



## Junior Clinician Scientist for Nursing and Midwifery 2009

### GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

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**Background:** The National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery was established in 1999 to oversee the development of specialist roles in Irish nursing and midwifery. Frameworks for Clinical Nurse/Midwife Specialist (CNS/CMS) and Advanced Nurse/Midwife Practitioners (ANP/AMP) were developed. Such roles are now evident throughout Irish clinical nursing and midwifery practice with over 2050 CNS/CMS and almost 70 ANP/AMP in 2009. These roles have clear research remits. The National Council recognises that support to build the capacity of this aspect of the roles is required. In addition, the opportunity for CNS/CMS and ANP/AMP to develop a track record in securing research funding is to be welcomed. To this end, the National Council is providing funding to the Health Research Board in order to support a call for applications for Junior Clinician Scientist for Nursing and Midwifery award 2009. Since 2003, when the scheme was initiated 3 awards have been made.

**Scope:** The purpose of this award is to enable CNS/CMS or ANP/AMP in Ireland to conduct research on a part-time basis leading to a postgraduate research degree at masters or doctoral level. The research must have a clinical focus so applications should have as their objective the uncovering and/or identifying of findings which can impact on practice. Practice includes assessment of patients/clients, decision making and planning, practitioner-led interventions and evaluation of this process. Data should generally be generated in close proximity to patients/clients or their families and findings should have the realistic potential to be applied in practice and have relevance to health and social gain. They should not merely have a possible application to practice but should be directly applicable (notwithstanding that immediate utilisation of findings may not be possible for structural, educational, resource or other reasons).

Considering the outcome of the National Council's *Nursing and Midwifery Research Priorities for Ireland* applications evaluating health care interventions are particularly welcomed.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible applicants must:

- **Have their name held on the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery's database as the CNS/CMS or ANP/AMP**

- Be in current employment within the Irish health system
- Be able to confirm support/approval from the Director of Nursing/Midwifery or employer
- Be able to confirm support/approval from the academic Head of Department in which the research study will be carried out and provide evidence of appropriate academic supervision by a nurse or midwife
- Be an EU citizen or a nurse/midwife from outside the EU with permanent Irish resident status or a valid work permit

**Conditions:** Funding for two awards are available in 2009. The award will be tenable for up to 2 or 3 years depending on the project and the post-graduate qualification sought. The funding provided for this award is €30,000 per annum. In addition, a €5,000 per annum contribution towards fees and running costs will be available. The individual must be registered in a university in Ireland or Northern Ireland for a Masters by Research or a PhD. **Please note this award is not for research conducted as part of a taught Masters programme.** Payment of the award will be made through a host institution on the island of Ireland.

#### **Assessment**

**Process:** The award will be made following an open competition and international peer review. After an eligibility check, all applications will be sent for international peer review and a final selection committee will be convened by the HRB to consider applications. Short-listed applicants may be required to attend for interview. The recommendations of the committee will be sent for approval to the HRB Board at their next scheduled meeting and it is anticipated that the process will be completed during December 2009. Feedback from international reviewers and committee members will be issued to applicants.

#### **Assessment**

**Criteria:** The over-arching assessment criteria which will be used to assess applications are:

- The Applicant including the standing and potential of the individual, the sponsorship arrangements and host environment
- Merit of proposed study including scientific quality and innovation
- Potential impact to health and clinical practice including dissemination.

#### **Closing**

**Date:** The closing date for applications is **Thursday, 3 September 2009 at 4.00pm.** Failure to submit by this deadline will result in the application being deemed ineligible.

#### **How to Apply:**

Completed application forms should be submitted electronically to the HRB to [scondell@hrb.ie](mailto:scondell@hrb.ie).

The associated Signature Pages (original signatures only) must be completed and submitted in hardcopy within five working days of the closing date. A letter of

verification from the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery stating that your name is held on the database must be submitted with the signatures page. Failure to do so means that your application will not be processed.

