# CARL Database of Available Projects

## Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork

1. These projects are only available to registered students in University College Cork.

2. Please contact a.kingston@ucc.ie for more information on the projects or to make an application to undertake one of these projects for your final year thesis. **<mark>PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT ORGANISATIONS DIRECTLY.</mark>**  Projects are allocated on basis of eligibility criteria, student demand, project match and suitability to your course.

3. See CARL website for student selection criteria, application form and completed research reports http://carl.ucc.ie.

4. Some of these projects may change slightly in focus and in the clarity of the research questions during the 3 way meeting and the early stage of the research design process.

|   | **Organisation** | **Research Topic** |
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| 1 | **Age Action**<br><br>https://www.ageaction.ie/   National support organisation for older people | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>Most housing associations in Ireland receive funding through the Capital Assistance Scheme. Under this scheme they can accept 100 per cent of funding from the State in which case they have to take 100 per cent of clients off the waiting lists. Or, they can accept 95 per cent funding and they must take at least 75 per cent of clients off the waiting list.<br><br>Our proposed research would examine the possibility of a scheme whereby older owner-occupiers could sell their home, thus freeing up housing stock, and use the proceeds from the sale to 'buy in' to a housing association project. The association would then be able to use the funds received through the sale of the older person's property to invest in building new homes.<br><br>The research would need to examine the feasibility of such a scheme and also assess the implications it might have for the housing waiting list by enabling those not on the waiting list to 'jump the queue' because they own their own property. A central part of the research would be to conduct primary research with older people to explore their views on any proposed changes to policy and their thoughts on downsizing. |

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| 2 | **Ballybrannigan Community Group**<br><br>**Cloyne, Co Cork** | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>Ballybrannigan beach and car park has been closed to the public due to damage caused to the beach, its boulder clay cliffs and the car park itself.  The local residents would greatly benefit from some research to support them in finding solutions and enable them to successfully lobby for upgrade and protection works to be carried out.<br><br>1. What's the rate of erosion at Ballybrannigan Beach and for how much longer will the car park remain if nothing is done?<br>2. What's the best engineering solution to protecting Ballybrannigan Beach and car park, so as to keep it safe and open for the long term?<br>3. Are there any so called engineering solutions, or so called coastal protection methods to be aware of, which if applied at Ballybrannigan, would actually worsen the problem? |
| 3 | **Ballinora & District Community Association**<br><br>www.ballinora.com | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>We would like support in creating an App for visitors to our heritage trail. |
| 4 | **Cork Deaf Association**<br>Support group for deaf/hard of hearing people in Cork<br><br>www.corkdeaf.ie | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>How accessible is Cork city for people with a Hearing loss (this could be more focused on a specific area, for example, how accessible is Cork city from a cultural point of view for people with a hearing loss?) |
| 5 | **Cork Nature Network**<br><br>Environmental association with main office in Castletownroche but covering all of Cork | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>Using the case study of Beaumont Quarry, what are the best measures to remove invasive species<br>This project focuses upon a project that we have in Beaumont Quarry. We have undertaken ecological surveys and developed a management plan. The aim of the management plan is to develop an open space that can be used for recreation and wildlife. We need research undertaken to help us develop appropriate methods to remove invasive species in |

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| | | the quarry. The results will be included in the management plan. |
| 6 | **Douglas Tidy Towns**<br><br>A local volunteer group who play an active role in caring for a wooded area in Douglas called Ballybrack Woods (also known locally as 'Mangala')<br><br>http://douglastidytowns.ie/ballybrack-woods-mangala/ | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>Ballybrack Woods (also known locally as 'Mangala') is a wooded area in Douglas. It suffers from a few alien invasive species, among them Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*).<br><br>Douglas Tidy Towns are actively working towards developing a management planfor the wood; part of which will hopefully include efforts to control Cherry Laurel.<br><br>**Suggested research ideas/themes:**<br><br>1. What methods for the removal of Cherry Laurel exist?<br>2. How did/do other community organisations control it? Review the Glenbower Wood Cherry Laurel Management Plan 2015-2022<br>3. Identification of feasible methods for eradicating/controlling Cherry Laurel in the Ballybrack Woods<br>4. If needed, conduct trials to judge the effectiveness of a selection of eradication methods<br>**5.** We require a plan for the removal of debris and the future control of the plant |
| 7 | **Epilepsy Ireland**<br><br>A national support group for people with epilepsy and their families. | **Ideas for research projects:**<br><br>1) The experience of living with epilepsy in rural Ireland: transport and other support needs<br><br>2) Employers' attitudes towards hiring people with epilepsy<br><br>3) Pre-school services and children with epilepsy |

