

Faculty of Education & Health Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF
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Current Research Projects

WEB: WWW.UL.IE/EHS

Welcome



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The Faculty of Education and Health Sciences (EHS) is grounded in meaningful community engagement, innovative education, and cross-disciplinary research informing policy, generating impact and improving lives. Our programmes are strategically designed to meet real-world needs in healthcare, education, and society, producing graduates who are work-ready, values-driven, and equipped to lead in their fields.

EHS brings together a diverse community of disciplines and practices, including allied health, education, medicine, midwifery, nursing, psychology, and sports science, in a unique ecosystem that values collaboration, innovation, and diversity. Through shared facilities, mentoring, and strong connections with public services and industry, we support a student experience that is both ambitious and supportive. EHS benefits from access to wider university research centres and academic schools. We take pride in shaping the future of professions through strong graduate attributes, research-informed teaching, and long-standing partnerships driving real-world impact.

Based in Ireland's Mid-West, one of the world's most peaceful and globally connected regions, we welcome all those who share our ambition to contribute meaningfully through education, research, and leadership.

Professor Deirdre McGrath
Dean, Faculty of Education and Health Sciences

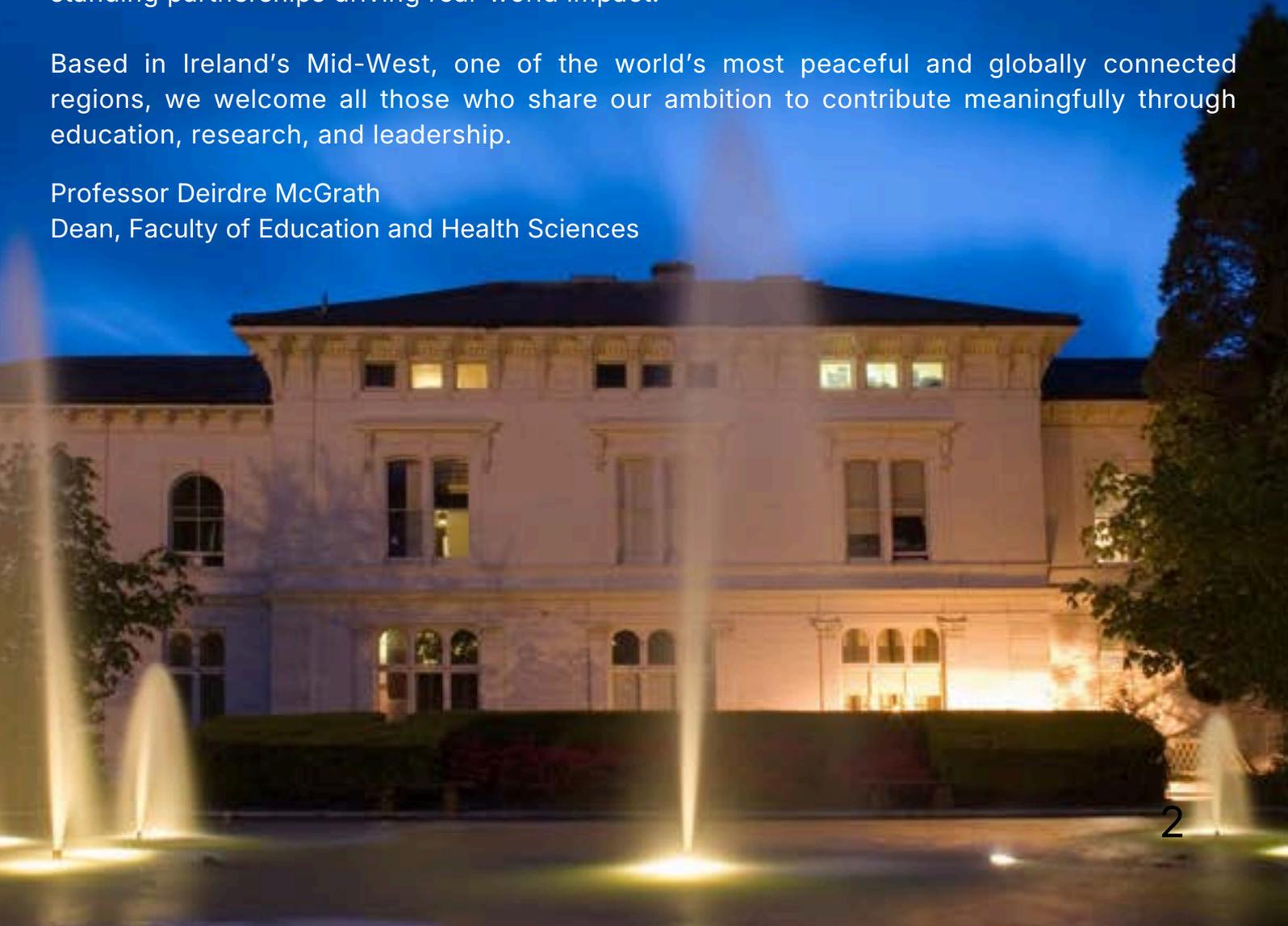


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Research Institutes & Centres

Health Research Institute

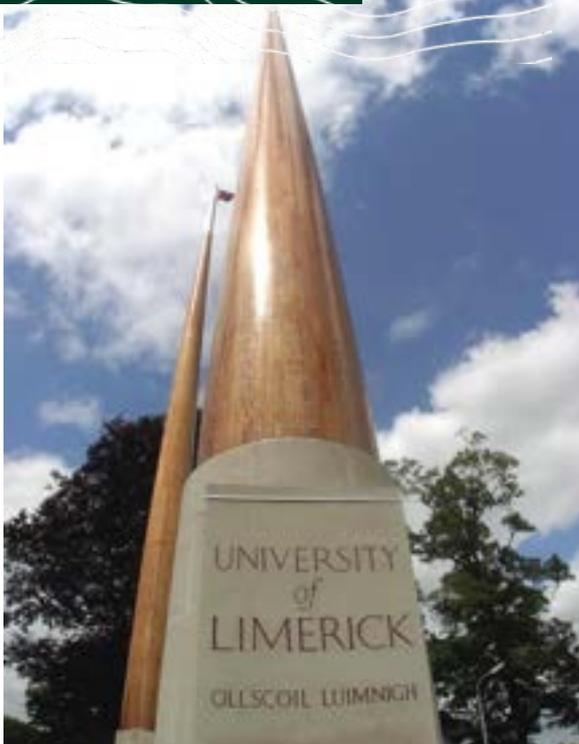


The HRI works to create a strong network of researchers, both within the university and with external partners. They aim to attract leading researchers, collaborate with industry partners, and involve patients and communities in their research. By focusing on person-centred, technology-driven healthcare, the HRI contributes to improving health outcomes and promoting wellbeing for all.

