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| Research Centre | DCU School of Psychology |
| Post Title | MSc Studentship <i>ENSURED: Empowering Needs-based Social Health and inclusive care for RarEr Dementias in moderate to advanced stages</i> |
| Post Duration | 2-year full-time MSc by Research Studentship Sept 2026 – Aug 2028 |

Dublin City University

Dublin City University (DCU) is a leading innovative European University. It is proud to be one of the world's leading Young Universities and is among the world's top 2% globally. DCU is known as Ireland's University of Impact, with a mission to 'transform lives and societies' and focuses on addressing global challenges in collaboration with key national and international partners and stakeholders. DCU has over 20,000 students in five faculties spread across three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra area of North Dublin. Thanks to its innovative approach to teaching and learning, the University offers a 'transformative student experience' that helps to develop highly sought-after graduates. DCU is currently No. 1 in Ireland for Graduate Employment Rate, and for graduate income (CSO).

DCU is a research-intensive University and is home to a number of funded Research Centres. The University participates in a range of European and international research partnerships. DCU is also the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer as reflected by licensing of intellectual property. As a 'People First' institution, DCU is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - a University that helps staff and students to thrive. The University is a leader in terms of its work to increase access to education, and is placed in the world's Top 10 for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Overview of the Department

The School of Psychology is an ambitious and research-intensive School in the Faculty of Science and Health. Established in 2019, DCU's School of Psychology is composed of experienced and dedicated staff with leading expertise in a broad range of areas within the field of psychology. The School brings together our flagship BSc in Psychology, which has been running since 2010, the new BSc in Psychology and Mathematics and BSc in Psychology and Disruptive Technologies, a distance education level 8 psychology programme, our suite of postgraduate courses including the MSc Psychology (Conversion) and the MSc Psychology and Wellbeing, and a vibrant PhD community. The School continues to build on our longstanding research activity and

collaborations, and its thriving community engagement. The School is student-centred, research-intensive, globally engaged, collaborative and inclusive. It offers an innovative and exciting environment in which to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in psychology and to undertake cutting-edge research.

Background

Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals for a full-time, 2-year MSc by Research Studentship at Dublin City University. This is an exciting opportunity to work as part of a wider international, interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder project titled 'ENSURED: Empowering Needs-based Social Health and inclusive care for Rarer Dementias in moderate to advanced stages'. This project, funded by the Joint Programme for Neurodegenerative Programme (JPND) and the Health Research Board (HRB).

Non-AD dementias, such as frontotemporal dementia (FTD), Lewy body dementia (LBD), and vascular dementia (VaD), remain significantly under-researched, particularly in moderate to advanced stages. Perceptions of dementia are largely shaped by AD, reinforcing the notion of memory impairment as the defining symptom, while other subtypes with distinct behavioural, motor, or psychiatric features remain less understood and recognized in care and research. Dementia is also not a static condition; its impact evolves over time, shaped by personal, societal, and structural factors. Even within a specific subtype, individuals experience widely varying trajectories in social participation, independence, and role fulfilment; key dimensions of social health. Despite this diversity, healthcare research and systems often fail to recognize and address their evolving and often unmet needs, leading to disparities in care across regions and populations. This gap in scientific knowledge and clinical practice limits the development of effective, tailored interventions. The ENSURED project integrates a social health framework and an intersectional lens to better understand and meet the evolving needs of individuals affected by rarer dementias across the disease process. By focusing on moderate to advanced stages, where individuals increasingly struggle to articulate their needs, we aim to map critical care transitions and identify key intervention points that optimize support across disease stages. The findings will contribute to practical, ethically grounded recommendations for more equitable and tailored dementia care, ensuring that insights from lived experience shape research, care pathways, and policy development.

Studentship:

The successful candidate will work under the supervision of Dr Louise Hopper to carry out a person-centred design and co-creation led research study that supports the overall aims of the ENSURED project. This may include, but it not limited to an international evidence review of the needs of people with dementia, their supporters, and health and social care staff in relation to rarer forms of dementia and at more advanced stages of the condition; analysis of people's lived experience and their perceived educational needs; analysis of the efficacy of tools that support these needs; and development and evaluation of psycho-education and training scenarios incorporating these tools. The MSc student will also be expected to support day-to-day activities on the ENSURED project, stakeholder and public engagement, and support open science.

Minimum Criteria

Essential:

- Have a minimum of a primary degree or equivalent in Psychology or a related social science discipline.
- Some previous training in statistical methodologies for the social sciences is required.
- Experience in conducting quantitative and qualitative social science research.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to take initiative and work under pressure to tight deadlines.
- Ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder team.
- Demonstrable ability to manage self, time, and resources to enable a high level of professional effectiveness

Desirable:

- Experience of contributing to peer-reviewed research publications and/or international conference presentations.
- Experience of conducting systematic literature reviews.
- Experience of co-design work with stakeholders and public patient collaborators.

Essential Training:

The postholder will be required to undertake the following essential compliance training: Orientation, Health & Safety, Data Protection (GDPR), Research Integrity **and all Cyber Security Awareness Training**. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.

Funding:

The selected candidate will receive an annual non-taxable stipend of €25,000. EU full-time fees will be paid for 2 years.

Closing date: Friday 19th June 2026

For more information on DCU and benefits, please visit [Why work at DCU?](#)

Please direct any queries in relation to this position to:

Dr Louise Hopper, School of Psychology, Dublin City University.

Phone + 353 1 700 8540

Email: louise.hopper@dcu.ie

Application Procedure:

Please submit your application via email to louise.hopper@dcu.ie

In order to be considered for the role to which you are applying for, you must upload:

- 1) Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Cover Letter
- 3) Short (max 1,000 words) research proposal that presents a clear statement of how the existing [Dementia Simulation Toolkit](#) could be extended to include rarer dementias and/or more advanced stages of dementia, some consideration of the methodology you would use and some indication of the research challenges you might encounter.

Please note: if all items are not uploaded, the application will be deemed incomplete, and will not be processed.

Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer. In line with the Employment Equality Acts 1998 – 2015, the University is committed to equality of treatment for all those who engage with its recruitment, selection and appointment processes. The University's Athena SWAN Bronze Award signifies the University's commitment to promoting gender equality and addressing any gender pay gaps. Information on a range of university policies aimed at creating a supportive and flexible work environment are available in the [DCU Policy Starter Packs](#)

