

## Post Specification

<b>Post Title:</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b> in applied dementia research, with special interest in Lewy body dementias
<b>Post Status:</b>	Specific Purpose Contract – Full-time (part time negotiable)
<b>Research Group / Department / School:</b>	EMERALD-Lewy research group, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
<b>Location:</b>	St James’s Hospital, Dublin 8, Ireland; and Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
<b>Reports to:</b>	Prof. Iracema Leroi (EMERALD-Lewy Principal Investigator) Prof. Roman Romero-Ortuno (TCD) Dr Joseph Kane (Queens Univ Belfast) Dr Emma O’Shea (University College Cork)
<b>Salary:</b>	Appointment will be made on the IUA scale at approximately Level 1 (commensurate with experience) at a point in line with Government Pay Policy
<b>Hours of Work:</b>	Full time - 37 hours Start ASAP Part time contract negotiable
<b>Closing Date:</b>	<b>12 Noon (GMT), June 15 2024</b> <b>*Please note – we reserve the right to close the competition earlier than the deadline if a suitable candidate is found</b>

Please note that Garda vetting will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

## Post Summary

A Research Assistant is required to conduct and assist research at Trinity College Dublin on a new research programme called **EMERALD-Lewy: Improving the diagnosis, management, and lived experience of overlooked dementias in Ireland**. This research programme is funded by **Health Research Board (HRB)** under the **Applied Programme Grants (APRO) 2023**, awarded to Principal Investigator **Prof. Iracema Leroi** (<https://people.tcd.ie/Profile?Username=leroi>).

The grant runs from November 2023 for 48 months. The Research Assistant will assist the PI and the rest of the research team to deliver the entire project, with a focus on Work Package 3 and 4 of this grant, which (1) seeks to develop a longitudinal observational cohort of people with Lewy body dementia in Ireland, and (2) to scope peer support approaches for LBD. The post will start as soon as possible in 2024, for a maximum period of a year in the first instance subject to availability of research funds and performance of the post holder. This post would be ideal for a MSC level researcher with experience in applied clinical dementia research or applied clinical research with older adults or vulnerable populations.

Lewy body dementias (LBD, including Parkinson's dementia and Lewy body dementia) account for >20% of the nearly 65,000 people with dementia in Ireland. LBD is 'the most common form of dementia no-one has heard about'. Fewer than 5% of those affected receive a formal diagnosis. LBD is characterised by cognitive-behavioural and physical changes which significantly impact quality of life and care burden. Knowledge, awareness and support in Ireland for LBD is minimal. Compared to Alzheimer's, care is more complex, prognosis worse and healthcare costs significantly higher.

### **The overall aims of EMERALD-Lewy are:**

- (1) address gaps in 'diagnosing well' in Ireland by improving the rate and quality of diagnosis and management of LBD.
- (2) support 'living well' with LBD by better understanding quality of life, daily lived experiences and peer support.
- (3) shape policy and practice, and co-design with PPI to improve quality of life by 'participating and translating knowledge well'.

The successful candidate will join a vibrant team of interdisciplinary researchers and concentrate on the delivery of Work Packages as well as supporting the delivery of the entire research program. WP 3 will involve **recruitment and clinical assessment of people with LBD to develop a longitudinal cohort**. This may involve occasional travel to Belfast to support people being recruited there. Tasks will include liaising with recruitment sites, assessing participants (cognitive and neuropsychiatric batteries), coordinating visits, data management, and other tasks related to ensuring a successful output. The post holder will work closely with a medical fellow with special interest in LBD linked to the Falls and Syncope Unit (FASU) in St James Hospital.

The post holder will also support the **scoping and development of peer support approaches for LBD** and other dementias with a view to implementing peer support according to best practice for people with LBD in Ireland. This may involve trips to Cork for supervision by Dr O'Shea. Other tasks related to other WPs will also be required, including keeping the program on time and to target regarding deliverables and milestones.

## **Post Summary**

The post holder will be part of a multidisciplinary research team, based at St James' Hospital in Dublin, working on studies examining cognitive disorders. Current research focuses on Alzheimer's and other dementias, mild cognitive impairment, and healthy volunteers. Our studies use different methods including implementation science, qualitative methods, clinical trials and neuropsychological assessment to assess healthy volunteers, carers and patients.

The team's current study portfolio is a combination of investigator-led (i.e. [www.sense-cog.eu](http://www.sense-cog.eu)) and industry-sponsored studies supported by HRB-CTN Dementia Trials Ireland ([www.dementiatrials.ie](http://www.dementiatrials.ie)).

The post holder will interface with the clinical team at St James' Hospital's Memory Clinic, the existing research team, as well as members of the Clinical Research Facility (CRF) at St James' Hospital, who will be supporting the trials. They may be required to visit Queen's University Belfast to assist visits there.

## **Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post**

- Under the PI and Research Fellow's supervision, support all aspects of the project, including protocol development, amendments and publication, ethics and other approvals, and overall study conduct and governance, ensuring the project is delivered on time and to target
- Support clinical recruitment, manage participant booking and visit scheduling, obtain informed consent from participants, conduct clinical assessments and collect clinical research data.
- Lead the setup of the data management process, maintain data integrity, prepare data for statistical analyses ensuring its reliability and usability in a variety of computer programmes.
- Be prepared to travel to clinical sites across Ireland to support recruitment and dissemination.
- Support the presentation of findings to interdisciplinary audiences at seminars and conferences.
- Contribute to the organisation and running of PPI events.
- Support and work co-operatively with other members within the project and the wider team.
- Support the generation of internationally peer-reviewed publications in high-impact scientific journals.