The activities of the HRI are supported by expertise in biostatistics, health informatics and health economics, and facilitated by the Clinical Research Support Unit (CRSU). Our goal is to provide a rich collaborative environment that fosters discovery and innovation in health science that will lead to better health, improved care and a healthier society.

The HRI acts as an enabler for researchers by allowing access to interdisciplinary research expertise across a range of departments which will develop a critical mass of researchers - interdepartmental, inter-institutional and international.

<https://www.ul.ie/hri>





The Faculty of Education and Health Sciences at University of Limerick is host to a number of world-class Research Centres and units including national externally-funded research centres.

Research Centres



Sport and Human Performance Research Centre (SHPRC)



PEPAYS Ireland



Centre for Social Issues Research - CSI-r



WHO Collaborating Centre for Participatory Health Research with Refugees and Migrants



Epi•Stem - National Centre for STEM Education



Ageing Research Centre (ARC)



Limerick Digital Cancer Research Centre



Centre for Implementation Research at UL - CIRcUL



Centre for Interventions in Infection, Inflammation & Immunity (4i)



Physical Activity for Health (PAfH) Centre



Participatory Health Research Unit (PHR)



School of Allied Health

About

The School of Allied Health includes the disciplines of Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Speech and Language Therapy and is based in a purpose-built Health Sciences Building on the North campus of the University. It is large, welcoming, and very research-active, with over 90 staff members across academic, practice education, research, and support roles. The School has an excellent track record of high-impact publications and securing research funding from national and international funding bodies, including the Health Research Board, the Irish Research Council and EU funders. The School currently collaborates with over 85 international institutions. Researchers are members of the Health Research Institute, and research features the involvement of patient and public partners (PPI), interprofessional practice and implementation science, as well as aiming for impact in ageing, mental health, chronic conditions and speech, language, communication and swallowing difficulties across the lifespan.

