



#### UCD Geary Institute

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geary@ucd.ie  
www.ucd.ie/geary

**Role:** Temporary Research Fieldworker

**Location:** UCD & communities in North Dublin

**Closing date:** 8th January 2019

#### *Position Summary:*

The Fieldworker will support data collection for the age 9 follow-up study of the Preparing for Life programme which is being conducted by the Early Childhood Research Team at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy.

Preparing for Life is an early intervention programme designed to combat low levels of school readiness among children living in several communities of North Dublin. The programme intervenes during pregnancy and works with families until the children start school. The programme was evaluated extensively between 2008-2016 using a Randomised Control (RCT) to examine the impact of the programme up to school entry. The results indicated significant improvements in children's cognitive development, health, and behaviour (see [geary.ucd.ie/summary-report](http://geary.ucd.ie/summary-report)). To date, the PFL evaluation has produced a series of 8 reports, 22 academic publications, and attracted extensive media coverage. This follow-up study will examine the medium term impact of the programme now that children are approximately 9 years old. The follow-up study will gather data from parents, children, and schools.

We are seeking applications from motivated individuals with appropriate experience and an interest in child development and developmental psychology to assist with fieldwork and data processing in **February-June 2019**. As the work programme involves a field experiment, candidates from a clinical background seeking to engage with social science research are also welcome. The position will primarily involve engaging with primary schools to conduct data collection activities with children including a cognitive assessment, executive functioning tasks, and a cardiorespiratory activity. The position may also involve gathering administrative data from schools, phone interviews with parents, and height weight and saliva sampling, as well as data entry and management. We are specifically looking for individuals who have previous experience conducting cognitive test batteries or neuropsychological assessments with young children. Full training and support will also be provided by the Preparing for Life evaluation team.

#### *Mandatory*

- A postgraduate degree in Psychology, Education, or a related field.
- As the position involves active fieldwork with families and children, strong interpersonal skills and the desire to interact with children is essential
- Travel to and within North Dublin will be essential so candidates must be flexible and willing to engage with this
- Candidates will have a strong and demonstrable knowledge of research methods and excellent oral and written communication skills

- Be available to participate in fieldworker training at the end of January 2019.
- Be available during the school day throughout the data collection period.

#### *Desirable*

- Experience and/or training in conducting cognitive test batteries or neuropsychological assessments with children (e.g. British Ability Scales with children 7-11 years of age)
- Experience of fieldwork and survey processes
- A full, clean driving license is also desirable

The post is located within the UCD Geary Institute, see [ucd.ie/geary/](http://ucd.ie/geary/) for information on the institute. See [geary.ucd.ie/preparingforlife/](http://geary.ucd.ie/preparingforlife/) for more information on the study.

Salary: Hourly paid – to be specified

Work hours: Flexible

**Please be advised the closing dates for receipt of all applications for this post is 5pm 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**We would envisage that the position would commence early-mid February.**

Informal inquiries may be made to:

Ailbhe Booth

Telephone: +353 1 716 4626

E-mail: [ailbhe.booth@ucd.ie](mailto:ailbhe.booth@ucd.ie)

Applications should be e-mailed to [orla.doyle@ucd.ie](mailto:orla.doyle@ucd.ie) and include:

- 1) a covering letter
- 2) a CV with contact details of two referees

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### **Organisational Environment**

#### **The University**

University College Dublin is a large and diverse university whose origin dates back to 1854. There are over 30,000 students based in six colleges. The University strives to achieve the highest standards in the advancement of knowledge through research and scholarly publications. It communicates that knowledge to successive generations of students through excellence in teaching. The University also makes an active contribution to the interests and development of the wider community - regional, national and international. The university is situated on a large modern campus about 4km to the south of the centre of Dublin. Further information on the University is available at [www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie).

#### **The Geary Institute**

The UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy is a centre for excellence for policy-relevant, theoretically informed, empirically grounded research. The institute supports research in empirical social and behavioural sciences within organized themes and research centres, and brings together researchers to stimulate discussion on theories, methodologies and empirical results. The Institute is directed by Professor Philip O'Connell. See [www.ucd.ie/geary](http://www.ucd.ie/geary) for more information. -----