



## Call for Expressions of Interest for the post of Research Assistant

Post: Research Assistant (RA)

Duration: 2.5 days per week for 6 months (Feb– July 2022)

Salary: RA salary (point 1) will be applied on a 50% pro rata basis

Project title: *Researching alternatives to inpatient mental health care: An evidence-based service-design framework for a new therapeutic farm in Ireland.*

### Background:

There is growing consensus both nationally and internationally that radical change is needed in mental health service provision. Kyrie Therapeutic Farm (KTF), located in County Kildare, is a potentially transformative initiative in Ireland's mental health services. It is aimed at enabling the recovery of people experiencing significant mental health difficulties through the creation of a healing environment, combining a supportive community, therapeutic and holistic care, and meaningful opportunities for participating in a natural farm setting ([www.kyriefarm.com](http://www.kyriefarm.com)).

The purpose of this project is to support KTF in achieving its goals by: (1) providing a state-of-the-art evidence synthesis to inform KTF Service Design Framework; (2) identifying barriers and facilitators to service implementation; and (3) initiating knowledge translation activities.

The project emerges from an existing partnership between KTF and a small inter-institutional research team in Maynooth University (Professors Mac MacLachlan & Sinead McGilloway, Dr Catriona O'Toole) and Dublin City university (Dr Rebecca Murphy) and is supported by the Irish Research Council.

We seek a research assistant to support us in meeting the project objectives.

Research Assistant duties will include:

- Conducting scoping reviews/umbrella literature reviews in key intervention components, which may include, recovery-oriented approaches, optimal healing environments, nature-based therapy.
- Synthesising evidence and state-of-the-art knowledge in key areas.
- Co-facilitating online focus group interviews with professionals working in other therapeutic farms in Ireland and internationally.
- Analysing and identifying emergent themes.
- Documenting research processes and outcomes in a written report.

- Participating in meetings with the research team and KTF personnel.

**Desired Qualifications/Skills:**

Academic

- Undergraduate and postgraduate qualification in psychology, sociology, social studies, education, or other social science related discipline.
- Knowledge of mental health research and policy.
- Experience of conducting scoping reviews, systematic literature reviews.
- Familiarity with qualitative research approaches, particularly focus group consultations.
- Experience of undertaking a research project or thesis.
- Academic writing skills.

Professional /personal

- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team.
- Excellent organisational skills and initiative.

Respond by email to [catriona.a.otoole@mu.ie](mailto:catriona.a.otoole@mu.ie) by **Friday January 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please include a **recent CV** and a brief **statement (one-page max) on your motivation for engaging in this project**.