

Postgraduate Scholarship Information Sheet (Advert)

Scholarship Project Title	Fitness levels of Irish children and adolescents with disabilities – The FIT for all project
Advert Reference number	SETU_2024_106
Supervisor(s)	<i>Dr. Sharon Kinsella (SETU, Carlow, Ireland)</i> <i>Dr. Martina Gooney (SETU, Waterford, Ireland)</i> <i>Assoc. Prof Sean Healy (University of Limerick, Ireland)</i> <i>Dr. Kwok Ng (University of Turku, Finland)</i>
Research Group	<i>Autism Research Group, HealthCore</i>
Department /School/Faculty	Department of Health and Sport Science
Duration	4 Years/48 Months
Status: Full-time / part-time	Full Time
Funding information	SETU 2024 Presidents Scholarship Programme
Value of the scholarship per year for four years	Stipend: €18,500 per annum Fees of €5,750 per annum Research costs- €2,000/€3,000 per annum
Closing date and time	17th July 2024@ 4Pm Irish Time
Interview date	TBC
PhD commencement date	To be confirmed

Project Key Words: (enter 3 to help advertise on online platforms) *Fitness, disability, physical activity*

Post summary

Fitness is an important topic for those with disabilities. Poor fitness is a risk factor for many diseases and can result in loss of independence and poor quality of life. In Ireland there is a lack of data on the fitness levels of Irish children and adolescents with disabilities (CAWD). Ireland is not the only country to have a lack of data for fitness for CAWD as within the 2023 'Global Matrix of Para Report Cards on Physical Activity (PA) of CAWD' the overall grade was inconclusive. One of the main factors noted for this grade was a lack of valid and reliable measures of fitness for CAWD.

This project will develop a reliable and valid method to assess fitness levels in all subgroups of CAWD. The fitness levels will be compared to able-bodied youth and will also be analysis to establish if any subgroups of CAWD may have greater disparities in fitness. The results of the project will allow for more targeted PA interventions to be created. The outcomes from this project will be invaluable to many stakeholders, including CAWD and their carers', disability and early interventions teams, the education community, Active Disability Ireland and Sports Ireland.

Knowledge & Experience

Essential

- Applicants should have a good primary degree (First or 2.1 Honours) or M.Sc. in an appropriate discipline (Health, physical education, adapted physical activity, sport related science degree). The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated and have experience of working with children and adolescents, ideally with disabilities. The applicant will require excellent communication skills.

Desirable

- MSc in a related degree. Have clinical experience of working with children and adolescents with disabilities. It would also be advantageous to have research experience in the area of disability and physical activity.

Skills & Competencies

Essential

- Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate on application that they meet [SETU's English language requirements](#) and provide all necessary documentation. See Page 7 of the Code of Practice
- In order to be **shortlisted for interview**, you must meet the SETU English speaking requirements so please provide evidence in your application.
- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal).
- Comprehensive analytical and problem solving skills.
- Proficient computer skills including Microsoft Office, Excel, Access, Word, PowerPoint.
- Highly motivated and self-directed with good time and project management skills.
- Be willing to travel for research purposes.

Desirable

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- An understanding of statistical analysis of data and use of referencing software
- Ability to work both as a team member and as an independent researcher
- Experience collecting and managing large data sets

Further information

For any informal queries, please contact Dr. Sharon Kinsella on email Sharon.kinsella@setu.ie

For queries relating to the application and admission process, please contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office researchadmissions@setu.ie or telephone +353 (0)59 9175203

For queries relating to the funding programme, please email scholarships2024@setu.ie

University Website <https://www.setu.ie/>

Application procedure

Download the Research Postgraduate Application Form from the website and return the completed application to researchadmissions@setu.ie quoting a **SETU_2024_106** in the email subject line.

Please note that paper submissions will not be accepted.

The University may decide to interview only those applicants who appear from the information they provided, to be the most suitable in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the post.

The University will short-list and interview those applicants who provide the most suitable information in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements relevant to the scholarship.

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