



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

## Senior Research Fellow - Evidence Synthesis Methodology Lead

### Centre for Health Research Methodology

#### School of Nursing & Midwifery

Ref. No. 011341

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time Specific Purpose position as a **Senior Research Fellow (Evidence Synthesis Methodology Lead)** in Evidence Synthesis based in the Centre for Health Research Methodology at the University of Galway, Ireland.

The position is available 1st Nov 2025 to 30th Nov 2030 (61 months)

#### Centre for Health Research Methodology

Located within the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) at University of Galway, the Centre for Health Research Methodology (CHRM) is renowned for its dynamism, innovation and contributions to the world of health research. With a keen focus on improving the design, conduct, reporting, and application of evidence synthesis and randomised trial findings, CHRM has positioned itself as a global leader in its domain.

In addition to championing improved research methodologies, the Centre actively engages in spearheading its own randomised trials and evidence syntheses. This hands-on approach ensures that the Centre stays at the cutting edge of advancements in healthcare research, continually pushing the boundaries of what's known and understood.

Housing three established/recognised research organisations, CHRM brings together the best of health research in Ireland:

1. **HRB-Trials Methodology Research Network (HRB-TMRN):** A collaborative initiative, the HRB-TMRN aims to improve the quality and impact of randomised trials. Through its network, it fosters enhanced methodologies, training, and collaboration in trials, laying the foundation for more robust and reliable clinical studies. Delve into its expansive network and contributions at [HRB-TMRN](#).
2. **Evidence Synthesis Ireland (ESI):** With a commitment to enhancing the quality and capacity of evidence synthesis on the island of Ireland, ESI provides invaluable resources, training, and expertise. Their focus lies in ensuring that health and social care decisions, both within and outside Ireland, are informed by high-quality, timely research evidence. Discover more about their transformative work at [Evidence Synthesis Ireland](#).
3. **Cochrane Ireland:** A pivotal part of the global Cochrane network, Cochrane Ireland dedicates itself to improving healthcare decision-making through high-quality, relevant, and up-to-date synthesised research evidence. Their endeavours ensure that healthcare policies and practices are grounded in reliable scientific evidence. Learn more about their mission and impact at [Cochrane Ireland](#).

In addition to hosting HRB-TMRN, ESI, and Cochrane Ireland, the Centre strongly focuses on a central pillar of an Informed Public. We believe an informed public is key to healthcare advancement and aim to demystify healthcare research through public engagement initiatives. Similarly, we strive to bridge the gap between research and practice, ensuring access to clear and accurate health information for well-informed health choices. In an era of rapid misinformation spread, fostering critical thinking is imperative. We equip individuals



with skills to critically evaluate health information through various resources and programmes. Example projects in these domains include [The People's Trial](#).

### **Job Description:**

This Senior Research Fellow position requires an established researcher who will play a leading role in planning, conducting, and delivering prioritised national and international evidence syntheses while building capacity in these activities. The role demands extensive experience and expertise in evidence synthesis methodology, coupled with proven leadership skills on an international level and an established research reputation.

The successful candidate will lead a substantial program of work within the Centre's synthesis pillar, taking responsibility for major synthesis research projects and their overall success. They will play a key role in developing research strategies within the Centre and must contribute significantly to securing research funding. The candidate will lead and co-supervise research teams, mentor junior researchers and PhD students, and contribute to the ESI training programme.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate an established track record of contributing substantively to securing significant research funding, have a proven ability to lead regional, national and international collaborative synthesis projects, and possess sufficient specialist knowledge to act as a research leader in evidence synthesis.

### **Duties**

#### **Research Leadership**

- Lead and manage a specific programme of research and scholarship in evidence synthesis, defining research objectives and conducting substantive, original and significant research
- Play a leading role in regional, national and international collaborative research projects, taking responsibility for creating and establishing research programmes
- Develop innovative methods and techniques in evidence synthesis that add to the intellectual understanding of the field
- Act as the driver of research projects and outputs, independently identifying research projects to be carried out individually or by teams
- Collaborate with international teams to plan and execute evidence syntheses, maintaining expertise in cutting-edge evidence synthesis methodology
- Lead evidence syntheses across diverse study designs and conduct primary synthesis methodology research

#### **Research Management**

- Take responsibility for managing and overseeing research projects and their overall success
- Lead research teams in conjunction with the PI(s) and contribute to the co-supervision of postgraduate and PhD students
- Organise and conduct meetings with research staff to clarify objectives, develop teamwork plans and communicate progress
- Participate in the selection of staff working on research projects
- Deal with contract negotiation and financial allocation with collaborators for research projects
- Contribute to the development of research strategies within the Centre/School/Research Unit
- Peer review manuscripts for publication and research bids