Applications regarding this scheme should be addressed to:

**Sarah Condell**  
Nursing Research Advisor  
**Health Research Board**  
73 Lower Baggot Street  
Dublin 2  
**T** +353 1 2345178  
**F** + 353 1 6130179  
**E** [scondell@hrb.ie](mailto:scondell@hrb.ie)

If you have any queries regarding the above information, please contact Sarah Condell **by email only** at the above address.

*The HRB reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the terms of this call. Canvassing of panel members will result in the disqualification of the applicant. The decision of the Board in respect of any grant application is final and cannot be appealed or reviewed.*

## COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

### 1. Name

Please fill in your last and first name in capital letters. The principal applicant is the individual who plans to conduct the research.

### 2. Personal details and Curriculum Vitae

You are asked to provide your contact details and include a brief Curriculum Vitae. The latter should not exceed **two typed pages** and should include your academic and professional qualifications (giving qualification, date, institution and country) and a list of previous positions held.

### 3. Details of present position

Please enter your present position/job title and the date of appointment to this position. Your present salary and employer details are also required.

### 4. Title of degree

Please enter the title of the degree for which you intend to register (i.e. Masters by Research or PhD) and the duration of the part-time degree. Please note that the funding available is for a maximum of three years. **Please note this funding is not for research conducted as part of a taught Masters programme.**

### 5. Name of academic institution

Enter the name of the institution where you are registered for the post-graduate degree.

## **6. Research experience to date**

Briefly summarise your research experience to date.

## **7. Research publications**

Please list up to a maximum of five of your relevant research publications, where applicable. The full citation should include title, authors, journal and year.

## **8. Career intentions**

Give your reasons for applying for this award and how if successful, the award would contribute to your career plan.

## **9. Title of research project**

Please provide a short title for your research project with a maximum of **20 words**. The title should provide a reasonable indication of what your research is about. If your proposal is successful we will use this title when publishing lists of awards so it would be helpful if your title were meaningful to a non-specialist audience.

## **10. Abstract/summary of research project**

The purpose of the research summary is to describe what you propose to do, its importance and how you are actually going to conduct the study. Ideally it provides a clear synopsis of your proposal and you will need to include the specific aims of your research and the research design and methods clearly and succinctly. It is advisable to complete this section only after you have finalised the rest of the application form. A maximum of **half a typed page** is permitted.

## **11. Keywords**

Please choose a maximum of five keywords that specifically describe your area of research. The HRB maintains a database of funded research. When we search our database, your research, if successful, should be included in the response to the search query.

## **12. Background to the project**

Describe the background to the research project leading to the present application. Include the research context for your project. Why is it important that these questions are explored? What other research is being or has been conducted in this area?

## **13. Aims and objectives of the project**

The research proposal should be based on a series of explicit, time specific and measurable aims and objectives. This section describes what will be achieved by doing this research and so should be clearly stated. The objectives need to be realistic and it should be possible to accomplish these objectives within the timeframe you outline. A maximum of **a half typed page** is specified.

## **14. Methodology/design of the project**

Describe in detail the design of your study and the methodology you propose to use (i.e. quantitative or qualitative). This section should include information on the size of the sample, sampling methods, inclusion/ exclusion criteria and data collection methods. Although you should aim to be as concise, specific and clear as possible, the work to be undertaken should nonetheless be fully explained. Failure to provide adequate detail on any aspects of your proposed research may adversely affect the consideration of your application. You are advised to ensure that your application is focused and that sufficient evidence is provided to enable the international peer reviewers and panel to reach a considered

judgement as to the quality of your research proposal, its significance, its feasibility, and its value for money. **Three pages** is the maximum allowed for this section

### **15. Research plan**

The description of your research plan should clearly lay out the tasks to be completed in a logical order within a set timescale (*Note:* When planning the start date and work programme for your research, please take into account that you will be notified about the outcome of your application until December 2009. Also note that if your study requires ethical approval, the HRB needs to receive written approval from a Research Ethics Committee before any funding will be released.

