

Title of Project	<i>Displaced Children: The socio-psychological and educational integration of asylum seeker and refugee children</i>	
Organisation Details	University of Limerick (UL) Castletroy, Limerick Faculty of Education and Health Sciences Limerick, Ireland http://www.ul.ie/	
Organisation Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Large Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> SME <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Body <input type="checkbox"/> NGO <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>) <hr/>
Research Field(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry CHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social and Human Sciences SOC <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Sciences ECO <input type="checkbox"/> Information Science and Engineering ENG <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Geosciences ENV <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences LIF <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics MAT <input type="checkbox"/> Physics PHY	Keywords: -Migration & Integration -Asylum seeker & refugee children - Post-traumatic stress - Stigma and social interaction as minority group members -School policy on reception & induction -Perspectives of stakeholders -The educational and socio-psychological needs of the child
Short Description of the Organisation and the Faculty/Dept./School/Centre	<i>UL is an independent, internationally focussed university with over 13,000 students and 1,426 staff</i> The Dept of Education and Professional Studies team has expertise in a distinctive combination of disciplines including Education, Psychology, Psychotherapy, Counselling and Sociology. We offer a range of professional education programmes underpinned by the values of empowerment, positive professional relationships and social justice. In collaboration with our partner departments, we have research specialisations in:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied psychology and social, personal and health education • Curriculum development and educational policy studies • Globalisation and diversity in education • ICT and Digital Media in education • Science and technology education • Teacher education and professional education
Short Description of the Research Project/Topic	<p><i>Events in the Middle East and particularly the on-going war in Syria, has brought to public attention increased migration and the arrival of families fleeing conflict. The UN Refugee Agency notes that 59.5 million people are currently forcibly displaced in the world today, with 51% of these under 18 years old (http://www.unhcr.org.uk/about-us/key-facts-and-figures.html). Ireland, along with other European states, is making plans for these new arrivals, including the provision of educational opportunities as well as safeguarding the social inclusion of children and adults. Understanding what refugee children need and what schools currently offer, having an evidence-based approach to interventions and assistance programs for these most vulnerable and traumatised groups, and aligning the service provision with the refugees' particular social and cultural needs are crucial ingredients to successful reception and integration of refugees.</i></p> <p><i>Along with the social-psychological and educational needs of the child there is the need for greater understanding of the diversity and significance of ethnic-cultural background.</i></p> <p><i>Problematising current integration policy and seeking the perspectives of educational practitioners, community workers and parents can help provide a more updated and nuanced understanding of professional practice and social inclusion. At a macro level, there are broader considerations concerning the reception from the 'host community' and the potential for discrimination and hostility, exacerbated by sections of the media. At the individual level, the refugee children need support and interventions in how to cope with stigmatization and marginalization.</i></p> <p><i>Thus, we propose a cross-disciplinary project with insights from cross-cultural and political psychology, sociology and educational sciences, to provide an</i></p>

	<i>evidence based assessment of the socio-psychological and educational needs of asylum seeker and refugee children. We will collect data from stakeholders and parents to assess these needs, conduct a previous research overview and analysis of current practices to support refugee children integration in community and schools, and draw conclusions and recommendation on best practices that Ireland should adopt in the reception and inclusion of the refugee children in Irish society and schools.</i>
Expertise required by the applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Background in Education and/or Psychology, and cognate areas in the Social Sciences. -Academic qualifications up to doctoral level. -An understanding of conducting research & engaging with research methodologies in Educational-Psychological & related contexts. -An appreciation of the sensitive nature of conducting research with victims of trauma and war.
Career development support offered to fellows	<i>UL provides a highly supportive and nurturing environment for postdoctoral fellows. The University's Research Office has a dedicated Human Resources (HR) office, which is available to assist research fellows with moving to Limerick. UL was awarded the HR excellence in research in 2013. As a result there is a HR strategy for researcher which provides a research career framework. An induction programme is provided for all new employees. An extensive array of professional development training is available to all University's research staff including courses in management, IT, leadership skills, research skills and entrepreneurship. In addition, the HR department offers research staff to opportunity to participate in a research coaching programme in which they are paired with a mentor who is an experienced researcher that agrees to provide one-to-one informal advice and share experiences to empower the mentee in advancing their career.</i>
Application procedure	<p><i>A letter of motivation outlining the current experience and interest in working on theories and interventions with refugee populations.</i></p> <p><i>A CV outlining the educational qualifications and any practical experience in conducting research.</i></p> <p><i>A recommendation letter from a previous mentor or supervisor, stakeholder or other relevant practitioner indicative of the suitability of the applicant for the</i></p>

	<i>proposed project.</i>
Contact Person	<p><i>Professor Marie Parker-Jenkins, Educational and Professional Studies</i></p> <p>Marie.Parker.Jenkins@ul.ie</p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p><i>Dr Anca Minescu, Department of Psychology</i></p> <p>Anca.Minescu@ul.ie</p>