More info

<https://www.ul.ie/ehs/school-allied-health>

Current Research Projects

School of Allied Health

Research Theme Title

Supervisor 1

Supervisor 2

Investigating the impact of tailored nutrition care pathways on the health outcomes and quality of life of older adults.

[Anne Griffin](#)

[Rose Galvin](#)
[Katie Robinson](#)

Investigating the relationship between food security and chronic disease management in older adults.

[Anne Griffin](#)

[Audrey Tierney](#)

Improving access to lifestyle interventions in Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease using virtual engagement group consultations

[Audrey Tierney](#)

[Katie Crowley](#)

Feasibility and acceptability of a Mediterranean Diet in Cystic Fibrosis – Dietary change in a post genetic modulator era

[Audrey Tierney](#)

[Roisin Cahahlan](#)

Simulated placements as partial replacement of clinical training time in Dietetics

[Audrey Tierney](#)

[Liz Kingston](#)
[Maria Bowles](#)

Food security in university students

[Audrey Tierney](#)

[Anne Griffin](#)

Research Theme Title	Supervisor 1	Supervisor 2
Practice educator's perception of the meaning of competence on final placement	<u>Audrey Tierney.</u>	<u>Alexandra Cremona</u>
Maternal nutrition	<u>Alexandra Cremona</u>	Mendinaro Imcha
Sweetener use in gestational diabetes	<u>Alexandra Cremona</u>	<u>Fabiana Sarda</u>
Co-designing and implementing communication partner training to support healthcare workers working with people with aphasia in Indonesia	<u>Áine Kearns</u>	<u>Molly Manning</u>
Charting and optimising stroke care for people with acquired communication impairments in Indonesia	<u>Molly Manning</u>	<u>Áine Kearns</u>
Partnering with healthcare providers, autistic people, and their families to implement neurodiversity affirmative healthcare.	<u>Michelle O'Donoghue</u>	<u>Carol-Anne Murphy.</u>
Supporting autistic children to thrive in inclusive education settings through an implementation science lens.	<u>Carol-Anne Murphy.</u>	<u>Michelle O'Donoghue</u>
Implementing optimal person-centred services in schools through comprehensive stakeholder partnerships, investigating methods of influence	<u>Aoife Gallagher</u>	<u>Carol-Anne Murphy.</u>

Research Theme Title	Supervisor 1	Supervisor 2
Developing speech and language pathology services with activity and participation outcomes in mind	<u>Carol-Anne Murphy</u>	<u>Aoife Gallagher</u>
Musculoskeletal physiotherapy	<u>Kieran O'Sullivan</u>	<u>Karen McCreesh</u>
Adapting the environment to support people living with dementia	<u>Pauline Boland</u>	<u>Dympna Tuohy</u> <u>Pauline Meskell</u>
Memory technology assistive devices – optimising use for people with cognitive impairments	<u>Pauline Boland</u>	<u>Tadhg Stapleton (Trinity College Dublin)</u> <u>Orla Brady (University of Galway)</u>
Retirement planning and transition to retirement for academics	<u>Mairead Cahill</u>	<u>Judi Pettigrew</u>
Optimising care for people with musculoskeletal disorders	Karen McCreesh	
Exercise and physical activity interventions for people with inflammatory arthritis	Norelee Kennedy	
Clinical Assessment and Treatment of Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness	Ann-Marie Morrissey	
Building capacity for patient involvement in Stroke research	Molly Manning	
Implementing an age-friendly health system in long-term residential care	Íde O'Shaughnessy	
Handwriting versus typing and scribing in school aged children with disabilities	Mellissa Prunty	



School of Education

About

The School of Education at UL is very proud of its national and international reputation which is reflected in the current international rankings. It is ranked in the top 101 –150 in the world for Education (QS rankings).

The University Limerick's School of Education (SoE) is Ireland's largest single provider of post-primary teacher education in Ireland as well as the national leader in teacher upskilling with two major programmes, i.e. the aspiring leaders/PDSL and post-primary mathematics/PDSL. With a team that has expertise in a distinctive combination of disciplines, we offer a range of professional teacher education programmes in both initial and continuing teacher education. The programmes span undergraduate and postgraduate teacher education, postgraduate diplomas and masters and PhD studies.

The School of Education is the academic home to almost 2,250+ students with programmes offered on campus and at external locations across Ireland. Complementing these programmes of education is a vibrant research agenda focused on examining key issues in education in both local and global contexts. The School of Education also houses EPI-STEM, the National Centre for STEM Education.

