

Structured Population and Health services Research Education (SPHeRE)

The SPHeRE PhD Programme in Population Health and Health services Research (PHHSR) aspires to cultivate world-class researchers through a four-year structured PhD programme. The SPHeRE Programme can also be undertaken over a longer time period on a part-time basis. The Programme is a joint initiative of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork, with funded scholars having the option to also register at University College Dublin, NUI Galway, Maynooth University, University of Limerick, or Dublin City University.

We welcome applicants with an interest in carrying out research on health services and/or population health from all parts of Ireland and from a wide range of academic and clinical disciplines, including public health, health psychology, health economics, health policy, biostatistics, sociology, health geography and social science.

The full-time 4 year structured PhD Programme features:

- Six taught modules completed in the first year of the programme
- 8-week specialist rotations in Irish health-related agencies in the first year
- Opportunities for multidisciplinary research
- Supervision by internationally renowned Principal Investigators
- Placement with a prestigious overseas agency to further PhD project development in the second or third year
- Professional skills training allowance
- Travel funds to national training days and international conferences
- Annual stipend of €18,000 plus laptop computer plus PhD fees

The SPHeRE Programme provides excellent training for scholars in core health services and population health research skills. Applicants who have already secured funding for their PhD and applicants who wish to pursue the Programme on a part-time basis are also welcome to apply. The SPHeRE Programme is subject to funding by the HRB.

Application Procedure

Applicants are asked to complete an online application form and submit a one-page cover letter and a two-page Curriculum Vitae (including grades and contact details for two referees). In your cover letter, please discuss your education, training and experience (research and/or practice) in population health and health services research and provide evidence of leadership (in an academic and/or non-academic capacity).

When completing your application, be aware that only applicants who intend undertaking the Programme on a full-time basis are eligible for funding. Further information on part-time, self-funded positions is available on our website.

Please visit www.sphereprogramme.ie for further information and apply online at www.sphereprogramme.ie/apply

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Friday, 27th March 2015** and interviews will be held in Dublin on the 21st and 22nd May 2015.