



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Researcher Post on Change Processes  
and Positive Health and Ageing in Place –HOMeAGE –**

**Ref. No. University of Galway 339-22**

Applications are invited from suitable qualified candidates for a full time, fixed term position (36 months) as a Doctoral Researcher (DR) at the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG) in the J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics and based within the Institute for Lifecourse & Society, University of Galway. This position is one of 12 doctoral researchers being recruited as a part of a European-funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network (DN) on Advancing Research and Training on Ageing, Place and Home – ‘HOMeAGE’. The successful applicant will be registered for a PhD at the University of Galway, and will work on the topic of *Change processes, social connectedness and positive health in place* with Professor Kieran Walsh (ICSG) and Stephen O’Neill, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), in collaboration with Chris Ryan, Department of Health (DoH); Only applicants who have not been resident in Ireland for more than 12 months in the three years preceding the start date are eligible for this post.

**About HOMeAGE**

HOMeAGE involves a nine-country collaboration between leading research units, major intergovernmental organisations, international civil society actors and governmental and non-governmental organisations. HOMeAGE aims to institute an interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and international programme of doctoral training and research that drives the development of new leaders in excellence for the advancement of evidence-based innovation on ageing in place. HOMeAGE will address the three interconnected challenges of (1) needs and systems, (2) home and belonging and (3) rights and voice. The 12 Doctoral Researchers will be hosted across the network, and in addition to conducting an original research study they will participate in a 36-month network-wide training program, public engagement activities and collaboration with network members through short-term secondments in European intersectoral partner organisations.

**About the post and the research project**

This full-time post will be available, subject to funding, from September 2023 and offered on a fixed-term 36-month contract. This post benefits from a highly competitive and attractive salary, plus mobility and family allowances as applicable. Working as a part of the *Home and Belonging* work package, the successful applicant will complete a research project on: *Change processes, social connectedness and positive health in place*. The objective of this research project is to investigate: (1) how environmental change (population; development; housing) intersects with personal life changes to influence place belonging for diverse groups; (2) how these processes link to, and how individual and community-level place-making actions (including housing/care options) foster, positive health. It is expected that this project will involve mixed methods, but with a strong emphasis on quantitative techniques, and consideration of spatial patterns and service regions, including the new Regional

Health Areas within Ireland. The successful applicant will complete two 4-month secondments. The first will take place in Germany with the division on Interdisciplinary Ageing Research (IAW) which will expose the researcher to theories concerning self and identity in later life. The second with the Department of Health which will target learning on public health policy and positive ageing in supporting ageing in place. Expected outputs will include peer-review academic papers, and two policy briefs. More information on this and other HOMeAGE projects can be found at: [www.icsg.ie/homeage](http://www.icsg.ie/homeage).

### **About the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG)**

The ICSG, which is affiliated with the Discipline of Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics and located within the Institute for Lifecourse and Society, is an interdisciplinary, internationally recognised, research centre, with an extensive track record in producing impactful and applied scholarship. With a view to informing a holistic understanding of later life in public policy, the ICSG conducts research on ageing and the life course that responds to gaps in scientific knowledge, policy and practice, while promoting the diversity of ageing experiences. The work of the ICSG is particularly focused on supporting the voice of marginalised groups of the older population, and integrating these perspectives into research and public policy design and development. Directed by Professor Kieran Walsh, and comprising of academic faculty, senior, post-doctoral and doctoral researchers, and strategic support staff, ICSG conducts research in the areas of place and community, social exclusion and inequality, work and retirement, dementia, and infrastructures of care. See [www.icsg.ie](http://www.icsg.ie) for more information on our work.

### **Position Duties**

We are seeking to hire a motivated and committed doctoral researcher with a strong interest in conducting original research on ageing and place. The successful applicant will:

- Complete 30 ECTS of taught modules as required for the Structured PhD Programme at the University of Galway;
- Complete a research proposal for the work package, containing research objectives, description of research, methodology, proposed completion timeframe, originality of contribution and societal impact;
- Complete an original research project on the topic of *Change processes, social connectedness and positive health in place*;
- Participate in network-wide training events in the course of the project and complete any additional training required to successfully carry out the research proposal;
- Adhere to and develop materials for HOMeAGE reporting and personal training requirements (e.g. Personal Career Development Plan; annual summaries of research findings; Impact Action Plan for societal impact);
- Prepare and disseminate research findings, in academic journals and for relevant stakeholders;
- Prepare regular research updates for the HOMeAGE website and social media accounts;
- Prepare a manuscript for submission as a PhD thesis in accordance with the policies and procedures of the University of Galway;
- Work with the PI in preparing funding proposals related to the DR's area of research.

### **Qualifications/Skills required:**

Candidates will be required to meet the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Researcher eligibility criteria (<https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/>), and criteria specific to this project.

## Requirements:

- At the time of application, applicants must not have resided in the (host country) Ireland for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the appointment;
- A Master's degree and excellent track record of academic achievement;
- Demonstrable experience of conducting quantitative research, particularly in the areas of secondary data analysis using statistical software package (e.g. Stata; R);
- Evidence of the capacity to conduct qualitative research is desirable;
- Excellent online literature searching and retrieval skills;
- Have excellent communications skills in English both written and verbal;
- Ability to and commitment to producing scientific outputs for publication in peer reviewed journals;
- Evidence of ability to work independently and collaboratively within an internationally diverse team;
- Highly motivated, with excellent organisation skills and with strong attention to detail and quality;
- Are willing to travel to attend secondments, training and academic events.

## Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post

**Salary:** €35,836.82 per annum plus mobility and family allowances as applicable and in line with the EC rules for Marie Skłodowska Curie Doctoral Networks 2021.

**Start date:** This position is funded by Horizon Europe under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network programme and is available from 1st September 2023 to contract end date.

## Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at the University of Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans.

For information on moving to Ireland please see [www.euraxess.ie](http://www.euraxess.ie)

## NB: Garda vetting is a requirement for this post

**To Apply:** See [recruitment guide here](#) and for informal enquiries please contact to Professor Kieran Walsh at [kieran.walsh@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:kieran.walsh@universityofgalway.ie)

To apply for this post, applicants are asked for the following:

- [Completed application form](#);
- Motivation letter (indicating why you wish to conduct this research project and why you believe you would successfully be able to complete this project);
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Certified transcripts of results of Masters' degree in relevant discipline;
- Evidence of IELTS or TOEFL scores for non-native English speakers may be required;
- Evidence of any research/teaching experience; policy and practice experience in a related area; demonstrable teamwork skills;
- 2,000 word research proposal in the following format:

**Proposal format (not to exceed 2,000 words)**

1. *Background to the research proposal, objectives and main research question*  
Suggested word count: 600 words.
2. *Methodology and proposed timeline for completion of research*  
Suggested word count: 1000 words.
3. *Original contribution to knowledge of the proposed research (including potential for broader societal impact)*  
Suggested word count: 400 words.
4. *Literature references (in author/date format)*  
Max. 20 references (not included in word count)

Applications should be sent, via e-mail (PDF only) to [HOMeAGE@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:HOMeAGE@universityofgalway.ie) with reference number **University of Galway 339-22** in subject line of e-mail application.

**The deadline for applications is 5.00 pm 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.  
All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment



Funded by  
the European Union

