



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin



### **Postdoctoral Position in Radon Risk Perception and Communication**

Trinity College Dublin [Centre for the Environment](#) and [Centre for Psychological Health](#) invite applications for a postdoctoral position in the field of Risk Perception and Communication on a new collaborative project entitled: ***the Role of Geosciences in Radon Risk Communication (GeoRadRisk)***. The position contributes to the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences ([iCRAG](#)) research challenge in Public Perception and Understanding ([PPU](#)).

#### *Project background*

Radon, is a naturally occurring radioactive gas which primarily emanates from the subsurface. Exposure to indoor radon and its daughter products is associated with an elevated risk of developing lung cancer, with some 300 radon-related lung cancer cases in Ireland every year. Approximately 460,000 people live in radon-prone areas in Ireland, yet only around 40,000 homes have been tested. Even when radon levels above the domestic national action level of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> are found, remediation takes place in less than 25% of these cases. This proposed research seeks to develop a better understanding of decision making surrounding radon testing and remediation. It will investigate the role of geoscience communication as a key tool in promoting radon risk to policy makers, decision influencers and the general public.

The research project is specifically designed to gain a better understanding of how customised geoscience information can best be used to communicate radon risk. The research will improve our understanding of how to communicate and develop geohazard knowledge transfer strategies. The impact of the proposed research will improve our understanding of the public perception of radon as a natural hazard. Crucially, it will test different approaches to support fact-based decision making surrounding radon testing and remediation, leading to an improved quality of life for the general population and a lowering of the health burden associated with radon-related lung cancer. From a policy perspective, the proposed research will provide specialist advice to policy makers, to better inform decisions surrounding legislative approaches which aim to increase the uptake of radon testing and remediation.

#### *Qualifications and Expected Experience of Applicants*

##### Qualifications

- PhD degree in psychology, science communication, environmental risk perception, natural hazards, or other relevant areas.

##### Essential skills / experience

- Previous experience developing questionnaires, and conducting interviews;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment.

##### Desirable skills / experience

- Ability to conduct research on the development, implementation and evaluation of psychological or policy interventions to enhance health and well-being;
- A track record of working with researchers and policy makers regarding evidence-based approaches to enhance health outcomes;

- Knowledge of applied behaviour analysis and health psychology;
- Knowledge of the subsurface and geohazards.

### *Salary*

A Postdoctoral Fellow will be appointed at Point 5 (level 2A) of the [SFI Team Member Salary Scale](#), progressing to Point 6 in year 2. The appointment is a fixed term contract, due to end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, starting as early as 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019. There is an additional generous budget for equipment, fieldwork, conference travel and dissemination of project information.

### *Enquiries and application*

For further information and enquiries contact [Dr. Quentin Crowley](mailto:crowleyq@tcd.ie) (crowleyq@tcd.ie) and [Dr. David Hevey](mailto:heveydt@tcd.ie) (heveydt@tcd.ie). All applications, which need to include a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae and names of two references, should be sent to Dr Crowley. Applications are welcomed until August 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 or until the position is filled.

### *Academic Environment*

**Trinity College Dublin** (TCD) was founded in 1592 and is recognised for academic excellence. The historic campus is located in the heart of Dublin city centre. With a tradition of scholarship spanning more than four centuries, Trinity is home to talented and inquiring minds; a liberal education, and research conducted at the frontiers of disciplines. Further information on TCD can be found at: <https://www.tcd.ie/>. Information on research activities at TCD, including a full list of Research Centres can be found at: <https://www.tcd.ie/structure/research/>.

**The Trinity Centre for the Environment** (TCE) was established in 1979 as the Environmental Sciences Unit. It acts as a hub for academics, postdocs and postgraduate students who work in the broad area of the environment. TCE comprises a wide collection of academic and research staff, as well as visiting and affiliate members. It provides a research platform within the School of Natural Sciences, by providing extensive laboratories and space for visiting researchers. The TCE strives to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary research in all aspects of the environment. More information can be found at: <https://www.tcd.ie/environment/>.

**The Trinity Centre for Psychological Health** (CPH), as part of the School of Psychology, brings together a critical service-focused research capacity to develop, implement and evaluate psychological interventions to enhance health and well-being. It has expertise in a range of psychological disciplines, research methods, and both quantitative and qualitative analyses. CPH meets the needs of services for robust evidence-based approaches to enhance well-being, quality of life and optimal functioning in individuals and organisations, in both community and institutional settings. More information can be found at: <https://psychology.tcd.ie/cph/>.

**The Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences** (iCRAG), is Ireland's national geoscience research centre supported by Science Foundation Ireland, the European Regional Development Fund, Geological Survey Ireland and industry partners. iCRAG's mission is to transform Irish geoscience by driving research and discovery, delivering economic and societal benefit, and advancing public understanding. iCRAG's multidisciplinary research transcends industry and academic boundaries to address key research challenges in the fields of energy security, raw materials supply, groundwater protection, safeguarding the geomarine environment and protection from the Earth's hazards. Further details on iCRAG can be accessed at: <https://www.icrag-centre.org/>.