

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow in Dance and Exercise Interventions for Parkinson's Disease
School/Department:	School of Psychology
Reference:	26/113703
Closing Date:	Monday 2 November 2026
Salary:	£42,972 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 17 November
Duration:	39 months or until 31 March 2030, whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

The post holder will be a Research Fellow on Work Package 5 (WP5, Exercise and Dance) within the PD-LIFE programme, an all-island research collaboration focused on improving outcomes for people living with Parkinson's disease (PD). They will lead the design, co-creation, implementation and evaluation of dance-based interventions for people with Parkinson's, building on prior feasibility work conducted at QUB (Carapellotti et al., 2022).

The role includes literature review, intervention design and delivery, feasibility testing, mixed-methods data collection and analysis, and dissemination. The post holder will work closely with the WP5 leads and collaborate across consortium partners (University College Cork, University of Limerick, Ulster University, Trinity College Dublin and others).

MAJOR DUTIES:

Research:

1. Lead co-creation workshops with people living with Parkinson's, family members and healthcare professionals and other Parkinson's researchers to refine the dance intervention.
2. Design and deliver community-based 10-15-week dance feasibility studies (involving multiple cohorts) including an intervention phase and possibly a cross-over phase.
3. Coordinate participant recruitment in collaboration with advocacy partners and community networks.
4. Obtain and manage research governance approvals, including ethics and institutional approvals.
5. Conduct and oversee quantitative and qualitative data collection (motor, non-motor, biological samples, wellbeing and motivational outcomes).
6. Manage and curate research data in accordance with GDPR and institutional data management policies.
7. Conduct statistical and qualitative analyses and interpret findings within the wider interdisciplinary framework of PD-LIFE.
8. Work collaboratively with WP7 (Technology) to integrate wearable and AI-derived measures where appropriate.
9. Contribute to the preparation of reports, policy briefs and co-created dissemination materials.
10. Produce high-quality academic outputs including peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.
11. Undertake administrative, reporting and training duties relevant to successful project delivery.
12. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
13. Carry out educational supervision, demonstrating or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
14. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have, or be about to obtain a PhD (awarded or near completion) in Psychology, Neuroscience, Rehabilitation Science, Movement Science, Health Sciences, or a closely related discipline.

2. Recent, relevant research experience to include:
 - Demonstrable research expertise in a relevant area (e.g., Parkinson's disease, neurological conditions, physical activity, rehabilitation, or behavioural interventions).
 - Proven experience designing and delivering research studies, including (but not limited to) intervention or feasibility/pilot studies.
 - Strong experience in quantitative data collection and statistical analysis.
 - Experience managing research governance processes, including preparation of ethics applications.
3. Publication/dissemination record commensurate with stage of career
4. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
5. Able to demonstrate:
 - Advanced quantitative analysis skills (e.g., SPSS, R, MATLAB or equivalent statistical software).
 - Strong organisational skills and high attention to detail.
 - Sound understanding of research ethics, data governance and GDPR compliance.
 - Ability to interpret and integrate motor, non-motor and psychosocial outcome measures.
6. Ability to communicate complex research clearly to academic, clinical and community audiences.
7. Ability to develop collaborative relationships with academic and non academic stakeholders.
8. Commitment to high-quality, participant centred research.
9. Willingness to travel across Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland as required by the project.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience working directly with people living with Parkinson's disease or other long-term neurological conditions.
2. Experience designing, delivering or evaluating structured dance or exercise-based interventions.
3. Experience in participatory or co-design methodologies involving patient and public involvement (PPI).
4. Experience contributing to competitive grant applications.
5. Experience conducting qualitative analysis (e.g., thematic analysis, framework analysis).
6. Knowledge of Parkinson's specific outcome measures (e.g., MDS-UPDRS, functional mobility measures).
7. Familiarity with wearable technologies or digital health tools.
8. Experience presenting at national or international conferences.
9. Experience contributing to policy briefs, impact activities or public engagement outputs.