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| 8 | **Fairhill Community Association and Fairhill Youth Facility Working Group** | **Ideas for research project:**<br><br>The aim or this research is to seek assistance in developing a clearer understanding of the needs of younger members of the community (and the community in a wider sense) and the presentation of any findings in support of a call by the community for a dedicated Youth Facility in the Fairhill area.<br><br>A mapping exercise is needed to establish:<br><br>1. The level of services and clubs, groups that exist at present<br>2. The limitations on those offerings given the small community bases that are available<br>3. Suggest the improvements in capacity and scale that are possible if a Youth Facility building did exist |
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| 9 | **Leave No Trace Ireland**<br><br>Environmental educational group (offices in Blanchardstown and Westport)<br><br>http://www.leavenotraceireland.org/ | **Ideas for research project:**<br><br>1. Research into the effects of recreation related disturbance factors on Ireland's NATURA 2000 Network<br><br>2. The impact of disturbance to wildlife caused by dogs not under effective control (i.e. on or off a lead)<br><br>3. Fear of dogs, or 'Cynophobia', and the extent to which this causes negative experiences for people participating in recreation activities such as hiking, cycling, running, beach use, forest recreation etc.<br><br>4. To identify the most serious issues associated with dogs, recreation and the outdoors in Ireland. A case study on people associated with outdoor recreation and dogs in Ireland to potentially include dog owners and non-dog owners, different types of recreationists, farmers and other private landowners and land managers |

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| | | such as National Parks and Wildlife, Coillte and Local Authorities. |
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| | | 5. Does a lack of a management structure on recreational trails lead to negative impacts to the natural landscape, its flora fauna and people? |
| | | 6. *Youth Focused Research (related to LNT in Ireland) to* inform our primary schools programme |
| | | 'A review on the short-term impact of the LNT schools programme in terms of education, awareness raising and behavioural change.' |
| | | 7. Literature review of recreation impacts for hill walking in Ireland |
| | | 8. Literature review of recreation impacts for rock climbing in Ireland |
| | | 9. Literature review of recreation impacts to wildlife associated with sea kayaking |
| 10 | **MITO Families Ireland**<br><br>An internet based support group in Ireland for families living with Mitochondrial disease. This is an inherited chronic illness that can be present at birth or develop later in life. | **Idea for research projects:**<br><br>1. To evaluate the progress of the National Rare Disease Plan 2014-2018<br><br>2. How is the relationship with extended family affected by a diagnosis and how could they support the affected family?<br>3. The right to life, law/medical vs parental choice (based on the recent Charlie Guard case in England). |

