

Employment-based PhD Scholarships for Health Science Professionals 2026

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Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

- **Name**: Kelly Foley, Principal Biochemist
- **PhD Title:** *VALID-AD: Analytical Validation and Clinical Implementation of Blood Based Brain Biomarkers in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias*
- **Lead Supervisor:** Professor Gerard O'Keeffe, Dept of Anatomy and Neuroscience, UCC
- **Clinical/ Co-Supervisors:**
  - Professor Denis O'Mahony, School of Medicine
  - Dr Seán Costelloe, Consultant Biochemist, Cork University Hospital
- **UCC Future:** Future Ageing and Brain Science

- **Awardee:** Michael Roche, Principal Physicist Radiotherapy
- ***PhD Title:*** *Accuracy and efficiency in radiotherapy treatment and planning through technical optimisation and artificial intelligence applications.*
- **Lead Supervisor** Prof Sara Hackett Cancer Research @ UCC
- **Clinical / Co-Supervisors:**
  - Dr Paul Hanly, Department of Economics
  - Orla Hayman, Chief Physicist (Radiotherapy)
- **UCC Future:** Cancer Research@UCC

- **Awardee:** Anne Barrett, Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist in Stroke
- **PhD Title:** *MAPS-COMMS Mental health Assessment, Prevention and Support in people with COMMunication difficulties post-Stroke*.
- **Lead Supervisor:** Dr. Helen Kelly, School of Clinical Therapies, UCC
- **Clinical/Co-supervisors:**
  - Dr. Fiadhnait O'Keeffe, School of Applied Psychology, UCC
  - Dr. Emma Gleeson, School of Clinical Therapies, UCC
  - Dr. Marcia Ward, Principal Clinical Neuropsychologist, Stroke Service, CUH
  - Dr. Patrick Barry, Consultant in Stroke Medicine, CUH
- **UCC Future:** Future of Health

- **Awardee:** Geraldine Otway, Clinical Nurse Manager 2 in Pre-Admission Assessment
- **PhD Title:** *Developing and evaluating a Nurse Led Collaborative Prehabilitation Framework: An Implementation Science Approach*.
- **Lead Supervisor:** Professor Geraldine Lee, School of Nursing & Midwifery
- **Clinical / Co-Supervisors:**
  - Dr Caroline Kilty, School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC
  - Dr. Brian O'Donnell , Consultant Anaesthesiologist, CUH
  - Dr. Michael O'Sullivan, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, CUH
- **UCC Future**: Future of Health

- **Awardee:** Sinead Boyce, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (Psychotherapy)
- **PhD Title:** *Evaluating Digital Clinical Supervision in Mental Health Nursing: A Feasibility and Acceptability Pilot Study*
- **Lead Supervisor:** Dr John Goodwin, School of Nursing & Midwifery
- **Clinical/Co-supervisors:**
  - Dr Helen Mulcahy, School of Nursing & Midwifery
  - Dr Sile Creedon, School of Nursing & Midwifery
  - Mr Vincent Goggin, Area Director of Nursing IHA Cork North/East
- **UCC Future:** Future of Health

- **Name:** Ciara Corbett, Advanced Nurse Practitioner Ophthalmology
- **PhD Title:** *PATHWAY: A co-designed implementation study of early psychosocial and self-management support for people living with glaucoma-related sub-threshold visual impairment*
- **Lead Supervisor:** Dr Rita Forde, School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC
- **Clinical/Co-Supervisor:**
  - Prof Elaine Lehane, School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC.
  - Dr Ruth Lernihan, Director of Nursing, SIVUH, UCC
- **UCC Future:** Future of Health



Employment-based MD Scholarship Programme for Health Science Professionals in the Bon Secours Hospital 2026

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Awardee

- **Name:** Akram Jalal
- **MD Title:** *Translating the Gut-Joint Axis in Rheumatoid Arthritis: From Preclinical Evidence to Clinical Prediction and Patient-Centred Outcomes*

- **Lead Supervisor**: Dr Cathriona Foley, Dept of Surgery, UCC
- **Clinical / Co-Supervisors:**
  - Deirdre O'Brien, Dept Clinical Microbiology, Bon Secours
  - Fazil Khattak, Dept. Rheumatology, SIVUH
  - Len Harty, Dept. Rheumatology, SIVUH
- **UCC Future**: Future Medicines and Food Microbiome & Health



CoM&H Doctoral Bursary Awards 2025/26

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Autumn 2025

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- Rebekah Bevans – Medicine - Anatomy & Neuroscience
- Claire Curtin - Dentistry
- Yasser Hadi - Medicine
- Jade Amaya Lawless - Medicine - Anatomy & Neuroscience
- Klara Martinovic Music - Medicine
- Katarina Medved – Public Health
- Niamh Ryan - Nursing & Midwifery
- Paul Ryan – Medicine - General Practice
- Omar Sabra - Pharmacy
- Carla Viñola Renart - Medicine - Anatomy & Neuroscience

Spring 2026

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- Sara Alshaikh - Pharmacy
- Danielle Clifford – Medicine - Paediatrics
- Mélanie Depret - Medicine - Anatomy & Neuroscience
- Aisling Fanning – Medicine - Paediatrics
- Sena Güçer - Medicine - Anatomy & Neuroscience
- Sauranil Guha - Pharmacy
- Rachel Roberts – Medicine - Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Conor Vaughan – Medicine - Paediatrics
- Zoë Williams - Medicine - Anatomy & Neuroscience