More info

<https://www.ul.ie/ehs/soedu>

Current Research Projects

School of
Education

Research Theme Title

Supervisor

Teachers' Digital Competence

Oliver McGarr

Impact of digital Technology use of
students' education and wellbeing

Oliver McGarr

Use of digital tools supporting students
school learning

Oliver McGarr

Global citizenship education and
teacher

Joanne O'Flaherty

Transition from initial teacher education
through the early years of teaching

Paul Conway

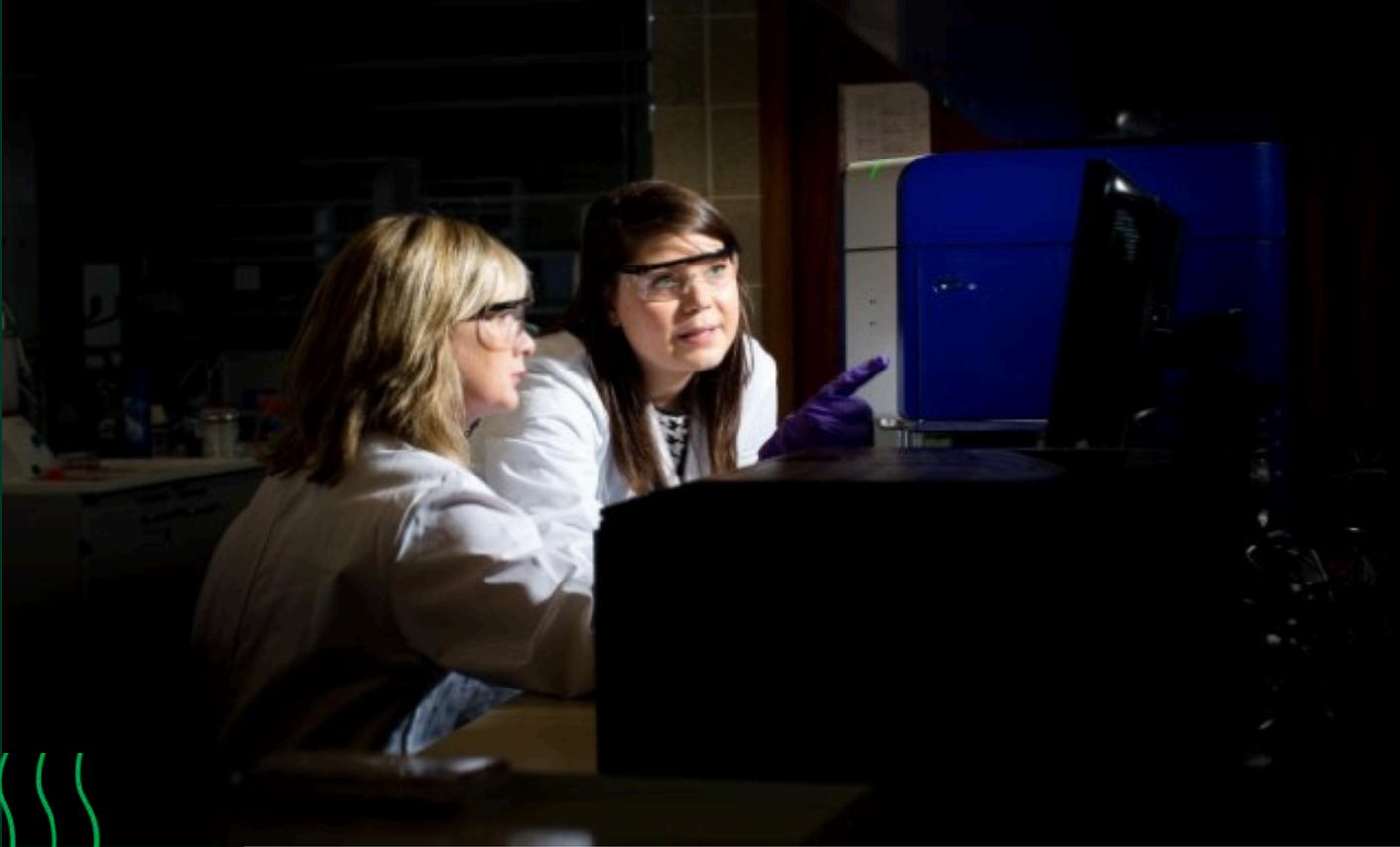
Newly qualified teacher induction
programmes: Design, experience and
outcomes

