



<b>College   Management Unit:</b>	College of Social Sciences and Law
<b>School   Unit:</b>	UCD School of Education
<b>Post Title &amp; Subject Area</b>	<b>PhD Studentship in Education (pre-school transition)</b>
<b>Post Duration:</b>	3 years full time, or 5 years part time
<b>Start Date:</b>	September 2018 (or as soon as possible thereafter)
<b>Reports to</b>	Dr Seaneen Sloan and Dr Jennifer Symonds

### Position Summary:

The UCD School of Education are seeking to recruit one PhD student to work on an Irish national study of primary schooling: *Children's School Lives* (CSL). This project is funded by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. The overarching CSL study is designed to capture the perceptions of two cohorts of children, parents, teachers and school leaders, across a six-year period, with a focus on children's academic attainment, engagement, rights and well-being, diversity and inclusion, school and teaching cultures, and educational transitions.

This position will require the successful applicant to contribute to the strand of CLS focused on [children's experiences of transferring from pre-school to primary school](#). The sample will comprise approximately 2,000 children who will make the transition from around 300 pre-schools into 100 primary schools in September 2019. Intensive data collection will be conducted in April-May 2019 and September 2019, by a team of fieldworkers, as part of the larger project. The PhD student will be expected to contribute to the recruitment of schools and pre-schools, and to the data collection and analysis, as part of the team. The focus of the PhD will be on providing an in-depth mixed methods investigation of the pre-school to primary school transition. This will provide a core component of the larger CSL study and will need to align with the CSL study objectives and priorities.

Applicants should have a strong background in education and/or children and youth studies, and/or psychology, and a keen interest in researching child development, schooling and educational transitions.

The successful applicant will be required to complete and return a Garda Vetting form (police clearance certificate to ensure suitability for working with children). This will be made available to applicants who are shortlisted for interview.

**Fees and stipend:** The studentship covers the costs of all fees for students with European Union (EU) citizenship (€6,170 per annum for full time study and €4,080 per annum part time) and will include a stipend of a total €45,000 spread evenly across 3 years (full time) or 5 years (part time). Non-EU citizens are welcome to apply although will be required to pay the difference between the fees at the EU level (covered by the award) and International PhD fees. This difference is approximately €6,000 per year.

The successful applicant will not be permitted to work full time outside of their PhD, although external part time work may be permitted.

In addition to this award, applications to conduct PhD research on the CSL study from suitably qualified candidates (both EU and non-EU resident) who have alternative sources of funding and/or are self-financing are also welcome. For such applications, please contact either Dr Seaneen Sloan ([seaneen.sloan@ucd.ie](mailto:seaneen.sloan@ucd.ie)) or Dr Jennifer Symonds ([jennifer.symonds@ucd.ie](mailto:jennifer.symonds@ucd.ie)) to discuss options.

### Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Perform literature searches and write in depth literature reviews on the pre-school to primary school transition, under the guidance of the project management team
- Collect data from children and other participants in May and September 2019 (this may involve some regional travel)
- Analyse quantitative and qualitative data and present results for inclusion in journal articles, research reports and the PhD thesis, under the guidance of the supervisor(s)
- Write, submit and defend a PhD thesis within the expected time frame
- Contribute to research reports for the main study
- Attend advanced research training modules at UCD
- Contribute to tutoring and mentoring masters and/or undergraduate students at the School of Education as the need arises

### Selection Criteria

#### Mandatory:

- Master's degree in social sciences, preferably education, psychology or sociology (awarded or due to be awarded by September 2018)
- Master's degree should include strong research methods training component
- Research thesis completed as part of master's degree
- Evidence of ability to manage quantitative datasets and conduct bivariate or multivariate statistical analysis (e.g. multiple regression)
- Evidence of high academic attainment demonstrated through degree transcripts (ideally a 1<sup>st</sup> or a GPA above 3.8 but other levels of attainment will be considered on a case by case basis)
- Familiarity with education systems, preferably in Ireland
- Familiarity with early years education in a professional or personal capacity
- Excellent presentational, interpersonal and team-working skills

#### Desirable:

- Experience of pre-school or school-based research, or classroom observation
- Qualification in classroom teaching or early years education, or other relevant professional qualification for working with young children

### Application procedure:

#### **This is a highly competitive process.**

#### **Please ensure you meet the eligibility requirements before applying.**

- Applications should be made via email to [seaneen.sloan@ucd.ie](mailto:seaneen.sloan@ucd.ie) (with '**CSL PhD application**' the subject line of the email).
- Applicants should include the following:
  - A CV
  - A supporting statement of no more than two A4 pages (font size 12) outlining their academic and professional experience relevant to this programme of work. Within this, applicants should clearly demonstrate how they meet the selection criteria, and give an indication of their areas of research interest relevant to this project
  - Contact details of two academic referees (or one academic and one professional referee)
- Closing date for applications is 5pm on Wednesday, 15 August 2018.
- Interviews will take place during week beginning 3 September 2018.