



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

**Postdoctoral Researcher in Health Psychology**  
**Health Behaviour Change Research Group**  
**School of Psychology**  
**National University of Ireland, Galway**  
**Ref. No. NUIG 10-14**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time 5 year fixed term position as a Postdoctoral Researcher with the Health Behaviour Change Research Group at the School of Psychology at the National University of Ireland, Galway. This position is funded by the HRB and is available from 1st May 2014 to project end date.

Dr Molly Byrne, Health Research Board Research Leader, is seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed postdoctoral researcher who will assist in leading a 5 year programme of research in designing and implementing behaviour change interventions in the areas of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and primary care.

**THE HEALTH BEHAVIOUR CHANGE RESEARCH GROUP**

The aim of Dr Byrne's HRB Research Leaders Award is to establish the Health Behaviour Change Research Group (HBCRG) at NUI Galway. This innovative research group will promote the routine application of Health Psychology into the development and evaluation of behavioural interventions within population health and health services research.

The objectives of the HBCRG are to:

- (1) Establish key health behavioural research priority areas in Ireland (focusing initially on diabetes, cardiovascular disease and primary care).
- (2) Synthesize findings from existing research in identified behavioural priorities, drawing out details of intervention component techniques and describing likely mechanisms by which effects are achieved.
- (3) Develop, pilot and evaluate complex behavioural interventions to address selected behavioural priorities, using evidence based behavioural theory.
- (4) Implement evidence-based guidelines into practice, through developing and applying a theoretical understanding of the processes involved in changing healthcare professionals' behaviour.
- (5) Develop and strengthen education programmes on behaviour change theory and intervention methodologies for doctoral and post doctoral researchers.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The postdoctoral researcher will take a leading role in all aspects of the research programme, working alongside Dr Byrne. The successful candidate will have some experience in conducting systematic literature reviews and developing and evaluating behavioural health interventions. S/He will contribute to writing applications to secure future funding for the HBCRG. S/He will be mentored by Dr Byrne and it is expected that the researcher will be a future research leader in this field. The researcher will be facilitated by Dr Byrne to establish local, national and international collaborations to ensure successful delivery of the key performance indicators of the funding award.

The postdoctoral researcher will join the School of Psychology at a time of significant growth and development of research personnel in the School. S/He will be based in office facilities in the new School of Psychology building in the centre of the NUI Galway campus.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To work with Dr Byrne to identify behavioural research priorities in the areas of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and primary care, in consultation with key stakeholders in each of the areas.
2. To conduct systematic reviews of behaviour change approaches to identified priority behavioural research areas.
3. To develop research protocols, set up and manage effective study procedures, liaise effectively with research collaborators and report on study progress.
4. To recruit study participants; to collect and analyse study data.
5. To prepare manuscripts for publication in high quality, peer-reviewed journals and for presentation at scientific conferences.
6. To assist with any other research-related tasks that may be agreed with the grant-holders.
7. To work closely with Dr Byrne to strategically develop the HBCRG, and identify and target future research funding opportunities.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Suitable candidates must meet the following criteria:

- PhD in Psychology (preferably Health Psychology)
- Some research experience in the area of health behaviour change intervention development or evaluation
- Evidence of publication in peer reviewed journals
- Evidence of the ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Evidence of excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly motivated, with excellent organisational skills

It is also desirable that candidates would have experience in some or all of the following areas

- Health Psychology
- Health Services Research
- Research in the areas of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and/or primary care
- Experience of conducting and publishing systematic reviews
- Experience of applying for research funding

The holder of the post will work under the direct supervision of Dr Molly Byrne, Principal Investigator of this project.

**Salary:** €43,643 fixed per annum (public sector pay policy rules pertaining to new entrants will apply)

**Start date:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 (or as soon as possible thereafter)

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)

Further informal enquiries concerning this position may be made by contacting 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 Microsoft Word or PDF format only) to Molly Byrne at [molly.byrne@nuigalway.ie](mailto:molly.byrne@nuigalway.ie). Please put **NUIG 10-14** in subject line of e-mail application.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00pm, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014.**

**Proposed date for interviews: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014.**

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

