**Post Title:** Research Masters Studentship in VR mediated Anxiety Reduction

**Post Status/Ref:** Fixed Term, 2 years. Masters Studentship in VR mediated Anxiety Reduction (potential to convert to 4-year PhD – subject to funding)

**Research Group/Department/School:** ADAPT Centre, School of Computing

**Location:** Dublin City University, Ireland

**Funding:** Payment of tax-free stipend of €18,500. In addition, payment of academic fees, funding for training and conference travel available.

**Closing Date and Time:** 12 Noon on 31st August 2018

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**Post Summary**
Applications are invited for an MSc studentship in VR-mediated Anxiety Reduction at the ADAPT Centre, Dublin City University. The position is funded by Science Foundation Ireland through the ADAPT Centre. This is a 2-year fully-funded MSc position, with an MSc scholarship of euro 18,500 per year (no tax), MSc fees are paid, and financial support for training and conference travel is provided.

**Research Topic**
This project called Lifestyle Exposure Therapy (LIFET) will pioneer an exciting methodology to reduce anxiety and stress levels in an individual by delivering personalised and tailored interventions via experiential Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy (VRET). LIFET is a highly interdisciplinary research project that leverages personal life experience sensing (the Internet of Me) and VR-based information access with Exposure Therapy to prototype an assistive technology that can offset the negative impact of anxiety on individuals by utilising lifelogging techniques to identify and replay feared stimuli from the natural environment in a controlled VR setting, thereby allowing individuals to practice responding in a safe yet personally relevant environment.

The research proposed is interdisciplinary, spanning data analytics and psychology/exposure therapy and builds on extensive expertise by the proposers. State of the art data analytics approaches will be employed which leverage wearable cameras, deep learning computer vision detectors and GSR-based biometric sensing to automatically capture Point-of-View (PoV) digital representations of stressful activities and environments.
in daily life and replay them in controlled VRET interventions. LIFET will go beyond existing VRET approaches by reproducing the stressful or anxiety-producing environment that the individual experienced, thereby allowing for more meaningful interventions.

**Supervision**
This Research Masters position will be co-supervised by Dr Sinead Smyth (Psychology) and Dr Cathal Gurrin (Data Analytics). Both supervisors have extensive experience of research supervision and have graduated over ten PhDs between them.

**Candidate skillset**
The candidate should have a degree in a relevant field of study e.g. computer engineering, electronic engineering, software engineering. Essential requirements include experience in software development (at least to BSc level). The ideal candidate will also have:

- An interest in, and experience of, working in a VR environment
- An interest in human factors in Computing and experiences of developing interfaces.
- Knowledge or background in human psychology would be advantageous.
- A proactive attitude, willing to take ownership and initiative in all work assignments,
- Excellent communication skills, verbal and written (English)

**Dublin City University (DCU)**
Dublin City University (DCU) is young and vibrant university with a strong culture of scholarship and enterprise, developed through its strong, active links with academic, research and industry partners in Ireland and around the world. DCU provides a unique learning environment where students are encouraged to develop their creativity and skills as innovators. Researchers at DCU are translating their ideas and discoveries into new solutions in business, technology and society through their engagement with spin-out companies and established industrial clients.

**Background on the ADAPT Centre – [www.adaptcentre.ie](http://www.adaptcentre.ie)**
The ADAPT Centre is Ireland’s Centre of excellence for digital content technology. Funded by Science Foundation Ireland, ADAPT focuses on developing next generation digital technologies that transform how people communicate by helping to analyse, personalise and deliver digital data more effectively. ADAPT researchers are based in four leading universities: Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, University College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology. Our research is spearheading the development of next-generation digital technologies that enable seamless tech-mediated interaction and communication. The breadth of ADAPT's research expertise is unique globally and the Centre's structure supports collaborative innovation with industry to unlock the potential of digital content.
Why join The ADAPT Centre?

1. Work on hard problems in an interdisciplinary and exciting research environment. The ADAPT Centre combines expertise of researchers at Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, University College Dublin, and Dublin Institute of Technology. It brings together more than 150 researchers that have collectively won more than €100M in competitive research funding and have an international track record of bridging research and innovations to more than 140 companies. With €50M in research funding from SFI and industry, ADAPT research and technologies will help businesses in all sectors to manage, personalise and deliver digital content more effectively.

2. Work in a centre focussed on advancing your career. Whether you want to take an academic, industrial, or entrepreneurial career path, ADAPT prides itself in the support and mentoring that enables all its postdocs to reach their full potential. This year alone its postdoc-to-PI programme has helped three postdocs transition to be Principal Investigators on their own H2020 projects, while four other have recently won funding with ADAPT support to realise the commercialisation of their research through spin outs and licensing.

3. As well as providing an exciting work environment with access to cutting edge research, ADAPT support flexible working hours for students and staff, and family friendly working practices.

Funding Information
The position is funded through Science Foundation Ireland and the ADAPT Centre.

Equal Opportunities Policy
Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to the employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community.

Application Procedure

Please apply via email to vacancies@adaptcentre.ie and include a;

- Targeted cover letter (600-1000 words) expressing your suitability for the position
- Complete CV

Please include the reference code: MSC_SSCG on all correspondence.

There will be an interview process, and the successful candidate will be invited to apply via the DCU graduate studies admission system.

General enquires concerning this post can be addressed to cathal.gurrin@dcu.ie

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER