

<b>Role Title:</b>	<b>Research Role</b>		
<b>School / Department</b>	Business	<b>Role category</b>	Research Studentship
<b>Location</b>	LINC, TU Dublin Blanchardstown Campus, Dublin, Ireland	<b>Role Advertised for</b>	PhD Student
<b>Award Level &amp; Field Master / PhD e.g. MEng</b>	<b>PhD</b>	<b>Position Type</b>	Full Time
<b>Supervisor</b>	Dr David Gaul	<b>Start Date</b>	Jan 2021
<b>Project Title: Short title for advertising</b>	The Play And Risk in Kids (PARK) Project		
<b>Project Title: Full Title as per funding application</b>	The Play And Risk in Kids (PARK) Project		
<b>Research Field / sub categories e.g. Computer / 3D modelling; Communication Sciences / Media; Language Sciences / Language</b>	Social and Health Science		
<b>General enquiries email</b>	<b>Supervisor:</b>	<a href="mailto:david.gaul@tudublin.ie">david.gaul@tudublin.ie</a>	
<b>Applications by email</b>	<b>Admin:</b>	<a href="mailto:researchadmin@tudublin.ie">researchadmin@tudublin.ie</a>	

**Role Description**



Play is a fundamental human right. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of The Child states that every child “shall have full opportunity for play and recreation, which should be directed to the same purposes as education; society and the public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right.” It is well known that engagement in play activities is vital for children’s physical, emotional and social development. However, in a recent article published in the Guardian (31/10/19) it was suggested the “dangerously dull playgrounds” which are currently in use could stifle a child’s development. A key reason for this uniform approach to design is to help reduce risk of injury for children. However, “Risky Play” has been found to help build balance, coordination, resilience and persistence, awareness of capabilities and limitations and help improve judgement. In addition, even when presented with rich play environments which provide opportunities for risky play, parenting styles and perception of risk by parents can also often limit children’s exposure to these learning experiences. At present, it is not known how many injuries occur from play related activities and what pieces of play infrastructure pose the greatest risk of injury. As such, this study will seek to examine the current state of play infrastructure in Ireland, assess parental attitudes toward risky play and investigate injury rates as a consequence of play in Ireland.

**The Role**

- To identify and evaluate current levels of playground provision in Ireland
- To conduct an audit of playground Infrastructure in Ireland
- To evaluate parental attitudes toward risky play in Ireland
- To investigate injury rates as a consequence of play activities in Ireland

**Required Skills / Qualifications / Aptitudes**

- Research Skills - Completion of research methods training
- Familiarity with the use of statistical analysis software (SPSS etc)
- Excellent Communication skills, in particular, report writing and presentation skills, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills
- Strong time management and organisational skills, attention to detail
- A Level 8 Degree qualification at minimum 2.1 Grade in Early Childhood Education, Teaching, Sports Science, Occupational Therapy or related field

**Specific Requirements**

- Knowledge of child development and underlying theories
- Evidence of expertise in data collection, data management and analysis (SPSS, NVIVO etc)

**Research experience required**

- Completion of an undergraduate thesis project
- Completion of research methods module

**Desirable Experience**

- Experience conducting a mixed methods research methodology
- A level 9 Degree qualification (taught or research) in a cognate area
- Experience (academic or professional) in risky play, outdoor play, play therapy or similar

**Language Required**

Instruction for all courses at TU Dublin is normally through English.  
Applicant must be fluent in spoken and written English.

**Funding**

The scholarship will be awarded for a period of 4 years to a value of €18,000 per year.

***Funding will cover the following elements:***

- A maintenance grant of €16,000 per year
- Travel/Consumables/Materials budget of €2,000 per year
- Tuition fees for all scholarship holders will be funded in full for the four years of the PhD programme.

Postgraduate students receiving scholarships should not be in receipt of another Exchequer funded grant on appointment to the research project.

**Additional requirements**

- ✚ **Any non-EU scholarship holder will be eligible for additional fees.**
- ✚ **Any non-EU applicants will require a visa to come and study in Ireland** [Overview Visas and Immigration](#)
- ✚ **English language requirements:** Instruction for all courses at TU Dublin is normally through English refer to <http://www.itb.ie/studentcategories/entryrequirements.html>

**Application process**

**To Apply:**

Please email the following to –[researchadmin@tudublin.ie](mailto:researchadmin@tudublin.ie)

Cover letter

Full CV

1 Page Overview of the benefits of Play

Copy of transcripts of qualifications

Names and email contact details for two referees (minimum)

Informal project queries should be directed to Dr David Gaul at [david.gaul@tudublin.ie](mailto:david.gaul@tudublin.ie)

***Closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm (GMT) on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020***

**NOTE:** Qualifications/eligibility may not be verified by Technological University Dublin until the final stage of the process. Therefore those candidates who do not possess the eligibility requirements, and proceed with their application, are putting themselves to unnecessary effort/expense and will not be offered a position from this campaign. An invitation to tests, interview or any element of the selection process is not acceptance of eligibility.