

Vacancy: Postdoctoral Researcher – MINDUP Project

Applications are invited for the post of Postdoctoral Researcher at the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF), to work on the MINDUP Project.

The NSRF is a research unit, founded in 1994, the mission of which is to provide a nationally and internationally recognised body of reliable knowledge from a multidisciplinary perspective on the risk and protective factors associated with suicidal behaviour, with the aim of providing a solid evidence base for policy development and intervention in the prevention of self-harm, suicide and related mental health and social problems.

The NSRF consists of a research team drawn from a broad range of disciplines, including epidemiology, psychology, psychiatry, public health, applied social studies and biostatistics. The NSRF is linked with the School of Public Health at University College Cork (UCC) and is located in the Western Gateway Building as part of the National Health Services Research Institute. The NSRF employs 35 people and has an average turnover of €1.4 million annually.

Position summary

This post provides an exciting opportunity to join the new international MINDUP project. The MINDUP interdisciplinary consortium will develop, implement and evaluate interventions to improve mental health and to reduce depression and suicide among staff of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). The successful candidate will work with a team of multi-disciplinary researchers and international partners in Europe and Australia, on work packages which will pilot and evaluate the developed interventions. The successful candidate will be based in the NSRF and will report to Dr Paul Corcoran and Dr Eve Griffin.

Project background

MINDUP is a four-year project, which has commenced in January 2020 and funded by the EU-Horizon 2020 programme: Mental Health in the Workplace. It is led by UCC in conjunction with the NSRF and involves 15 additional partners in Europe and Australia. The project encompasses a wide range of disciplines, aimed at developing an intervention programme that can be successfully implemented by SMEs, targeting construction, healthcare and ICT sectors in particular. The intervention consists of three components: (1) addressing non-clinical symptoms, (2) addressing clinical disorders and (3) destigmatising mental health issues in SMEs. The intervention will be implemented in at least 48 companies in eight different countries and evaluated using a cluster randomised controlled trial (cRCT).

Role description

The successful candidate will work primarily on two work packages of the MINDUP Project, specifically the pilot implementation (WP7) and evaluation and monitoring of the MINDUP intervention (WP8). This role will include collaboration with staff from the School of Public Health, UCC, the LUCAS Research Centre at KU Leuven, the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP) and Mates in Construction (MIC), Australia.

The primary duties and responsibilities will be to:

- Prepare ethical approval applications for the MINDUP interventions in Ireland.
- Co-ordinate the 6-month pilot implementation of the MINDUP intervention in the construction sector in Ireland.
- Oversee the implementation and recruitment of participating SMEs in pilot intervention sites internationally.

- Generate implementation material including protocols, standard operating procedure manuals and participant information sheets.
- Use pilot data to evaluate the intervention and inform the feasibility of the full cluster randomised controlled trial (cRCT).
- In collaboration with KU Leuven, develop a standard method to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the MINDUP intervention.
- Contribute to analysis of data collected during the cRCT and formulate recommendations to further improve the MINDUP intervention and its implementation.
- Contribute to and prepare evidence briefs and interim and final reports.
- Contribute to peer-review publications.
- Perform other relevant duties as they arise.

Essential Skills/Criteria:

- A PhD qualification in a relevant discipline (e.g. public health, occupational health, epidemiology, psychology, psychiatry)
- Experience in quantitative data analysis.
- Proficiency in using statistical software such as Stata and SPSS, including experience of working with syntax files.
- Ability to report and disseminate findings in a wide range of formats.
- A publication record, including peer-reviewed publications.
- Strong analytical and reporting skills.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Familiarity of working as part of a team, with strong organisational skills to support a team in working to deadlines.
- Capacity to work on one's own initiative and to multi-task.
- Ability to travel to European partners.

Desirable:

- Experience in mental health/ health research.
- Experience of randomised controlled trial methodologies.
- Experience in evaluating implementation processes and outcomes.
- Experience of working in a health or mental health research setting.
- Experience of working in international teams.

Post Duration: Full time for 42 months (from July 2020)

Salary: €38,063 p.a. (IUA Salary Scale, post-doctoral researcher, point 1)

For informal enquiries on the post, candidates should contact: Dr Paul Corcoran, pcorcoran@ucc.ie

To Apply:

Applicants are requested to send a cover letter detailing relevant experience, skills and motivation for applying together with their curriculum vitae, including the names of two referees to Eileen Hegarty, by e-mail at eileen.hegarty@ucc.ie

Closing date for applications is Friday 28th February 2020.

Shortlisting will apply and suitable candidates will be notified by e-mail of interview date and time as applicable.

The National Suicide Research Foundation is an equal opportunities employer.



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