Paul Conway

Exploring the upskilling of STEM teacher
knowledge for Inclusive Pedagogies and
a Successful Green and Digital Transition

Geraldine Mooney-Simmie

Research Theme Title	Supervisor 1	Supervisor 2
Exploring STEAM Literacies Across the Curriculum for Climate Action & Sustainability	<u>Geraldine Mooney-Simmie</u>	
Exploring Pedagogical Innovations in Integrated-STEM: Challenges and Opportunities in Second-Level Technology Classrooms	<u>Geraldine Mooney-Simmie</u>	
Exploring the role of teacher research across the continuum of Teacher Education	<u>Jennifer Hennessy</u>	
The experience of autistic student teachers: Strengths and challenges	Diarmuid Verrier	
Inclusion and interculturality in globalised classrooms: Pedagogical practices, perspectives, and possibilities	Mary Masterson	
Exploring the role of Supervision and Substitution (S&S) classes on pre-service teachers' experience of school placement	Helen Lowe	Patrick Dundon
Examining the role of paper and pencil sketching across school disciplines in the digital era	Diarmaid Lane	
Pedagogy in Design and Communication Graphics (DCG) classrooms: An exploration of the use of digital technologies	Diarmaid Lane	
Exploring the integration of aesthetic education practices in the English Classroom	Rachel Lenihan	Carmel Hinchion
Exploring the professional needs of teachers as they integrate AI tools into their professional practice.	Mary Masterson	



School of Medicine

About

The School of Medicine is a world class medical school delivering leading edge education and research programmes that positively impact the health and well-being of our global community.

Through an inclusive, collaborative and supportive culture we deliver inspiring and distinctive education and research programmes of the highest quality, producing outstanding, internationally recognised graduates and leaders in Medicine and Health, enhancing healthcare and its delivery to patients and communities.

More info

<https://www.ul.ie/ehs/medicine>

Current Research Projects

School of
Medicine

Research Theme Title	Supervisor 1	Supervisor 2
Implementation of a National Research Strategy in Paramedicine	Niamh Cummins	
Physical activity promotion among the healthcare service providers and their service users in Indonesia	Vikram Niranjana	
Evaluating oral health services in Indonesia and Ireland and implement cross country learning	Vikram Niranjana	
Evaluation of the "Care Aware Crew" Health Promotion Programme in Irish Primary Schools	Niamh Cummins	
Investigating the role of tryptophan metabolism in the epigenetics of Epstein Barr virus induced cancers	<u>Paul Murray</u>	<u>Jeremiah Stanley</u>
Climate change and impact on human health AND awareness and practices among healthcare professional	<u>Vikram Niranjana</u>	
Physical activity intervention among Indonesian patient population to optimise and aid in health and wellbeing management	<u>Vikram Niranjana</u>	
Development of a Research Strategy for Emergency Medical Services in Indonesia	Niamh Cummins	



Department of Psychology

About

The Department of Psychology at the University of Limerick offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that focus on contemporary social issues and foster curiosity, critical thinking and compassion in students and graduates. Complementing and underpinning these offerings is a research agenda focused on exploring and understanding the key social issues of our times. Key and emerging research themes include social psychology, clinical and health psychology and experimental psychology

More info

<https://www.ul.ie/psychology>

Current Research Projects

Department of Psychology

Research Theme Title

Supervisor 1

Supervisor 2

The Role of Trust in Learning: A Motivational and Cognitive Perspective. This project examines how trust enhances learning by encouraging social approach—an essential foundation for social learning—and how it optimizes information processing mechanisms to support effective learning processes.

[Ann-Christin Posten](#)

[Lorena Arnal](#)

Moral Memory in Focus: How Questioning Shapes the Forgetting of Immoral Acts. This project experimentally explores how answering specific questions can induce forgetting of immoral actions through retrieval-induced forgetting, offering insights into the cognitive representation of moral and immoral information and practical implications for eyewitness testimonies in judicial investigations.

[Ann-Christen Posten](#)

[Cillian McHugh](#)

Proposed topic: Longitudinal network analysis approaches to understanding associations between loneliness and psychopathology

[Ann-Marie Creaven](#)

[Aoife Whiston](#)

Family Matters: An exploration of family focused prison-based supports for families impacted by familial incarceration.

