PhD Studentship on the Economics of Brain Health

Post Title:	PhD Studentship (Health Economics)
Post Status:	3 Year Fully-Funded PhD Studentship
Research Group / Department / School:	Trépel Lab, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, Lloyd Building, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Dr Dominic Trépel
Terms & Conditions:	€18,500 annual stipend
Hours of Work:	9 - 5.30pm
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), 10th December 2020

Post Summary: PhD Studentships in the Economics of Brain Health

Dementia is one of the greatest health and economic challenges facing society. Scientific advances in our understanding of brain health are emerging, potentially offering valuable ways to allocate resources to prevent, treat, and care for dementia. The research laboratory of Dr. Dominic Trépel (Trinity College Dublin) has funding for two PhD students to work on a new and exciting project focused on "the Economics of Brain Health". These PhDs will involve several complementary and cutting edge methodologies and will join an active research group which is developing state-of-the-art decision analytic models to examine the value of allocating resources to improve brain health and explore alternative investments for dementia. This position involves the design and collection of economic evidence, econometric and cost-effectiveness analyses, focused on specific interventions and/or examining the efficiency of varied portfolios of interventions. Academic outputs will include write-up of peer review publications and wider dissemination (e.g., conference presentations and posters, policy interactions).

The two positions are funded for **3 years starting from January 2022**. The student will join a growing team of PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and technical staff (e.g., health economic modellers) and will participate in regular lab meetings, work alongside leading international researchers, learn about diverse health economic methodologies and have the opportunity to attend international conferences annually.

Below is a list of several qualities and qualifications of an ideal candidate for the position, but please know that no PhD candidate will have them all! Strength in one area can make up for less experience in another. Carefully consider your motivation for embarking on a PhD, the

skills/experience that you think make you well suited to a career as an academic health economist, why would be a good fit for our lab and how you see economics helping to shape improvements in brain health. **These points should form the basis of a cover letter expressing your interest in the role.**

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

The PhD students will carry out an original body of research as part of the requirements for a PhD at Trinity College. They are expected to participate fully in lab life, attending regular meetings and collaborating with a wide collaborative network. They are expected to be a self-starter, eager to learn and enthusiastic about health economics and application to brain health.

Funding Information

This role is funded from a grant from Global Brain Health Institute (www.gbhi.org).

Person Specification

The PhD Studentship would be ideally suited to someone recently graduated from a Master's degree in Health Economics (or has excelled as an undergraduate) and who is considering a future in academic research. They will join a growing team of PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and technical staff (e.g., economic modellers) and will participate in regular lab meetings, learn about diverse health economics methodologies, help to design novel experiments, analyse datasets and present findings to the group.

The ideal candidate is a highly motivated person, that is passionate about research in health economics, brain health and their intersection. They must have outstanding written and verbal communication skills and make a commitment to learning advanced data analysis techniques.

Qualifications

- A bachelor's degree (equivalent to 2.1 or above) in a relevant discipline (e.g., health-related, mathematics, statistics, epidemiology, economics, operational research, management science, physics, systems control). (Essential).
- A master's degree at merit or distinction (or international equivalent) in a relevant discipline (e.g., Health Economics, Health Technology Assessment or Economic Evaluation) (Desirable)

Knowledge & Experience
- Experience conducting economic studies (e.g., economic evaluation, costing, cost-effectiveness analysis, resource allocation, or econometrics) (Desirable)
- Experience presenting results of research in written and oral format (Desirable)
- Prior experience of, or insight into, resource constraints often faced by vulnerable populations (e.g., individuals suffering from mental health problems or dementia) (Desirable)

Skills & Competencies

- Excellent quantitative skills (Essential)
- Basic competence in data analysis using Excel / SPSS (Essential)
- Intermediate data analysis skills: Stata / R / OpenBugs etc (Desirable)
- Experience, or training, in software to conduct decision analysis (e.g., Excel, TreeAge, Simul8) (Desirable)
- A commitment to attaining proficiency in the above (Essential)
- Outstanding written and verbal communication skills (Essential)
- Critical thinking / analytical skills (Essential)

Attributes

- Excellent organisational skills and professionalism (Essential)
- Highly motivated and enthusiastic (Essential)
- Rigour, diligence and respect for science (Essential)
- A collaborative nature, willingness to learn from others and to share knowledge (Essential)

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit **(i) a detailed cover letter**, **(ii) a Curriculum Vitae** and **(iii) the names and contact details of 2 referees** (including email addresses). Please submit these materials to Dr Dominic Trépel: trepeld@tcd.ie.

Your CV should include grades and any other academic distinctions you think are relevant. Transcripts will be required to support this, should your application progress to the final stages (but are not necessary for initial application). It is important that the CV gets across the extent of your practical experience in health economics to date. Have you held any positions before working in health economics before? Have you interned or completed a dissertation project? If so, what were the projects that you completed and what were your specific responsibilities? Did you give presentations, write a report or paper, what competencies do you have (can you code? what software?), etc. The cover letter is perhaps the most important part of your application – please take the time to carefully outline your interests, your past experience, your goals for the future and why you are a good fit for this project and our lab, in particular. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit a 2-page research proposal, details of which will be provided to successful candidates.

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	https://www.tcd.ie/Neuroscience/
URL link to GBHI's Website	www.gbhi.org
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of

every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.

With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world on 4 subjects and in the top 100 in 18 subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020). Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

Global Brain Health Institute

PhDs will be carried out in association with the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI), a dual-university program established by the Atlantic Philanthropies, with a unifying Mission is to *'reduce the scale and impact of dementia around the world by training and supporting a new generation of leaders to translate research evidence into effective policy and practice'*. Drs. Trépel and Kahn are co-leads of the economic portion of GBHI (see GBHI faculty profiles at: https://www.gbhi.org/), are co-recipients of the funding for this GBHI Project, and will collaboratively supervise these two district doctoral projects. The PhD activities will be enriched by interaction the growing international network of more than 200 current and senior Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health. PhDs will benefit from interaction with the fellows network, a research associate (both at TCD and UCSF) and GBHI's wider network.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/ and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/ . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement.

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