### **16. Ten most relevant references**

Please insert the references cited in the previous section and any other relevant ones to your research project. This section should demonstrate that you are familiar with recent published research and other scholarly activity related to the project.

### **17. Cochrane systematic reviews**

You are advised to search the Cochrane Library for systematic reviews on a topic/s that might be relevant to your proposal. You are asked to complete this section in order to assure the reviewers that the question you are addressing has not already been carried out and answered and if it has, to justify to the reviewers how your project will add to the existing knowledge and findings. You can access the Cochrane Library via the HRB website ([www.hrb.ie](http://www.hrb.ie)) by clicking on the Cochrane Library logo on the home page or via [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com). There is a maximum of **one typed page** for this section.

### **18. Potential relevance and impact**

In your opinion, what contribution will your research project make to care and service delivery in your specialised area. A maximum of **a half a typed page** is available to answer this section.

### **19. Project dissemination**

In addition to publication in peer-reviewed journals, describe how you plan to disseminate any information/results arising during and at the conclusion of your research so as to promote or facilitate uptake and application by colleagues. A maximum of **a half a typed page** is available to answer this section.

### **20. Host Institution**

Please give the name of the institution where you plan to carry out your research and where the research funding will be administered. Please provide the contact details of the relevant Head of Department.

**\*NOTE:** The HRB allocates funding to a host institution rather than to an individual. In this instance this will ideally be the institution where the principal applicant intends to conduct the research. If successful, all funds will be paid to and administered by the host institution.

### **21. Nurse/Midwife academic supervisor**

The Nurse/Midwife Academic Supervisor should have a strong track record in peer-reviewed research and be affiliated to a recognised research institution. You are asked to provide the following details in relation to the academic supervisor:

- Contact details
- Brief description of current position and role
- Ten most relevant research publications
- Track record in training Masters/PhD students and other research fellows

- Details of other on-site key staff and researchers
- Arrangements for supervision and support

A maximum of **a half typed page** is available for each of these sub-sections.

## **22. Recommendation from your present employer**

You are asked to provide a short recommendation (**maximum half page**) from your present employer endorsing your application (See also note for 24 below).

## **23. Recommendation from the academic supervisor**

You are asked to provide a short recommendation (**maximum half page**) from your academic supervisor endorsing your application.

## **24. Project budget**

The funding provided through this award towards salary-related costs is €30,000 per annum. In addition, a contribution of €5,000 per annum is available towards running costs and fees. In the table, please provide a summary of the costs associated with the project up to a maximum of €5,000 per annum. Provide a brief but explicit justification for each cost that you are claiming for in the box underneath the table. **If claiming for postgraduate fees your present employer must note in their recommendation that these costs are not provided by the employer.**

## **25. Approval by a research ethics committee**

If your proposal involves human participants or human material, and if your application is successful, the HRB will need written confirmation of approval by a Research Ethics Committee before funding can be released. You must give details of the Research Ethics Committee(s) that the application has already been sent to or will go to and a likely date for having received notification of REC approval.

## **26. Use of human subjects or tissues**

Please tick as appropriate to your project.

## **27. Informed consent, data privacy, confidentiality and security**

Detail your plans for dealing with issues arising under the Data Protection Act e.g. obtaining informed consent from research subjects, data privacy, confidentiality and security issues.

## **28. Standards of good research practice**

Has the host institution published standards of good research practice, including a formal written procedure for the investigation of allegations of scientific fraud? Please give details.

## **SIGNATURE PAGES**

All applications for funding must be accompanied by Signature Pages, which must be signed, dated and returned five days after the application closing date. Signature pages must be signed by the following people:

- Applicant
- Nurse/Midwife Academic Supervisor
- Present Employer
- Head of Department in Host Institution (if different from present employer)
- Dean of Research or equivalent in the host institution

