

Multiple Sclerosis Patient Representative- Research Assistant

School of Health Sciences, College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

NUI Galway

Ref. No. NUIG-079-19

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a part-time, fixed term position (20% FTE) as a Patient Representative Research Assistant with the Discipline of Occupational Therapy at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

This position is funded by Health Research Board and is available from July 1st 2019. This is a specific purpose contract circa 30 months.

Information on project:

The post is an exciting opportunity to be part of a research study of a cognitive rehabilitation intervention for people living with multiple sclerosis. Some people with multiple sclerosis have cognitive symptoms (e.g. difficulty with memory, processing information, attention) that impact their daily lives. The lead researcher has developed a new occupational therapy programme for people with multiple sclerosis that aims to help people deal with these symptoms. The programme will be assessed in this study.

Job Description:

The purpose of this post is to support a research study funded by a grant from the Health Research Board (HRB) and based in the School of Health Sciences in NUI Galway.

We are seeing to appoint a part-time, fixed term, patient representative research assistant with experience from a patient perspective for the duration of the trial (30 months). The research assistant will report to the principal investigator (PI) on the trial, Dr Sinéad Hynes, and/or the postdoctoral researcher on the trial.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) is critical to the development of our research and the success of the trial. The post-holder will provide the perspective of the patient on all relevant parts of the research study with an emphasis on aspects important to MS. This role would suit someone with experience of engaging in health services and who has some understanding of the needs of people with multiple sclerosis. The research assistant will be responsible for PPI activities in the project but will be supported with this. The post-holder will work with the team to advise on and help to ensure that the objectives of the research study are met.

Duties:

- To organise PPI activities for the research study – e.g. (co)chairing meetings with public in order to gain perspectives of people with multiple sclerosis on the programme.
- To assist with recruitment of participants to the study with help from other team members.
- To help organise information events for the public on the research study.
- To ensure confidentiality and data protection procedures are followed.
- To assist research team in producing a written Newsletter for participants and updating on appropriate social media platforms.
- To attend research team meetings and work collaboratively with rest of research team.
- To ensure the integrity of the trial is maintained by following the protocols set.
- To undertake any other duties appropriate to the grade and nature of the post.

There will be opportunities to contribute to research papers, conference presentations, national team meetings and career development activities.

Qualifications/Skills required:

Essential Requirements:

- Applicants should have a minimum Leaving Certificate (or equivalent) NFQ Level 5.
- Can demonstrate the ability to communicate competently in written and verbal English.
- Can work well as a member of a team.
- Excellent organisational and time management skills.
- Demonstrate good listening skills and the ability to deal with people in a courteous, professional and helpful manner.
- Ability to reflect on and communicate a broad public and patient perspective in relation to multiple sclerosis.
- Experience of using IT Microsoft office suite including Excel and Word.
- Experience as a patient in a healthcare setting.

Desirable Requirements:

- Degree (NFQ Level 7) or equivalent qualification and/or experience.
- Have direct or indirect experience of multiple sclerosis.
- Experience in handling confidential and sensitive data and commitment to Data Protection.
- Have a flexible and co-operative approach to work and working with colleagues.
- Self-motivated, with a strong work ethic.
- Experience in editing, writing and journalism.

Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post.

Salary: €23,543 - €24,106 pro rata per annum (20% FTE)

Start date: Position is available from July 1st 2019

Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at NUI Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans.

Further information on research and working at NUI Galway is available on [Research at NUI Galway](#)
Further information about research at the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences is available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/medicine-nursing-and-health-sciences/>

Informal enquiries concerning the post may be made to Dr Sinéad Hynes at sinead.hynes@nuigalway.ie

NB: Garda vetting is a requirement for this post.

To Apply:

Applications to include a covering letter, CV, and the contact details of two referees should be sent, via e-mail (in word or PDF only) to Dr Sinéad Hynes at sinead.hynes@nuigalway.ie

Please put reference number **NUIG-079-19** in subject line of e-mail application.

Or by post to Dr Sinéad Hynes, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, School of Health Sciences, Áras Moyola, NUI Galway.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm Friday 31st May 2019

Interviews are planned to be held on 11th June 2019

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

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