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| 11 | **Sailing into Wellness**<br><br>https://sailingintowellness.ie/<br>Former/current CARL-partner Churchfield Community Trust has been involved with their clients in this outdoor activity. | **Ideas for research projects:**<br><br>1. Evaluate if sail training can influence and initiate psychological change in people recovering from addiction? People recovering from addiction usually face difficulties or are lacking in self-esteem, communication skills, working in a team and responsibility in selfcare, to learn and to be involved which all affect in their ability to fit into society. There are indicators pointing out that sailing as such promote and support the skills and abilities mentioned above. However, more research is needed to understand what are the processes that bring the mentioned outcomes.<br><br>2. Explore different models of how Sailing into Wellness could be sponsored by corporations as part of their CSR programs. At the moment the sponsorship model is built so that each employee the company pays to attend a sailing experience, funds one person from a youth and community group or person in recovery. However, we want to develop other models of co-operation, that could be interesting for companies. Perhaps there are certain industries that would be more interested than others and sponsoring SIW might offer various ways for company to be socially responsible. |
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| 12 | **SHARE Students Harness Aid for the Relief of the Elderly**<br><br>SHARE is a charity providing sheltered housing and a range of services to homeless and elderly people in Cork City. Founded in the 1970's by a group of students, SHARE, based on Sheares Street, continues to harness the talents of Secondary School students in interacting with residents and developing their social conscience. Many former students attend UCC or have attended UCC in the past. | **Ideas for research projects:**<br><br>1. We wish to develop a greater understanding of the demographics of ageing and housing in Cork City to inform our service provision. **"Understanding the changing population and housing demographics for Ageing in Cork City: a study of the current and potential clients of SHARE"**<br>2. Measure SHARE's impact on the life quality and well-being of the older people we serve. **"A case study on the impact of the SHARE sheltered-housing and day centre provision".** |

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| 13 | **Social Care Ireland**<br><br>https://www.socialcareireland.ie/<br>Social Care Workers are one of the groups to be registered by CORU under the 2005 Health and Social Care Professionals Act. The social care board within CORU is in place to progress the process. | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>We are seeking to further research the statistics emerging from a study of "Violence in the Workplace" (2016) as it relates to social care workers in the Disability sector.<br>20% (disability service workers) of over 430 respondents in 2016 survey (Crisis, Concern and Complacency by Phil Keogh and Catherine Byrne) noted significant levels of violence in the social care workplace in general.<br><br>If this statistic among social care disability sector workers were to be replicated in a wider (countrywide) survey then it would really open up a problem that may well have remained hidden, i.e., there may be widespread levels of violence towards social care workers in that sector. |
| 14 | **St Michael's Centre, Bandon**<br>A resource Centre for Older People living in Bandon and the wider area. | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>As part of its strategic planning activity, the centre seeks to partner with students in research to undertake a Listening Exercise in its network of social groups and individuals who use the centre. The purpose of the Listening Exercise is to gather ideas and perspectives from older people on how they want to be supported in their communities and to contribute to communities in the long-term. The results of the Listening Exercise will be used to inform objectives and priorities in the strategic plan. |

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| 15 | **West Gate Foundation**<br><br>Support service centre for senior citizens in Ballincollig, Cork.<br><br>http://westgatefoundation.ie/ | **Idea for research projects:**<br><br>Security and safety in the community:<br><br>• How can community policing improve?<br>• How can safer environments be created?<br>• How can security/safety be improved? |
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| 16 | **Youghal Community Development Resource Centre** | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>We have a small interagency employment committee and we believe the creation of local employment is part of the strategic solutions to reversing these statistics. Therefore, we want to gain a greater understanding of the existing labour force profile in Youghal and also ask local unemployed people what employment they would be interested in.<br><br>We summarise this as:<br><br>(1) Pulling together a labour profile of the town - using CSO data and on-line survey.<br><br>(2) Carrying out a local needs analysis in relation to employment creation opportunities that local people/organisations think are realistic to deliver upon. |
| 17 | **Youghal Tidy Towns** | **Idea for research project:**<br><br>Ballyvergan Marsh is one of the most significant reedbed habitats in Ireland. Little is being done in terms of its maintenance and protection, other than what we can do ourselves. We are a local Tidy Towns group from Youghal and we really care about Ballyvergan and would like to undertake research to help us protect and conserve this wonderful place. We have been working together with SECAD's Wild Work team and recently completed a biodiversity action plan. Many of the actions in the plan require further research. |

| | | We are seeking to research the various flora and fauna in the proposed National Heritage Site (pNHA), the Ballyvergan Marsh area, located 5km outside of Youghal town centre. Coupled with this, environmental studies such as water quality testing is also sought after. |
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