



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Research Assistant – Engaged Research for Policy Impact (ERPI) Study
UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre & Institute for Lifecourse and Society
Ref. No. 011223

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a 0.6 FTE fixed-term position as a research assistant with [UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre](#) at the University of Galway, Ireland.

This position is funded by Research Ireland and is available from 1st October 2025 to contract end date of 30th June 2026.

The Engaged Research for Policy Impact (ERPI) Study is being carried out by researchers in University of Galway exploring the topic of researcher-policymaker interactions in Ireland, through the micro-level lens of the individual researcher. This is a two-year study, carried out by an interdisciplinary team of researchers and policymakers, has a particular focus on exploring how engaged research approaches impact academic-policy engagement, across different academic disciplines and researcher and civil servant career stages. Three work packages will guide the study: interviews with a diverse cross-section of researchers (WP1), a national survey of research-focused academics in all HEIs (WP2), and policy stakeholder consultations to refine and disseminate findings (WP3). The study is being carried out by researchers at the [UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre](#), based within the [Institute for Lifecourse and Society \(ILAS\)](#).

Salary: Research Assistant salary scale €32,962 - €42,943 per annum, (subject to the project's funding limitations), and pro rata for shorter and/or part-time contracts.

The default position for all new public sector appointments is the 1st point of the salary scale. This may be reviewed, and consideration afforded to appointment at a higher point on the payscale (subject to the project's funding limitations), where evidence of prior years' equivalent experience is accepted in determining placement on the scale above point 1, subject to the maximum of the scale.

[\(Research Salary Scales - University of Galway\)](#)

Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 17:00 (Irish Time) on Friday 15th August 2025. It will not be possible to consider applications received after the closing date.

***Please review full job description for further details and essential requirement**

JOB DESCRIPTION



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Job Description:

The successful candidate will be a research assistant on the project under the supervision of Dr Brendan Dolan (PI) and Professor Caroline McGregor (Academic Mentor). This project is a multi-disciplinary project funded by Research Ireland. The candidate will be employed as a research assistant and will have responsibility for supporting the overall tasks of the research project. In particular, the assistant will support administrative and technical aspects of a large-scale national survey of the HEI's research community (WP2), and analysis of survey results and interview data. The assistant will also complete relevant literature reviews, support the qualitative analysis process (including interview transcription), and contribute to writing of reports and publications from the project.

Duties:

- Actively participate as a member of a research team and assist the PI in the development, recruitment and advertising of a national survey to research-oriented academics across HEIs in Ireland
- Assist the PI and research team in the analysis of survey data
- Support the PI and research team in transcription and analysis of qualitative data
- Assist the PI and research team in the dissemination of the findings of the research
- Present information on research progress and outcomes to others responsible for the research project
- Carry out relevant literature reviews to inform the research project
- Write reports and summaries based on research findings
- Assist with publication outputs from the project
- Work under the direction of the Principal Investigator. Plan and manage own day-to-day research activity within this framework & direction.
- To perform other related duties incidental to the work described herein.
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this level of post

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Essential Requirements:

- Masters level qualification
- Experience of conducting quantitative research, including data collection, analysis and dissemination
- Ability to write reports and publications for specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Proven ability to work independently as part of a team
- Excellent data analysis and scientific/report writing skills, combined with excellent communication skills (written, oral, visual).

Desirable Requirements:

- Experience of qualitative research methods
- Data visualisation skills (e.g. with R, SPSS, Tableau etc)



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- Knowledge and or experience of engaged research methodologies (e.g. PPI, citizen science, living labs)
- Knowledge of and experience in science communication, research to policy translation, research-policy ecosystem in Ireland
- Specialist training in Quantitative research methods
- Experience in large-scale survey administration
- Experience in transcription of interview data
- Experience of working on social science research project(s) as part of multi-disciplinary teams

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at University of Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. University of Galway provides continuing professional development supports for all researchers seeking to build their own career pathways either within or beyond academia. Researchers are encouraged to engage with our Researcher Development Centre (RDC) upon commencing employment - see [HERE](#) for further information.

FURTHER INFORMATION/LINKS

- **TO APPLY:** [Search Current University of Galway vacancies](#). Applications must be submitted online.
 - [How to apply guide](#)
- For informal enquiries, please contact Dr Brendan Dolan, Postdoctoral Researcher and Principal Investigator, School of Political Science and Sociology. Email brendan.dolan@universityofgalway.ie
- [University's Strategic Plan](#)
- [Working in Research at University of Galway](#)
- [Moving to Ireland \(Euraxess\)](#)
- [Applicant Information](#)
- We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.
- University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.



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

