



Job Description

College	Health & Agricultural Sciences
School	Medicine
Post Title	Research Fellow
Project	PREPARE
Post Duration	27 months
Reports to	Prof Alistair Nichol
HR Reference No.	009013
HR Administrator	Sinead Gillen

Position Summary

Platform for European Preparedness against (Re-) emerging Epidemics

The global health threat posed by infections with epidemic potential grows ever greater. Europe has amongst the best healthcare systems in the world. Yet, despite years of global preparations for a potentially devastating influenza pandemic or the next SARS-like outbreak our clinical research response to severe infectious disease outbreaks is delayed isolated and fragmented. Recent epidemics have shown that important pathogenesis and clinical management data mostly came from sites that were already undertaking related clinical studies or from established national or regional research networks. As a result, clinical research in response to severe infectious disease outbreaks has relatively little to no impact on improving patient outcomes and developing high-quality evidence to inform clinical management strategies.

Covering over 600 primary care sites and over 600 hospital sites in 27 European countries and harbouring EU's leading academic research groups on infectious diseases, PREPARE will transform Europe's research response to future severe epidemics or pandemics. By establishing a common European clinical research infrastructure PREPARE will be a one-stop shop for policy-makers, public health agencies, regulators and funders of research into pathogens with pandemic potential. It will achieve this by implementing 'inter-epidemic' research programmes covering large scale observational, interventional and adaptive clinical studies in adults and children, patient-oriented studies into the pathogenesis of infectious diseases and development of novel near-patient diagnostics.

An important supporting effort of these 'peace time' studies will be the development and testing of pre-emptive solutions to ethical, administrative, regulatory, logistical and clinical bottlenecks that prevent rapid clinical research responses in the face of new threats. This project based in UCD will conduct empiric research to map these bottlenecks and to assist in the development of solutions

The purpose of the role is to deliver an ethics, regulatory and administrative hurdle assessment in PREPARE. The role allows the Research Fellow the professional development opportunity to demonstrate the capacity for independent and self-directed research and scholarship and the management of a research team. The role allows the Fellow to assemble a portfolio of independent achievement and render themselves competitive for tenured academic positions or senior scientific roles in industry.

In addition to the Principal Duties and Responsibilities listed below, the successful candidate will also carry out the following duties specific to this project:

- Co-ordinate the day to day management of the EARL aspect of PREPARE
- In partnership with the Principal Investigator, conduct empiric research to assist and meet the PREPARE EARLS goals
- Assist with supervision of a PhD student
- Prepare reports to the PREPARE consortium and to the European Commission

- Write research grants, reports and publications relevant to the project.
- Assist with a European wide mapping project
- Conduct focus groups etc.

Salary: €46,544 - €61,935 per annum

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- Manage and conduct a specific programme of research and scholarship as part of the research programme described above.
- Disseminate the outcomes of this research and scholarship including peer-reviewed academic publications of international standing.
- Take a leading role in the further development of the research programme and in seeking and pursuing appropriate external funding.
- Participate fully in the wider research and scholarly activities of the School, Institute and University.
- Where appointed to do so by the University, supervise graduate research students as co-supervisor
- Mentor and assist students and early stage researchers in your group, School and Institute.
- Take responsibility for, manage and conduct administrative and management tasks associated with your programme of research
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities as required by your School or Institute, or the University and where applicable your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in teaching and teaching support as assigned by your Head of School under the direction of a tenured member of the academic staff.

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post. Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Mandatory

- PhD in health / social sciences with significant post-qualification research experience
- Track record of high-quality publications and/or innovation outputs, in accord with the norms of their discipline
- Typically a minimum of 4 years postdoctoral experience, ideally including an international element and/or enterprise experience
- Demonstrable track record in the following areas:
 - Publications, as assessed by the norms of their discipline i.e. quality and impact of academic publisher, citations, ranking of journal publications etc.
 - Supervision of students, including, where appropriate, contributing to undergraduate project supervision and Masters Dissertations on taught programmes.
 - Research leadership in a research group or laboratory.
 - Contribution to the writing of research proposals, which are submitted to peer-reviewed funding processes.
 - Capability to exercise independence in research, as evidenced by, for example, senior authorship/sole authorship of publications and invited presentations at conferences.
- Demonstrated contribution to management of single research project (reporting, financial management, purchasing etc.)
- Proven ability to coordinate overall delivery of project objectives including interdependencies across work packages
- Track record of communication research to a wide range of stake holders
- Experience of devising new methodologies to solve complex research problems

Desirable

In addition, evidence of the following will significantly enhance an application

- Attainment of independent funding through a competitive, peer-reviewed process.
- Innovation and commercialisation outputs, e.g. development of patents, prototypes
- Industry collaboration or experience.
- Experience working with Government agencies, nationally or internationally