## **Funding Information**

This post is funded by a HRB Award titled 'EMERALD-Lewy: Improving the diagnosis, management, and lived experience of overlooked dementias in Ireland', awarded to Principal Investigator Prof. Iracema Leroi.

## **Person Specification**

### **Qualifications**

#### **Essential**

- MSC in psychology, nursing, psychiatry, economics or related applied health sciences research discipline, or equivalence in experience

### **Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)**

#### **Essential**

- Experience leading research teams to deliver projects on time and to target
- Good communication, writing, verbal, and organisational skills.
- Ability to work independently and effectively as a member of a team.
- Ability to communicate clearly with researchers from other research disciplines.
- Evidence of scholastic achievements.
- Conscientiousness
- Supportive team member
- Willingness to travel, if needed
- Ability to engage with wider stakeholders within the health and social care ecosystem

### **Desirable**

- Clinical research experience or applied research experience in Geriatric Medicine, Neurology, Psychiatry, Internal Medicine, psychology or related discipline.
- Willingness to learn new methods and to obtain the required knowledge to successfully complete a doctoral thesis in Trinity College Dublin, if the opportunity arises.

### **Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)**

#### Essential:

- Previous experience in work in the health sciences field
- Knowledge of project management
- Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for research conduct (training can be obtained)
- Experience working with older adults, particularly those with dementia (or similar conditions) or other potentially vulnerable groups of people
- Evidence of formulating, planning and carrying out a research project
- Leadership ability

#### Desirable:

- Understanding of project management techniques
- Research study portfolio management and development
- Research grant proposal writing experience

### **Skills & Competencies**

- Excellent computer and data management skills
- Willingness to travel if needed
- Understanding of data capture mechanisms (i.e. using REDCAP) and data protection issues
- Understanding of the research ethics principles and processes
- Writing proficiency and manuscript preparation
- Self-motivated with the ability to work both as part of a multi-disciplinary team and able to take the initiative when working alone
- Ability to guide and support other members of staff; effective team working
- Evidence of continuing professional development
- Excellent organisational skills and ability to prioritise work and meet deadlines
- Able to establish appropriate documentation and record keeping

- Good presentation skills and ability to prepare and present reports
- Assertive, confident and emotionally resilient
- Personal commitment, enthusiasm, professional attitude and positive role model

### **Application Procedure**

Applicants should submit:

- A cover letter explaining why this position interests you and what you will bring to it
- Your curriculum vitae (maximum two A4 pages)
- Your transcript or grades (from MSc/BSc/BA/PHD)
- The names of three references with email addresses and phone numbers

### **Application Procedure**

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to: Prof. Iracema Leroi [leroi@tcd.ie](mailto:leroi@tcd.ie) AND [JP Connelly connelj1@tcd.ie](mailto:JP.Connelly.connelj1@tcd.ie)

\*\*please label email as '*EMERALD Lewy Research Assistant*'

### **Further Information for Applicants**

URL Link to Area	<a href="http://www.tcd.ie">www.tcd.ie</a>
URL Link to Human Resources	<a href="https://www.tcd.ie/hr/">https://www.tcd.ie/hr/</a>
URL Link to MISA	<a href="http://www.misa.ie">www.misa.ie</a>

## **GARDA CLEARANCE:**

Police vetting will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants will be required to complete and return a Garda vetting form should they come under consideration for appointment. In some cases they may be requested to complete the form on the day of interview. This form will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána (Irish Police) for security checks on all Irish addresses at which they have resided. An Garda Síochána will make enquiries with the Police Service of Northern Ireland with respect to addresses in Northern Ireland. If an applicant is not successful in obtaining the post for whatever reason, this information will be destroyed. If an applicant, therefore, subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

While applicants must complete information in relation to all addresses at which they have resided, the vetting is only done on addresses on the island of Ireland.

If an applicant has resided / studied in countries outside of Ireland for a period of 6 months or more, it is mandatory for them to furnish a Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate from those countries stating that they have no convictions recorded against them while residing there. Applicants will need to provide a separate Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate for each country in which they have resided. The Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate must be dated after the date the applicant left the relevant country. Applicants should provide documentation in the English and/or Irish language. Translations must be provided by a registered translation company/institute in the Republic of Ireland; all costs will be borne by the applicant. Only original version documents will be accepted.

Applicants should be aware that any information obtained in the Garda Vetting process can be made available to the employing area.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to seek security clearances in a timely fashion as they can take some time. No applicant will be appointed without this information being provided and being in order.

The following websites may be of assistance in this regard:

[www.disclosurescotland.co.uk](http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk)

[www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

This website provides information on obtaining a national police clearance certificate for Australia

[www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au)

This website provides information on obtaining police clearance in New Zealand.

[www.courts.govt.nz](http://www.courts.govt.nz)

For other countries not listed above applicants may find it helpful to contact the relevant embassies who could provide information on seeking Police Clearance. Original Police Clearance documentation

should be forwarded to Human Resources where it will be copied and the original returned to the applicant by post. **Any cost incurred in this process will be borne by the Applicant.**

### **Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin**

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world.

Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.

With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

### **Rankings**

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world on 6 subjects and in the top 100 in 20 subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019). Full details are available at: [www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings](http://www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings).

### **The Selection Process in Trinity**

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/>. Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.



## Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

## Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

## Application Procedure

### Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to:

Mr JP Connelly [connelj1@tcd.ie](mailto:connelj1@tcd.ie)

And Prof. Iracema Leroi [leroi@tcd.ie](mailto:leroi@tcd.ie) and [conne](mailto:conne)

\*\*please label email as '*EMERALD Lewy RA post*'



**UNIVERSITY  
VACANCIES IRELAND**  
universityvacancies.com

