

## Summer Undergraduate Research Programme 2021

Project Number & Title:	<p><b>Project 12</b></p> <p>Technology support demands on community volunteer social care organisations during Covid-19: identifying digital skills of staff and volunteers</p>
Project Details	<p>To remain connected to clients during the COVID-19 pandemic, community organisations have sought to use digital communication tools to facilitate social engagement as well as to maintain some form of service delivery during the pandemic. This has resulted in the promotion of digital technologies such as smartphones, tablets and apps by community services as a means of creating a digital bridge between clients and services. For those receiving virtual community services, the volunteers and staff of community organisations, who are delivering meals-on-wheels or providing befriending calls, may be the only person available to ask for technical assistance with newly acquired digital devices. Community organisations, often depending on older volunteers for service delivery, face the need to provide IT support to clients as a component of their service offering. IT proficiency may not be a core skill of many staff, carers or volunteers. This project aims to evaluate the digital skills of community service workers, carers and volunteers.</p>
Profile of Candidate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students with an interest in technology in the delivery of social care are encouraged to apply.</li> <li>• Familiarity or experience using SPSS and Nvivo for data analysis is desirable.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience conducting literature reviews and excellent critical analysis and writing skills required.</li> <li>• Ability to work collaboratively remotely is essential.</li> </ul>
Project Supervisors	<p>Mrs. Suzanne Smith</p> <p>All enquiries to <a href="mailto:suzanne.smith@dkit.ie">suzanne.smith@dkit.ie</a></p>
Duration	6 weeks
Number of Positions Available	1
Amount Awarded (per candidate)	Weekly stipend of €150 (tax free)
How to Apply	<p>Each applicant should submit the following documents by email to <a href="mailto:mary.matthews@dkit.ie">mary.matthews@dkit.ie</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CV including academic transcripts</li> <li>• A 300 word statement as to why you are a suitable candidate for this project.</li> </ul> <p>Please state clearly in the subject line of your covering email the abstract title and project reference number.</p> <p><i>An applicant may apply for more than one programme, but each application must be made separately.</i></p>