

P4PLAY GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS



P 4 PLAY

ABOUT ITN-EJD P4PLAY

Supported and co-funded by the European Commission through the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (MSC ITN) Programme, the P4PLAY European Joint Doctorates (EJD) programme provides 8 PhD positions. The P4PLAY EJD aims to attract international Early Stage Researchers (ESR) for high quality PhD training. The aim of the programme is to increase the international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of researchers. The students will be selected for a **3-year advanced multidisciplinary research training, with a revised starting date in late January 2021¹**, due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The research programme

There is a significant shortage of researchers in Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in Europe. Only five European countries offer PhDs in Occupational Therapy, while none offer PhDs in Occupational Science, which severely restricts professional education and practice and ultimately impacts patients, and families, who receive occupational therapy services. Therefore, the societal challenge for improving health professionals' training and knowledge in evidence-based practice is a priority for the profession. This European Joint Doctorates programme responds to this challenge in Occupational Therapy career development across Europe through the study of play from an occupational science perspective. The overall research goal is to develop new knowledge on the occupation of play and play deprivation, the impact of physical, socio-cultural, and policy environments on play provision, and the development of innovative solutions to address barriers and provide solutions to play provision in diverse community settings to benefit children, families, and communities. The P4PLAY programme addresses **four areas of play**: People, Place, Policy and Practice (P4PLAY).

The P4PLAY MSC ITN is a European Joint Doctorates (EJD) programme in Occupational Science for Occupational Therapists that is a collaboration between four academic and fifteen partner organizations who form the consortium. The EJD will establish the first innovative trans-European Occupational Therapy doctoral training programme² dedicated to play occupation, participation, policy and practice. The fundamental aim is to develop a sustainable doctoral programme that delivers ambitious and high-quality graduates to drive innovative research and practice in occupational science and therapy. Increasing occupational therapists' ability to be consumers and producers of research is vital to transform therapy practice so that it is research-informed and evidence-based. The overall goal is to build the capacity of therapists to develop creative solutions towards social transformation.

¹ May be subject to change depending on travel restrictions as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic

² Level 8 of the European Qualification Framework (EFQ)

Participating host organizations

Selected researchers will enrol in one of the 8 positions offered by the 4 host organizations participating in the P4PLAY network:

- a. *University College Cork (UCC), Ireland, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy*³
- b. *Lulea University of Technology (LTU), Sweden, Department of Health Sciences, Division of Health, Medicine and Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy*⁴
- c. *Queen Margaret University (QMU), Edinburgh, Scotland, Division of Occupational Therapy and Arts Therapies*⁵
- d. *Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Switzerland, School of Health Professions Institute of Occupational Therapy* ⁶

All 8 ESRs will be recruited for 36 months by one of these organizations and co-hosted in a second one of these organizations, where they will be jointly registered. Each ESR will spend at least 12 months in both organizations and approximately 4 months on secondment in a third research environment. A Double or Joint degree will be awarded from the two collaborating Universities for each PhD candidate recruited.

Table 1: Recruiting and co-hosting University for ESR project

ESR number	Recruiting University	Co-hosting University
ESR1	QMU	UCC
ESR2	UCC	QMU
ESR3	LTU	ZHAW
ESR4	UCC	LTU
ESR5	UCC	LTU
ESR6	QMU	UCC
ESR7	ZHAW	UCC
ESR8	LTU	UCC

³ Coordinated by Professor Jeanne Jackson & Dr. Helen Lynch,

⁴ Associate Professor Maria Prellwitz

⁵ Dr. Sarah Kantartzis

⁶ Dr. Christina Schulze

Available positions

Two projects related to **people**:

[ESR1](#) - Expanding conceptualisations of inclusive play to incorporate the play characteristics of children with diverse play experiences at risk of play deprivation.

[ESR2](#) - Exploring the impact of contemporary public/social discourse on the play of families with children at risk of play deprivation.

Two projects related to **places**:

[ESR3](#) - Spatial inclusion: The relationship between Universal Design and policy for play provision.

[ESR4](#) - Redefining play in technology enhanced play spaces: enhancing children's participation

Two projects related to **policy**:

[ESR5](#) - Enhancing spatial inclusion in public playspaces through participatory approaches in planning and design.

[ESR6](#) - Applying complexity theory to identify and explore multiple outcomes associated with children's play.

Two projects related to **practice**:

[ESR7](#) - The evaluation of children's outdoor play

[ESR8](#) - Enhancing participation through play interventions in school settings.

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

Why apply for a position in the P4PLAY European Joint Doctorate?

- You will be provided with a **cutting-edge research environment** that will stimulate and challenge researchers to become the scientific leaders of tomorrow. P4PLAY will bring together leading international researchers in the field of Occupational Science and play for children at risk of play deprivation, along with partner organizations who are leaders in championing play rights of children.
- You will work in a **stimulating and creative learning environment** and will engage in skills training and mentored development in research, community engagement, grant writing, and technology enhanced learning tailored to your needs.
- You will engage in a **thematic PhD programme** that includes formal coursework in Occupational Science and play.
- You will be provided with **excellent quality supervision** by a supervisory team from two Universities where you will be co-registered, at the forefront of Occupational Science, Occupational Therapy and play in Europe.
- You will be provided with a **secondment** in a third research environment, with a partner play organization who add intrinsic value to each project based on their specific infrastructure, innovation and/or role in championing play, beyond traditional rehabilitation or remedial contexts.
- All 8 ESRs will be awarded a joint PhD in Occupational Science⁷ with **specialist research experience** in specific skill-sets required in community engagement, and advocacy, from the first PhD programme in Occupational Science in Europe.

Who are we looking for?

We seek adaptive and creative individuals with demonstrated skills in leadership and a strong interest in occupational science and children/family focused work. Excellent written and spoken English is essential, and experience with both qualitative and quantitative methods would be advantageous. A strong commitment to professional development is also desirable.

Note: please check individual ESR description documents for further criteria.

Eligibility criteria

- You have completed a BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy and/or a Master's degree (or equivalent) from a World Federation of Occupational Therapy programme at the time of recruitment and achieved a minimum of a 2:1 award. Applicants will need an MSc degree (or equivalent) for ESR 3, ESR 7 and ESR 8.
- You are an **Early Stage Researcher**, meaning at the time of recruitment by the host organization you shall be in the first four years (full-time equivalent

⁷ Currently pending University approval

research experience) of your research career and have not been awarded a doctoral degree (PhD).

As an example, a candidate who obtained their degree entitling them to embark on a doctorate five years ago and spent the equivalent of two years attending taught classes and three years gaining research experience is still eligible as ESR. They are considered to have three years' research experience as the time enrolled in formal taught classes is not counted as research experience.

- The positions are open to all nationalities. However, your application complies with the European Commission's **mobility rule**, meaning at the time of recruitment by the host organization, you must not have resided or carried out your main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organization for **more than 12 months** in the 3 years immediately before the reference date (start of the employment contract). Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not included for this calculation.
- You have excellent proficiency in the English language, with evidence of 6.5 minimum for IELTS (or equivalent) if English is not your first language (selection procedure and all training activities and opportunities will be in English).

Read [here](#) for more information on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Eligibility.

Working conditions and salary

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) offer the following attractive salary and working conditions:

- Successful candidates will have a fulltime employment contract for the duration of 36 months.
- Successful candidates will receive a salary in accordance with the MSCA regulations for Early Stage Researchers. The basic gross salary (living allowance) is €3,270 per month. The exact salary is dependent on the country correction factor (to allow for the difference in cost of living in different EU Member States: see Table 1). Please consider that the net salary may be much lower due to taxes, social benefit premiums, etc.
- In addition to the living allowance, successful candidates will benefit from a mobility allowance of gross €600 per month. Selected candidates who have a family at the time of recruitment may qualify for an additional family allowance of gross €500 per month (see [here](#) for information on the definition of a family for this purpose). All PhD fees will be waived.
- In addition to their individual research support, all candidates will benefit from further continuing education, which includes secondments, a variety of training modules and courses as well as active participation in workshops and annual conferences.
- Successful candidates will spend at least 12 months in the University where they are co-registered.

Table 2: Country correction coefficients for ITN living allowance (H2020 work programme 2018-2020)

Ireland	115.6%
Sweden	121.8%
Scotland	139.8%
Switzerland	121.2%

Timeline⁸

Applications open: **3rd March – 31st May**

Online interviews (round 1): **early July (dates TBC)**

Face-to-face interviews in central European location or second online interview if necessary due to travel restrictions (round 2): **mid-August (dates TBC)**

Successful candidates contacted by **early September (dates TBC)**

Application process

Stage 1

To submit your application, and facilitate the eligibility check of your application, please send the following documents (in English) in **one** PDF file to p4play@ucc.ie:

- Researcher declaration including a) self-declaration about eligibility b) self-declaration about English proficiency (max 1 page).
- Complete Curriculum Vitae (CV) (max 4 pages). Please list your whereabouts in chronological order, starting from 1 September 2017 and ending with 1 September 2020, and proof of residence (see mobility rule in eligibility criteria). Should you have resided in more than one country within the requested period, please include the times and dates of this period, and list them on your CV. If you have not graduated yet, please indicate the expected award date of your degree in your CV. Please keep in mind that you need to have obtained your degree before the time of registration.
- Personal statement/motivation letter (max 3 pages) detailing your research interests to date, your suitability to the programme and an outline of why you are the best candidate to be considered for your choice of ESR project(s) (max 2 ESR projects to be chosen – please indicate your order of preference if applicable).

All applications will be checked according to the **eligibility criteria**. The application must be complete, in English and submitted before the deadline (**31st May 2020 at 11pm CET**). Only eligible applications will be progressed to the next stage.

Please use the following subject line/title for the application email and PDF file:
P4PLAY_SURNAME_NAME

⁸ Timeline is subject to change

Stage 2

If you are shortlisted to attend the face-to-face interviews following round 1 (online interviews), the following will be required:

- Copy of your academic transcripts/certificate(s) (if you have not yet graduated from your Master's degree but are due to do so, please provide a copy of your Bachelor's degree certificate)
- 2 page critique and synthesis of two articles (all candidates will receive the same two articles)
- Relevant English proficiency test certificate(s) such as (but not limited to) IELTS Academic or TOEFL if applicable
- Names and contact details of two referees who can provide external expert evidence of your suitability for the position. Please inform your referees upfront on the possibility of them being contacted by a representative of the P4PLAY network regarding your application.

All interviews will be conducted along a jointly established structure to ensure comparable selection. Successful candidates will be informed by the P4PLAY recruitment team after which the Human Resources functions of the academic hosts will issue formal letters of offer based on the final decision of the Supervisory Board.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about P4PLAY, individual projects and the application/selection procedure, please contact p4play@ucc.ie.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 861257