Further Information for Candidates

Supplementary information

The University:	http://www.ucd.ie/aboutucd.htm
The College:	https://www.ucd.ie/chas/
The School:	http://www.ucd.ie/medicine/

Garda Vetting required:

NO

YES – Garda Vetting will be conducted for the recommended candidate(s) as part of the selection process for the post in accordance with the UCD Garda Vetting Policy - http://www.ucd.ie/hr/t4cms/Garda_Vetting_Policy.pdf

Relocation Expenses

Will not apply

Will be applied in accordance with the UCD policy <http://www.ucd.ie/hr/policies/#d.en.31150>

Informal Enquiries ONLY to:

Name:	Alistair Nichol / Ronald Moore
Title:	Professor of Critical Care Medicine / Senior Lecturer School of Public Health
Email address:	Alistair.nichol@ucd.ie / Ronnie.moore@ucd.ie

Eligibility to compete and certain restrictions on eligibility (Relevant only to those with previous Irish Public Sector experience)

Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)

It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under that Scheme, are debarred from applying for another position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position.

Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010)

The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 dated 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme and Voluntary Redundancy Schemes (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider public service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public moneys. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the VRS, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years, after which time any re-employment will require the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. People who availed of either of these schemes are not eligible to compete in this competition.

Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28th June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1st June 2012, a Collective Agreement which had been reached between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Public Services Committee of the ICTU in relation to ex-gratia Redundancy Payments to Public Servants. It is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible for re-employment in the public service by any public service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011) for a period of 2 years from termination of the employment. Thereafter the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will be required prior to re-employment. People who availed of this scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility) and the Minister's consent will have to be secured prior to employment by any public service body.

Declaration

Applicants will be required to a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether they have previously availed of a public service scheme of incentivised early retirement and/or the collective agreement outlined above. The above represents the main schemes and agreements restricting a candidate's right to be re-employed in the public service. However it is not intended to be an exhaustive list and candidates should declare details of any other exit mechanism they have availed of which restricts their right to be re-employed in the public service. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Public Service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any Public Service employment.

Superannuation and Retirement

The successful candidate will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the University, at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, and except for candidates who have worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) public service job in the 26 weeks prior to appointment (see paragraph d below), this means being offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"). Key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:

a. Pensionable Age

The minimum age at which pension is payable is 66 (rising to 67 and 68) in line with State Pension age changes.

b. Retirement Age:

Scheme members must retire at the age of 70.

c. Pension Abatement

If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service or in the Public Service please note that the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 includes a provision which extends abatement of pension for all Civil and Public Servants who are re-employed where a Public Service pension is in payment. This provision to apply abatement across the wider public service came into effect on 1 November 2012. This may have pension implications for any person appointed to this position who is currently in receipt of a Civil or Public Service pension or has a preserved Civil or Public Service pension which will come into payment during his/her employment in this position.

Department of Education and Skills Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers Circular 102/2007

The Department of Education and Skills introduced an Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers. It is a condition of the Early Retirement Scheme that with the exception of the situations set out in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the relevant circular documentation, and with those exceptions only, if a teacher accepts early retirement under Strands 1, 2 or 3 of this scheme and is subsequently employed in any capacity in any area of the public sector, payment of pension to that person under the scheme will immediately cease. Pension payments will, however, be resumed on the ceasing of such employment or on the person's 60th birthday, whichever is the later, but on resumption, the pension will be based on the person's actual reckonable service as a teacher (i.e. the added years previously granted will not be taken into account in the calculation of the pension payment).

Ill-Health-Retirement

Please note that where an individual has retired from a Civil/Public Service body on the grounds of ill-health his/her pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement within the pension scheme of that employment.

d. Prior Public Servants

While the default pension terms, as set out in the preceding paragraphs, consist of Single Scheme membership, this may not apply to certain appointees. Full details of the conditions governing whether or not a public servant is a Single Scheme member are given in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012. However the key exception case (in the context of this competition and generally) is that a successful candidate who has worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) capacity in the public service within 26 weeks of taking up appointment, would in general not become a member of the Single Scheme. In this case such a candidate would instead be offered membership of the UCD Pension Scheme. This would mean that the abatement provisions at (c) above would apply, and in addition there are implications in respect of pension accrual as outlined below:

e. Pension Accrual

A 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one existing public service pension scheme would apply. This 40-year limit, which is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 came into effect on 28 July 2012. This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.

f. Pension-Related Deduction

This appointment is subject to the pension-related deduction in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measure in the Public Interest Act 2009.

For further information in relation to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme for Public Servants please see the following website: <http://www.per.gov.ie/pensions>.