Postdoctoral Researcher

**Innovations in Youth Mentoring Practice**

**UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre NUI Galway**

**Ref. No. NUIG RES 187-22**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a 12 month Postdoctoral Researcher (.6fte Post) with the UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

This position is funded by Foróige and is available from 03 October 2022 to the contract end date of September 30th 2023.

Youth mentoring can be understood as a caring, trusting, and supportive relationship between a young person and a non-parental figure who provides guidance, support, and encouragement to the mentee. Evaluations of youth mentoring programmes have found positive gains for mentees in terms of social and emotional well-being, cognitive development, academic achievement and identity development (Rhodes et al., 2006; Spencer, 2012). In an Irish context, Foróige’s Big Brothers Big Sisters programme has been providing youth mentoring since 2001. The UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre has conducted a significant body of research in relation to youth mentoring. <https://www.foroige.ie/our-work/big-brother-big-sister/about-big-brother-big-sister-bbbs/bbbs-impact>

In recent years, Foróige’s Big Brothers Big Sisters programme has developed a number of innovations, including youth initiated mentoring. The UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre has been commissioned by Foróige to undertake research into these youth mentoring innnovations. The Post-Doctoral researcher will be required to lead on small-scale evaluations of these initiatives.

Information on the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre can be found here: <https://www.nuigalway.ie/cfrc/home/>

**Duties:**

The post holder will:

* Undertake a literature review and further develop the theoretical framework for the project.
* In collaboration with the PI, develop an appropriate design and methodology for the studies.
* Apply to NUI Galway Research Ethics Committee for ethical approval
* Plan, co-ordinate and implement qualitative and quantitative fieldwork with project workers, young people, volunteers and other stakeholders.
* Undertake qualitative and quantitative data analysis and writing for academic publication.
* Present on research progress and outcomes e.g. conferences, steering groups; to other team members.
* Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research, including journal articles and accessible summaries.
* Uphold ethical and legal requirements, including data protection and confidentiality.
* Complete the administrative work to support the programme of research.
* Carry out any additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

**Essential Requirements:**

* PhD in sociology, education, or a related discipline – completed or close to completion.
* Experience and skills in both qualitative and quantitative research.
* Capable of independent research at postdoctoral level.
* Demonstrated ability to manage a research project of this nature and scope.
* Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
* Ability to work to deadlines, especially in the collaborative production of research deliverables.
* Excellent writing and presentation skills
* Demonstrate awareness of the research environment and stakeholder groups.

**Desirable Requirements:**

* Publication for peer-review
* Experience in youth work and / or education settings
* Experience of and ability to work as part of a team.

**Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post**

**Salary**: €39,523-€45,609 per annum pro rata for shorter and/or part-time contracts (public sector pay policy rules pertaining to new entrants will apply).

**Start date**: The position is available from 03.10.2022

**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](http://www.nuigalway.ie/our-research/)

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

Further information about NUI Galway is available at www.nuigalway.ie.

**NB**: Gárda vetting is a requirement for this post (as appropriate to Child Protection Policy)

**To Apply:**

Applications to include a covering letter, CV, and the contact details of three referees should be sent, via e-mail (in word or PDF only) to cfrc@nuigalway.ie

Please put reference number **NUIG RES 187-22** in subject line of the e-mail application.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm on 5th September 2022**

We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.

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

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

'NUI 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 [www.nuigalway.ie/rdc](http://www.nuigalway.ie/rdc) for further information.'