- Develop and implement quality assurance measures
- Play a leading role in external networks and professional organisations to identify funding sources and build collaborative relationships

#### Research Income Generation

- Make a significant contribution to College/School/Research Unit research income
- Secure research funding and execute research programmes as Principal Investigator
- Contribute to major research grant applications to support research projects
- Attract through reputation sources of income as appropriate
- Independently secure significant funding to conduct research projects

#### Dissemination

- Write up research work for publication in peer-reviewed academic publications of international standing
- Successfully communicate research internationally and contribute to developing an international research reputation
- Present research progress to stakeholders and at international conferences
- Document and publish research findings regularly in reputable peer-reviewed journals

#### Research Supervision, Teaching & Training

- Co-supervise graduate research students and serve as a member of supervision panels
- Mentor and assist students and early stage researchers in the group, School and Institute
- Coordinate and supervise the work of research staff
- Provide training, expert advice and assistance to new team members and research students
- Lead ESI Fellows and interact with postgraduate research students
- Help create networks of researchers and opportunities for junior researchers, advising on funding sources and overseeing career development
- Contribute to teaching/tutoring/mentoring (normally no more than 50 hours per annum)

#### Other Responsibilities

- Participate fully in the wider research and scholarly activities of the Centre
- Engage in promotional and networking activities and incorporate public involvement in reviews
- Contribute to developing research strategy within the unit
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this senior level post

#### **Qualifications/Skills Required**

##### Essential Requirements

##### *Academic & Experience Requirements:*

- PhD in a health science subject
- At least 10 years research experience in evidence synthesis
- An established reputation for the quality of research work in evidence synthesis
- Demonstrated extensive experience of initiating, designing and implementing research projects

##### *Research Leadership:*



- Evidence of leading multiple large-scale evidence syntheses for major international commissioners
- Proven ability to generate or contribute significantly to obtaining national and international competitive health research funding grants.
- Evidence of leading commissioned reviews from leading health policy organisations such as WHO, ECDC
- Proven track record of managing and overseeing research projects and taking responsibility for their overall success

*Publication & Dissemination:*

- Substantial portfolio of high-quality, peer-reviewed evidence synthesis publications
- Multiple published systematic reviews of healthcare interventions as lead or senior author
- Expertise in meta-analyses evidenced by published meta-analyses as lead or senior author
- Lead/senior authorship of published Cochrane reviews
- Evidence of international research reputation and contribution

*Team Leadership & Management:*

- Demonstrated experience managing, mentoring and developing junior team members
- Experience coordinating and supervising research staff
- Proven ability to lead large multidisciplinary teams
- Experience in project management including budget monitoring, resource allocation, and timeline management
- Ability to deliver complex projects involving multiple stakeholders

*Methodological Expertise:*

- Possess sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in evidence synthesis to act as a research leader
- Experience overseeing all aspects of the systematic review process from question formulation through to publication
- Thorough knowledge of research policies, practices and procedures relevant to evidence synthesis

*Communication & Collaboration:*

- Excellent communication skills with ability to present complex information to diverse audiences
- Experience in coordination, communication and liaison with large multidisciplinary teams
- Ability to build and maintain collaborative relationships with external partners
- Willingness to travel in Ireland, EU and potentially non-EU locations for stakeholder engagement

**Desirable Requirements**

- Experience in teaching evidence synthesis methods at postgraduate level
- Lead author or co-author of evidence synthesis methods papers
- Established international reputation in undertaking complex evidence synthesis
- Experience in developing and implementing capacity building programmes
- Track record of successful PhD student supervision/co-supervision
- Experience with commercial awareness, knowledge transfer, patents, or intellectual property rights
- Excellent IT skills including experience with RevMan, Microsoft Office, reference management software and literature databases



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**Salary:** Research Fellow salary scale €80,149- €86,014 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.

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

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 17:00 (Irish Time) on 24th September, 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.**

**Start date:** Position is available from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2025 or as soon thereafter.

**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.

For informal enquiries, please get in touch with Professor Declan Devane by emailing [declan.devane@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:declan.devane@universityofgalway.ie)

Further information on research and working at University of Galway is available on [Research at University of Galway](#)

For information on moving to Ireland please see [www.euraxess.ie](http://www.euraxess.ie)

Further information about {school/centre} is available at [College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences - University of Galway](#)

· **TO APPLY:** [Search Current University of Galway vacancies](#). Applications must be submitted online.

o [How to apply guide](#)

· For informal enquiries, please contact [declan.devane@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:declan.devane@universityofgalway.ie).

[University's Strategic Plan](#)

· [Working in Research at University of Galway](#)

· [Moving to Ireland \(Euraxess\)](#)



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



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS  
IRELAND



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Ireland



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Agency

Research and Development



Athena  
Swan  
Ireland



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