



Mental Health
Ireland



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



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Job Specification, Terms, and Conditions

Person with Lived Experience of mental health difficulties, family member/supporter or Member of the General Public Panel of the VISTA Research Programme

**Specified Purpose Contract –
3.5 years Part Time (2 hours per week) at €24 per hour**

PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE NUMBER 2024-020 WITH YOUR APPLICATION. EMAIL ONLY PLEASE

How to apply and confidentiality

The application process for a position on the panel in a two-step process:

- Step 1 is completion and submission of an Application Form.
- Step 2 will involve a short in-person interview.

To apply for a position, please complete and submit the Application Form (downloadable on the Mental Health Ireland website) to Lisa Manley (Administrative Officer and Garda Vetting Designated Liaison) at recruitment@mentalhealthireland.ie.

Please note, the information you disclose in this form will only be seen by the VISTA PPI research team (Dr Donal O’Keeffe, Dr Rebecca Murphy, Dr Shaakya Anand-Vembar, Professor Agnes Higgins, and appropriate Mental Health Ireland staff: Human Resources, Garda Vetting, and Finance).

Background to the position:

‘Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone’ is Ireland’s national mental health policy. Sharing the Vision makes suggestions to improve people's mental health and the quality of the mental health services. However, making these ideas work in real life is difficult, leading to what is called a ‘policy implementation gap’.

The VISTA research programme, which is funded by the Health Research Board, aims to carry out research to identify how best to support the implementation of ‘Sharing the Vision’.

VISTA is made up of six different projects which are focused on: (1) social media and youth mental health; (2) physical and sexual health; (3) digital interventions in youth mental health; (4) factors that a person can change to promote recovery; (5) improving involuntary mental health care; and (6) increasing authenticity and diversity in Public and Patient Involvement in mental health research.



The inclusion of people with lived experience of mental health difficulties, their families and supporters, and the general public in the design, development, delivery, and evaluation of mental health services is critical. Therefore, one of the objectives of the VISTA research programme is to develop and increase capacity of people with Lived Experience of mental health difficulties, as well as the General Public, for meaningful involvement in research. This includes enhancing the confidence and competence of people with Lived Experience and the General Public to contribute to the VISTA research programme as well as future research.

Mental Health Ireland is Ireland’s longest established national mental health charity and a leader in supporting mental health recovery and progressing the reform and improvement of mental health services nationally. Mental Health Ireland is part of the VISTA research programme, which involves researchers from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, University of Galway, and Dublin City University, and representatives from the Health Service Executive, the Department of Health, and other collaborators (e.g. Mental Health Reform and Spunout).

Who are we looking for?

We have resources to employ 5 people and are looking for people with a diverse range of experiences and backgrounds.

We are looking for people who:

- (1) have experience of mental health difficulties, or
- (2) are family members/supporters of someone who has mental health difficulties, or
- (3) are a member of the general public with an interest in the mental health landscape and system.

Mental health difficulties can include psychosis, eating ‘disorders’, personality ‘disorders’, low mood, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, experience of involuntary psychiatric inpatient admission, and more. The PPI panel will use their life experiences, wisdom, and insights to shape all aspects of VISTA’s 6 different projects. They will work in collaboration with the PPI research team (Dr Donal O’Keefe, Dr Rebecca Murphy, Dr Shaakya Anand-Vembar, and Professor Agnes Higgins)

Job Title	Person with Lived Experience of mental health difficulties or Member of the General Public Panel of the VISTA Research Programme
Closing Date	Monday September 30 th 2024 at 12 noon. Applications received after this time will not be considered.
Proposed Interview Date (s)	Interviews will be held week commencing October 14 th 2024.
Tenure	Specified Purpose Contract – 3.5 years Part Time.



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Working Week	This post is for 2 hours per week. Flexibility may be required regarding hours as occasional weekend and evening work may be necessary.
Location of Post	This a hybrid post with most work happening online and some in person meetings needed in locations around Dublin. The base for this role and where most in-person meetings will be held will be ARCHES Recovery College, Clonskeagh Hospital Campus, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 6, D06 N5N3. Travel to meetings will be at the employee's own expense.
Employer	Mental Health Ireland
Informal Enquiries	Dr Donal O’Keeffe: donal@mentalhealthireland.ie
Purpose of Post	The PPI Panel member will be responsible for communicating their opinions, views, and perspective regarding different parts of the VISTA research programme. By doing this, they will influence how research is carried out and how it will impact mental health services and society.
Eligibility Criteria	<p>To apply for this position, you must be over 18 years of age and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have experience of mental health difficulties, or 2. Be a family member/supporter of someone who has mental health difficulties, or 3. Be a member of the general public with an interest in the mental health landscape and system. <p>Other requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to your own computer (PC or laptop). 2. Sufficient ability to use computers so that you can attend online meetings and review and edit documents. 3. Appropriate references. 4. Garda clearance. <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific educational qualification or work experience is required for this role. • You do <u>NOT</u> need to have any experience with, or knowledge of, the research process. We welcome candidates who both have, and do not have, experience with, or knowledge of, the research process. • Mental health service use is <u>NOT</u> a requirement of these roles. Instead, applicants need to self-identify as having



	<p>lived experience or be a member of the general public with an interest in the mental health landscape and system.</p>
<p>Examples of different tasks that will be involved in this role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping to decide what are the most important research questions to ask. • Reviewing documents and sharing your thoughts on them by phone or email. • Attending online/in person meetings to discuss research projects. • Being involved in a research study that aims to explore your experience and the barriers and facilitators to meaningful involvement of people with Lived Experience and the General Public in research. • Helping to interpret research findings using your unique perspective. • Coming up with ideas about how best to share research findings with different communities.
<p>Attributes of successful candidates</p>	<p><u>Successful candidates will have:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A willingness to learn more about the research process. • The ability to provide critical and constructive feedback. • Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work on a team. • Confidence in their ability to communicate their opinions, views, and perspective as well as comfort in communicating their lived experience (if relevant). • Be able to participate in group discussion while respecting different viewpoints. • Working fluency in English.

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Your information will be treated with the utmost care and will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation.