



UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems



UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems PhD Scholarship in Family Caregiving

The UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems (SNMHS) and UCD Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, Education, and Innovation in Health Systems (UCD IRIS) is offering a full-time PhD Scholarship with registration commencing in **January 2025**.



The PhD programme is focused on **exploring the experiences and identifying ways to effectively support family carers in the context of Ireland**.

The PhD scholarship offers a stipend of **€22,000 per annum plus coverage of student fees for four full-time years**.



No. 1 for Research

UCD has the highest volume of publications across all Irish universities. These papers are cited by other researchers at a rate that is 75% above the world average (2015 - 2019).

UCD SNMHS Ad Astra PhD Scholarship

About Us

School of Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Systems

The UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems are committed to developing knowledge that informs health and social policy, advances professional practice and education in nursing and midwifery, and generates impact in the wider health system, both nationally and internationally.

To find out more about our School, please visit [our website](#).

UCD IRIS

The successful applicant will also become a member of the UCD IRIS Centre. Our work is characterised by systems thinking, interdisciplinary and intersectoral working, patient and public involvement and robust evidence synthesis, informing the collaborative design of health system interventions and professional development programmes, as well as contributing to methodological innovation and strong networks and partnerships.

To find out more about our work please visit [our website](#).

The Research Programme

Family carers are individuals who provide regular unpaid personal help or support to a family member, neighbour or friend living with a chronic illness, health challenge or disability. Caregiving can be very rewarding but can sometimes be associated with challenges that can impact on family carers' own health and well-being. It is crucial to understand the experience and identify meaningful supports for family carers, who are often viewed as the "hidden workforce" or the "second patient". There are a diverse range of pertinent topics in the field of family caregiving which this scholarship may be utilised to explore, including (but not limited to):

- Family carers attending higher education institutions
- Co-designing supports for family carers
- Digital health technology to support family carers
- Simulation in family carer education

Candidates interested in employing qualitative, mixed-method or Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) research methods are particularly encouraged to apply.

The successful applicant will be supervised by [Dr Andrew Darley](#) and a supervisory team based in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems.

Research Funding

The successful candidate will receive the following financial support for 4 years:

- Full funding for tuition fees for 4 full-time years
- A tax-free stipend of €22,000 per annum to assist with living expenses
- Small budget to support for research activities and purchasing study equipment e.g. laptop
- A programme of training opportunities and events delivered by UCD SNMHS, UCD IRIS and wider university

Eligibility Criteria

Entry Requirements

Applications from candidates worldwide will be considered for this full-time position. An academic background in health, social science, or education is preferred. Experience in research using qualitative, quantitative, and/or mixed methods research is required.

The student must fulfil **one** of the following criteria:

- a) The applicant has obtained a minimum of an upper second-class degree in a relevant honors Bachelor's degree (e.g. Social Sciences, Health or Education-related fields)
- b) The applicant has obtained a Master's degree in a relevant field (e.g. Social Sciences, Health or Education-related fields)

Applications from individuals who have experience as a family carer are particularly welcome.

English Language Requirements

Candidates whose first language is not English and whose primary degree was obtained in a country where English is not the official language of instruction must provide proof of proficiency in English such as IELTS or TOEFL. The original certificate of completion of an English language test must be submitted with the application. In all cases, the test results must not be more than two years old.

UCD is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. Learn more here: www.ucd.ie/equality



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How to Apply

To apply for this PhD Scholarship, individuals should submit (preferably in PDF format):

- A **1-page Personal Statement**
- A **Curriculum Vitae** focusing on relevant experience
- A **2-page Research Proposal**

Application Assessment Criteria

Personal Statement/CV must include:

- The rationale for pursuing a doctoral research degree in the topic outlined
- Evidence of previous research experience.
- Evidence of relevant transferable skills (e.g., communication, leadership, organisational skills, self-motivation)
- Excellent written presentation (spelling, grammar, graphical)

Research Proposal must include:

- Clear aim(s) of the proposed research
- A potential novel contribution to the field of family caregiving
- Demonstrate understanding of appropriate research methods
- Excellent written presentation (spelling, grammar, graphical)

Application Deadline

Applications are to be submitted via email to andrew.darley@ucd.ie no later than

September 9th 2024.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be sent directly to Dr Andrew Darley.

Interviews and additional supporting documentation will be requested on an individual basis following shortlisting.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted in due course regarding interviews.

Applicants must be in a position to register and commence the 4-year programme in January 2025.



CONTACT

For further details or enquiries please contact:



 **Dr Andrew Darley**

 andrew.darley@ucd.ie

 [UCD Profile](#)