

Job Description

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| Job Title: | Postdoctoral Researcher – Farming Minds Project | Vacancy: | 31924 |
| Department: | Health and Sport Sciences | Location: | Carlow Campus |
| Funding: | Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine | Duration: | 2 Years |
| Reporting to: | Head of National Centre for Men’s Health | Date of Issue: | February 2024 |

Overall role and context:

‘Farming Minds’ is a collaboration between Agricultural Science and Psychology at University College Dublin, ‘UCD Agri Mental Health Group’ interdisciplinary team, and the National Centre for Men’s Health at South East Technological University. Recent research by researchers across both Universities has highlighted the importance of tailored, culturally sensitive mental health and suicide awareness initiatives for the farming community and that farmers prefer experiential, group-based interventions delivered by facilitators who are familiar with the nature of farming. ‘Farming Minds’ aims to develop and test the feasibility and effectiveness of a scalable psychological intervention targeted at addressing key aspects of farmers’ mental health in terms of prevention and early intervention. In collaboration with and building on the existing framework of ‘On Feirm Ground’ with farmer health, we aim to develop evidence-based interventions that go beyond signposting to support the development of key psychological skills among farmers.

The postdoctoral researcher at SETU will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that the ‘Farming Minds’ programme is carefully aligned with and embedded in the future development of ‘On Feirm Ground’.
- Supporting the preparation and submission of an ethics application to UCD’s Human Research Ethics Committee.
- Contributing to the development of an evidence-based and culturally sensitive mental health programme for farmers.
- Supporting the testing of the programme for feasibility and efficacy.
- Aiding the design and roll-out of a Randomised Controlled Trial to test the impact of the programme on farmers.
- Presenting research findings at national and international conferences and supporting Knowledge Transfer activities that inform policy and practice.
- Assisting with the development of a website of resources that can be used by advisors to support delivery of the programme.

Principal duties and responsibilities:

The primary focus of the Postdoctoral Researcher will be to conduct a specified programme of research under the supervision and direction of Head of National Centre for Men’s Health (SETU). Additional duties and responsibilities that are envisaged during the project duration include:

- To engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities as required by the Principal Investigator or College in order to develop research skills and competencies.
- To communicate with National / International Industrial, Academic Collaborators as well as the funding agency, as directed by, with the support of and under the supervision of a Principal Investigator.
- To engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of the research group.
- To carry out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope of the project.

- To contribute to costing research grant proposals, proposal preparation and assist in project financial management
- To interact closely with and have a supporting role with postgraduate research students in their day-to-day research.

| Person specification – Qualifications, Knowledge, Experience & Skills: | | Essential | Desirable |
|---|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Level 10 qualification in a relevant discipline (Health, Social Science, Science, Humanities, Agricultural Extension, Rural Development) • A track record of publishing in international peer-reviewed publications • Ability to work independently and as a part of large team • Excellent analytical, interpersonal, team working and management skills • Research experience in qualitative research methods • Research experience in quantitative research methods, statistical analysis, and project evaluation • Knowledge / experience in design and/or delivery of training | <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> | |
| Hours of Work: | The appointee will be required to work 35 hours per week together with such additional hours as may be required from time to time for the proper discharge of their duties. | | |
| Salary: | IUA Postdoctoral Researcher Salary Scale €42,033 - €48,427 | | |
| Annual Leave: | Annual Leave will be in accordance with arrangements authorised by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science from time to time. | | |