[Daragh Bradshaw](#)

[Aisling O'Donnell](#)

Research Theme Title	Supervisor 1	Supervisor 2
Topics relating to clinical /neuro psychology, disability, psychological health and well-being across populations including hard to reach/ marginalised populations.	<u>Elaine Rogers</u>	<u>Donal Fortune</u>
Hedonic and Interpersonal Behaviours as Existential Escape from Threats to Meaning in Life	<u>Andrew Moynihan</u>	<u>Eric R. Igou</u>
A social identity approach to internalised stigma.	<u>Aisling O'Donnell</u>	<u>Daragh Bradshaw</u>
Antecedents and Consequences of (In)compatible Social Identities and their Integration	<u>Jenny Roth</u>	<u>Pablo DeTezanos Pinto</u>
Identifying actual conspiracies: participants' likelihood of detecting deception in experiments and its relation with conspiracy beliefs.	<u>Pablo DeTezanos Pinto</u>	<u>Ann-Christin Posten</u>
Breaking the Dark Triad: Social Psychological Approaches to Personality Changes (Narcissism, Psychopathy, Machiavellianism)	<u>Eric R. Igou</u>	<u>Andrew Moynihan</u>
Leveraging digital technology to enable accessible mental health services and supports (digital mental health, suicide prevention)	<u>Ruth Melia</u>	TBC
A chartered organisational psychologist interested in supervising projects on how social and personal factors shape leadership, wellbeing, and work performance.	Elaine L. Kinsella	

Research Theme Title	Supervisor 1	Supervisor 2
Social Dynamics of Integration, Exclusion, and Identity in Urban Environments	Pablo DeTezanos Pinto	
The Role of Trust in Learning: A Motivational and Cognitive Perspective. This project examines how trust enhances learning by encouraging social approach—an essential foundation for social learning—and how it optimizes information processing mechanisms to support effective learning processes.	Ann-Christin Posten	



Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences

About

The Physical Education and Sport Sciences (PESS) Department is a vibrant and rapidly growing department in the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences. The Department's strength lies in the expertise of its staff, the quality of its academic programmes and the applied nature and relevance of these programmes. PESS offers undergraduate and postgraduate academic taught programmes, as well as our extensive research activities including research centres and themes, collaborations and research publications and funded projects.

PESS is very proud of its national and international reputation, which is reflected in the current international rankings. PESS is ranked 40th in the Sports Science School and Departments in the Shanghai Global University Rankings for 2023 and ranked in the top 51-100 in the QS World University Rankings: Top Global Universities for 2024 for 'Sport-Related Subjects' the highest ranked Department in UL.

More info

<https://www.ul.ie/ehs/pess>

Research Theme Title	Supervisor
The influence of glycolytic capacity on muscle growth	<u>Brian Carson</u>
Contraction and nutrient regulation of skeletal muscle in vitro: Discovery of novel modulators of muscle metabolism	<u>Brian Carson</u>
Mechanisms for skeletal muscle maintenance in cachexic conditions	<u>John Noone</u>
The influence of hyperglycaemia on skeletal muscle mitochondrial dynamics	<u>John Noone</u>
Exploring the role of digital technologies for teaching, learning and assessment in physical education	<u>Antonio Calderón</u>
Conceptualising and exploring programme coherence in teacher education programmes	<u>Antonio Calderón</u>



School of Nursing & Midwifery

About

The School of Nursing and Midwifery strives to demonstrate the qualities of openness, balance, rigorous scholarship, research, and respect for diversity and creativity.

Through innovative approaches to teaching and learning, we provide our students with the very best opportunities and supports to pursue their studies in order to become safe, effective, skilled, and knowledgeable professional practitioners of nursing or midwifery. We strongly support the principle of equal access and encourage all students and staff to achieve their full potential within an open, liberal and facilitative environment. With staff from a range of professional and disciplinary backgrounds, the School of Nursing and Midwifery provides a rich environment for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The University offers a wide variety of student resources, including world-class library facilities and a range of student supports.

More info

<https://www.ul.ie/nursing-midwifery>

Research Theme Title	Supervisor
Exploring implementation of infection control link practitioner roles in acute and community health settings	<u>Liz Kingston</u>
Nurses navigating the challenges of an ageing society using technological healthcare solutions	<u>Jill Murphy</u>

Contact Us



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