



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Senior Research Fellow - Evidence to Policy Lead

Centre for Health Research Methodology

School of Nursing & Midwifery

Ref. No. 011352

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time fixed-term position as a **Senior Research Fellow (Evidence to Policy Lead)** in Evidence-Informed Policymaking based in the Centre for Health Research Methodology at the University of Galway, Ireland. The post will focus on connecting decision-makers with timely, trustworthy and usable evidence through a rapid evidence service and knowledge-brokerage function.

The position is available 1st December 2025 to 30th Nov 2030 (60 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 strengthening the interface between evidence and health policy, conducting evidence support system assessments, and building capacity for evidence-informed policymaking. The role requires extensive experience and expertise in health policy research, evidence-to-policy translation, and mixed-methods research, coupled with proven leadership skills and experience working across the evidence-policy interface.

The successful candidate will lead the Centre's evidence-to-policy programme, including conducting rapid evidence support system assessments (RESSA) and developing strategies to strengthen the use of evidence in policymaking. They will work closely with policymakers, evidence producers, and intermediaries to identify gaps and opportunities in the evidence support system, and lead initiatives to improve evidence demand, supply, and interface mechanisms. The candidate will lead and co-supervise research teams, mentor junior researchers and PhD students, and contribute to the ESI training programme.

Duties

Research Leadership

- Lead and manage a programme of research on evidence-informed policymaking and evidence support systems
- Conduct evidence support system assessments using frameworks such as RESSA to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities
- Design and implement interventions to strengthen evidence-to-policy pathways and knowledge brokering mechanisms
- Lead mixed-methods research examining how evidence is requested, produced, and integrated into health policy
- Collaborate with government departments, agencies, and research organisations to strengthen evidence use
- Develop and evaluate strategies for improving evidence prioritisation, quality assurance, and transparency in policymaking

Research Management

- Take responsibility for managing evidence support system assessments and policy-relevant research projects
- Lead research teams conducting stakeholder interviews, document analyses, and mixed-methods evaluations
- Organise and facilitate workshops with policymakers, evidence producers, and intermediaries to identify evidence needs and gaps
- Participate in the selection of staff working on evidence-to-policy research projects
- Manage relationships with key stakeholders including Department of Health officials, agency representatives, and evidence producers
- Contribute to the development of evidence-to-policy strategies within the Centre/School/Research Unit
- Develop and implement quality assurance measures for policy-relevant research



- Build and maintain collaborative relationships with national and international evidence-to-policy networks

Research Income Generation

- Make a significant contribution to securing funding for evidence-to-policy research
- Secure research funding for evidence support system assessments and related initiatives as Principal Investigator
- Contribute to major research grant applications focused on strengthening evidence-informed policymaking
- Attract funding from government departments and agencies interested in improving evidence use
- Independently secure significant funding for research examining the evidence-policy interface

Dissemination

- Write up evidence support system assessments and policy research for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals
- Develop policy briefs and recommendations for improving evidence use in health policymaking
- Present research findings to policymakers, stakeholders, and at international conferences on evidence-informed policy
- Document and publish findings on evidence demand, supply, and interface mechanisms
- Create accessible outputs for diverse audiences including government officials, evidence producers, and civil society

Research Supervision, Teaching & Training

- Co-supervise graduate research students working on evidence-to-policy topics
- Mentor and assist students and early stage researchers in policy-relevant research methods
- Coordinate and supervise the work of research staff conducting stakeholder engagement and document analysis
- Provide training on evidence support system assessment methodologies and mixed-methods approaches
- Lead ESI Fellows working on evidence-to-policy initiatives
- Deliver workshops and training on evidence-informed policymaking to policy officials and researchers
- Contribute to teaching on evidence-to-policy topics (normally no more than 50 hours per annum)

Other Responsibilities

- Participate fully in the wider research and scholarly activities of the Centre
- Engage with policymakers to understand evidence needs and facilitate knowledge exchange
- Contribute to developing evidence-to-policy strategy within the unit
- Support the implementation of recommendations from evidence support system assessments
- Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders across the evidence ecosystem
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities in policy engagement
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this senior level post

Qualifications/Skills Required

Essential Requirements

Academic & Experience Requirements:

- PhD in public health, health policy, health services research, or related field



- At least 10 years of health research experience with demonstrated experience in evidence-to-policy work
- Proven track record in conducting policy-relevant research and engaging with policymakers
- Experience conducting evidence support system assessments or similar policy analysis work

Research Leadership:

- Evidence of leading research examining evidence use in policymaking, including document analysis and stakeholder engagement
- Experience in securing, or substantial contributions to securing, funding for policy-relevant research and evidence-to-policy initiatives
- Demonstrated experience working with government departments and health agencies on evidence initiatives
- Experience leading mixed-methods studies involving qualitative and quantitative approaches

Publication & Dissemination:

- Portfolio of peer-reviewed publications on evidence-informed policymaking, health policy analysis, or evidence support systems
- Lead authorship on reports or papers examining evidence-policy interface, including RESSA or similar assessments
- Experience conducting and publishing qualitative research on stakeholder perspectives
- Evidence of translating research findings into policy briefs and recommendations

Team Leadership & Management:

- Demonstrated experience managing, mentoring and developing junior team members
- 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:

- Expertise in mixed-methods research, including qualitative analysis and document review
- Understanding of different forms of research evidence and their application to policy
- Experience with evidence support system frameworks and knowledge brokering approaches

Communication & Collaboration:

- Excellent communication skills with the ability to present complex information to diverse audiences
- Ability to build and maintain collaborative relationships with external partners, including senior policy makers
- Willingness to travel in Ireland, EU and potentially non-EU locations for stakeholder engagement

Desirable Requirements

- Experience facilitating workshops or training on evidence-informed policymaking]
- Established networks with policymakers and evidence producers

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 6th October 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 1st Dec 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

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

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

To Apply:

TO APPLY:

[Search Current University of Galway vacancies](#). Applications must be submitted online.

[How to apply guide](#)

· For informal enquiries, please contact 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



Cochrane
Ireland



Public Health
Agency

Research and Development



Athena
Swan
Ireland

