

Summer Research Internship (Six weeks; 3 posts available)

1. Summary of positions

We are seeking three dedicated and enthusiastic students to join our research team for six weeks between July-August 2026.

About the internships

This is an excellent opportunity to get hands-on experience of working with a research team and to develop your professional and research skills. Students must, at the time of the post, be enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate degree programme in fields such as medicine, psychology, epidemiology, biostatistics, sociology, social science, applied social studies, public health and health services research.

The successful candidates will complete a structured programme of work which will contribute to the development of essential transferrable research skills. The aims of the internship are to develop the successful candidates' research skills, broaden their ethical and social understanding skills, enhance their personal effectiveness skills, build on their team-working and leadership skills and practice demonstrating their communication skills through a body of work related to the research area of suicide prevention.

Interns will be provided with training and supervision in key areas such as data collection and analysis, ethics awareness, data protection and report writing.

About the NSRF

The National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) is a research organisation, founded in 1994, that produces research and evidence for policy development and intervention in the prevention of self-harm, suicide and related mental health and social problems. The NSRF has been designated as a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre in Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention. The NSRF's vision is to support the reduction of suicide and self-harm in Ireland and globally, through impactful research, outlined in our current Strategic Plan – Leading Research, Shaping Change.

The NSRF employs approximately 50 staff and have an annual turnover of approximately €1.8m.

More information about the organisation can be found here: www.nsrff.ie.

2. Key duties and responsibilities

The main duties that the interns will be expected to carry out are:

- Gain practical research experience and working as part of a research team.

- Provide research, writing and editing support on outputs related to the project.
- Provide administrative assistance during internal meetings (taking minutes, circulating meeting invitations etc.).
- Other relevant tasks as deemed necessary by the supervisor.

The interns will contribute to one of two ongoing projects:

1. Social media use and suicide prevention (1 role)

The successful candidate will support a youth consultation on suicide prevention online safety priority areas for young people. This will include providing administrative, writing and editing support on data collection and outputs related to the project.

2. Chronic pain (2 roles)

There are two internship opportunities to contribute to a project on the links between medication used for chronic pain and risk of self-harm and suicide. This project is being undertaken in conjunction with University of Galway. One intern will be hosted in the School of Psychology, University of Galway (under supervision of Professor Brian McGuire) and one intern will be hosted in the NSRF. Both interns will undertake analysis of quantitative and mixed methods data from the NSRF and contribute to outputs related to the project. There will be regular contact between the interns in both locations.

Competencies

It is expected that successful candidates will have the following competencies:

3. Criteria for position

Technical/Functional Competencies:

- Excellent writing skills
- Excellent analytical aptitude and applied knowledge of statistical techniques
- Strong verbal communication skills
- Ability to manage workload with minimum supervision
- Collaborate with a wide range of colleagues while meeting deadlines.
- Being pro-active and take initiative
- Excellent interpersonal skills: being able to listen and collaborate with a wide range of players.
- Be able to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Computer proficiency: MS Office and statistical software such as SPSS.

Personal Competencies:

- Commitment to NSRF's mission, vision and values.
- Sensitivity to the topic of mental health, self-harm and suicide.
- Highest standards of integrity, discretion and loyalty.

4. Details of post, duration and salary

Terms and application process

This will be a full-time position (37.5 hours per week, Monday-Friday). The appointment will be for a fixed term. The total stipend for this position will be €2,400 for the six-week period.

Location

The National Suicide Research Foundation offices are based in Western Gateway Building, University College Cork.

One internship is based in the School of Psychology at University of Galway.

There is a possibility for blended working with these roles, with a requirement to be present in the office at least two days per week.

5. Application Process

For informal enquiries, please contact:

- Mr Niall McTernan, Research and Operations Manager, NSRF (niall.mcternan@ucc.ie).
- Prof. Brian McGuire, School of Psychology, University of Galway (brian.mcguire@universityofgalway.ie)

To apply for this position:

Please submit a CV and cover letter to (niall.mcternan@ucc.ie). In your cover letter please specify what project you are particularly interested in being considered for. For the internship on chronic pain, please specify the location you are interested in.

Closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Tuesday May 12th, 2026

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

The National Suicide Research Foundation is an equal opportunities employer.

Directors: M Kelleher J McCarthy B McGale M O'Callaghan J O'Brien K Galway D Flynn E Kelleher

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