

**PhD in Statistical Methodology for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) / Trainee Assessor
at the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics**

Temporary Whole-time vacancy (Four-year programme)

Salary scale: Subject to experience

A full-time position for a PhD candidate in Statistical Methodology for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) / Trainee Assessor is available at the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) in conjunction with the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin (TCD). ***The successful candidate will be enrolled in a four-year structured PhD programme at TCD.*** The candidate will have the opportunity to assist in the work at the NCPE as part of the conditions of this PhD programme.

Department Description

The National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics conducts the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) of pharmaceutical products for the Health Service Executive (HSE) in Ireland in collaboration with the HSE Corporate Pharmaceutical Unit (HSE-CPU). Through this process the NCPE makes recommendations to the HSE regarding the cost-effectiveness of pharmaceutical products. The aim of the centre is to promote expertise in Ireland for the advancement of the discipline of pharmacoeconomics through practice, research and education. The Evaluation Team at the NCPE has a multidisciplinary skill mix including staff with backgrounds in medicine, pharmacy, pharmacoepidemiology, statistics and health economics.

Research conducted by the NCPE aims to support evidence-based decision making in practice. The NCPE is linked with the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and the Department of Statistics, Trinity College Dublin and has close collaborative links with international health economic academic centres and international HTA organisations. The centre contributes to the undergraduate curriculum and post graduate training in TCD. The NCPE also hosts other educational opportunities for those involved in HTA in Ireland in practice. Research in the centre focuses predominantly on the economic evaluation of health technologies in high cost therapeutic areas. In particular, statistical research at the NCPE focuses on a wide variety of areas such as:

- Analysis of survival distributions for various disease areas.
- Appropriate methods for combining results from multiple clinical trials.
- Impact of new medications on the overall national drugs budget.
- Identifying and quantifying areas of uncertainty.

Requirements:

Candidates must have:

- A strong degree (2:1 or higher) in a highly quantitative subject such as statistics, mathematics, computer science, physics, finance, or economics.
- Ability to work and communicate with an inter-disciplinary team.
- Interest in developing practical and research skills.

Desirable:

- Experience of applying technical skills in a real-world setting.
- Experience in critical appraisal, systematic review and statistical analysis desirable.

Main role, duties and responsibilities

The post holder will be joining a multidisciplinary team with responsibility for appraising evidence for comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of technologies for use by patients in Ireland. This is done through assessment of evidence submitted by manufacturers and independent systematic review. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to assist in the work at the NCPE. Responsibilities will include: pharmacoeconomic assessment of new and existing medicines; critical appraisal of clinical evidence and economic models submitted by manufacturers to the NCPE, systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical evidence, research into statistical methodologies involved in cost-effectiveness analysis, and report writing.

Principle duties and responsibilities:**Pharmacoeconomic Evaluation**

- Work as part of the Evaluation Team in the performance of duties and responsibilities, as required.
- Analyse clinical and economic data to inform the appraisal reports.
- Contribute to the critical appraisal of economic models submitted by manufacturers to the NCPE.
- Contribute to the writing of the NCPE appraisal reports that are prepared by the Evaluation Team on behalf of the HSE within defined timelines.

Education/research

This four-year PhD program will provide training in the areas of health economics and outcomes research. The candidate will be expected to:

- Undertake a PhD in an area related statistical methodology for Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics.
- Participate in research to inform the development of guidelines and methods of pharmacoeconomic appraisal.
- Participate in continuing education and in such activities consistent with the post.
- Attend such study days and continuing education courses as may be deemed necessary for the development of both the service and the individual.
- Participate in training and teaching in accordance with the educational role of the NCPE. This will include delivering training to staff at the NCPE and to external groups including undergraduate and post-graduate courses, NCPE courses, study days, journal club and other educational events.
- Contribute to peer-reviewed publication and dissemination of academic research.
- Proactively seek out learning and development opportunities.

General

- Carry out general administrative duties including recording keeping as required.
- Participate in multidisciplinary working groups and committees as required.

- Where a senior colleague has been assigned responsibilities to co-operate with and assist him / her in the performance of his / her duties and responsibilities as required.
- Perform such other duties appropriate to the office as may be assigned to him / her from time to time by the Clinical Director / Chief I Pharmacist.

An interest in the area of Health Technology Assessment, Pharmacoeconomics, economics modelling or outcomes research and experience of any of the above will be considered an advantage.

The above Job Description is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all duties involved and consequently, the post holder may be required to perform other duties as appropriate to the post which may be assigned to him/her from time to time and to contribute to the development of the post while in office.

Enquiries:

Informal enquiries may be made to Dr Laura McCullagh, Chief I Pharmacist, Head of Research, NCPE (Email: lmccullagh@stjames.ie).

Applications should contain a cover letter outlining your interest and suitability for the position, a detailed CV and contacts for two referees.

The closing date for receipt of application is 23/04/2019.

Applications should be submitted to lmccullagh@stjames.ie.