understanding of health and health systems, specifically the incentives, relationships and contested nature of power between nations, groups and individuals that shape policy and practice for health.

Our teaching aims to broaden and deepen the knowledge base and skills of individuals who are currently working or aspire to work in managerial and planning positions in public health systems, NGOs, governments, donor and international health agencies.

### **Further Information for Applicants**

URL Link to Area	<a href="http://www.tcd.ie">www.tcd.ie</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**

Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 3 working days of submitting your application online, please contact Dr Hadfield prior to the closing date/time.

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. 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.

The interview will take place via telephone or video conferencing. 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 also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of a visa.

## **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>.

## Application Procedure

### Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae, including the names and contact details of 2 referees, to:

**Dr Kristin Hadfield**

[Kristin.Hadfield@tcd.ie](mailto:Kristin.Hadfield@tcd.ie)

