

**Dundalk Institute of Technology invite applications for the following position:
PhD postgraduate Scholarship (Full-time: 36 months)**

Project overview

Title: Exploring mindfulness-based practice within early years' education

Supervisor: Dr Jemma McGourty

Position Reference: 07AHSS2021

Keywords: *Early Years, Mindfulness in Education, Arts Education, Social Sciences, Psychology*

This research will explore mindfulness within the early learning and care (ELC) sector in Ireland and stems from the supervisory teams' involvement in The Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership 'AMiE' (Arts & Mindfulness in Education). This is an exciting opportunity to engage in research within an increasingly relevant field of study.

Mindfulness is a psychological process with considerable evidence indicating its benefits. Much of the existing research on mindfulness in education involves implementing interventions to explore if they result in improved outcomes e.g. reduced anxiety and stress, increased social and emotional skills. Whilst intervention studies are necessary, we also need to explore how mindfulness is being implemented in practice. Through questionnaires and interviews with early years educators we intend to 'take stock' of if/how educators are using mindfulness with children. This will provide a national picture of current mindfulness use in the (ELC) sector and will inform how new initiatives can be embedded into professional practice.

Dundalk Institute of Technology

Dundalk Institute of Technology is a dynamic, world class Institute that has developed an international reputation in both basic and applied research through its Research Centres. This PhD Scholarship is offered through the Nursing, Midwifery and Early Years Research Group within the School of Health and Science at DkIT. The successful applicant will be registered as a full time postgraduate research student in the DCU-DkIT Graduate School. The PhD position will be located on the DkIT campus and the Degree will be awarded by Dublin City University.

Funding

This project is co-funded by the HEA Technological Universities Transformation Fund and DkIT.

The successful candidate shall receive a postgraduate stipend of €18,500 per annum, plus fees and a contribution to their direct research project costs. The duration of this PhD studentship is 36 months, Full Time. Terms and conditions will apply.

Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria:	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	2:1 Honours Degree in Psychology, Early Years Education, Sociology, Education (Primary Teaching)	Masters degree in relevant discipline Knowledge of mindfulness
Experience/knowledge	Experience in academic research at undergraduate +/or postgraduate level Demonstrable organisational skills Excellent interpersonal skills essential	

It is also a requirement that any applicant whose first language is other than English must have a certified English language proficiency of at least IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

Application process

Please send a **copy of your CV and a 1-page cover letter** to orla.lynch@dkit.ie no later than **4.00 pm on Monday January 17th 2022**. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

Please use the position reference **"07AHSS2021"** in the subject title.

Short listed candidates will be invited to interview.

Please note, canvassing will render an applicant ineligible.