

Job Description and Person Specification

Senior Psychologist – Infectious Diseases

Permanent Vacancy

Reference: HR26E098

Closing Date for Applications: Thursday, 5th March 2026

In Person Interview Date: Tuesday, 31st March 2026

HR Business Services,
St Vincent's University Hospital,
Elm Park,
Dublin 4.

Contact: +353 (1) 221 6062 or recruitment@svuh.ie

Overview:

This is an exciting role for a Senior Psychologist to join the dynamic, experienced and growing Department of Psychology team and Infectious Diseases Service at St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH). The Senior Psychologist's role will be to provide a Psychology service within an experienced and established MDT Infectious Diseases in SVUH for patients attending SVUH in the Infectious Diseases (ID) Service. The Senior Psychologist will contribute towards an evidence-based-MDT service within the ID service in SVUH. This role will involve providing professional psychological services to a range of patients attending different clinics within the ID service. The primary focus of the role will be working with patients with HIV and patients with Long Covid.

Job title / Grade: Senior Psychologist – Infectious Diseases

Reports to: Principal Psychology Manager

Key Duties and Responsibilities of the Senior Psychologist:

Professional Practice

- To lead and contribute directly to the development, planning, organisation and evaluation of a Psychology service for the ID Service at St Vincent's University Hospital. This will involve psychosocial and psychological assessment and intervention and incorporate best practice guidelines towards implementing relevant policies into a programme of psychology services for patients attending the ID Service at SVUH.
- Develop and maintain collaborative working relationships with colleagues, members of the multi- disciplinary team, and medical teams and staff within the hospital and with outside agencies and services and other relevant stakeholders.
- Work flexibly within a multidisciplinary team to manage a caseload of in-patient and out-patient clients with complex needs, including clients presenting with high levels of emotional or psychological distress, mental health issues and cognitive issues.
- Carry out psychological assessment, formulation and interventions with patients using evidence-based practice according to guidelines and empirically supported interventions.
- Formulate and implement plans for psychological therapeutic intervention or management based on appropriate conceptual frameworks, working on an inpatient or outpatient basis, as required. Provide brief evidence-based psychological intervention where appropriate, individually or in group context.
- Hold autonomous professional responsibility for the assessment, intervention and discharge or transfer of patients attending the Infectious Diseases Psychology Service.
- Provide recommendations to the team as to the formulation of patients' needs and their suitability for intervention.
- Collaborating with psychologists in other relevant settings such as neurology and cardiology, as well as external agencies.

- Maintain collaborative working relationships with psychology and psychiatry colleagues, members of the multidisciplinary team as required, with outside agencies and services in the public and private sector.
- Liaise and refer to other relevant mental health services where appropriate, including liaison psychiatry, community mental health teams, primary care psychology.
- Ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the quality and delivery of psychological services and service evaluation.
- Maintain records of clinical work and provide professional reports as required in accordance with professional standards.
- Contribute a psychological perspective to case planning and team working or multi-agency case working and call multi-professional meetings when appropriate.
- Communicate effectively and work in co-operation with team members and others to ensure integrated care and service provision.
- Ensure coordinated interdisciplinary and inter-agency service delivery
- Provide clinical supervision to Staff Grade Psychologists, Psychology Assistants and provide specialist placement opportunities to psychologists in training, where appropriate.
- Act as a representative of the Psychology department/profession as required and represent and advocate for the psychological needs of patients attending the SVUH ID Service.
- Promote a culture that values equality, diversity and respect in the workplace.
- Monitor and evaluate practice to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the quality and delivery of psychology services in keeping with international best practice.
- Attend Psychology Department meetings, training, planning or CPD activities as appropriate.

Research & Evaluation

- Utilise evidence-based literature and research to support the design and evaluation of the Infectious Diseases Psychology service.
- Undertake project management including audit and service evaluation with colleagues within the service to help promote and develop service provision.
- Participate in evaluation of all clinical activity within the post and provide such information as required by the Psychology Manager for the purpose of service monitoring and evaluation.
- Conduct, encourage and support service-related research and provide research advice as appropriate.

Education & Training

- Take responsibility for ensuring that clinical professional supervision needs are met by attending regular supervision.

- Participate in continuing professional development and ensure compliance with statutory registration requirements.
- Attend any training courses as may be required by service developments and/or personal and professional development planning.
- Provide psychological training, advice and consultation to staff from health and other agencies in areas relevant to direct clinical work and to psychology service provision.
- Contribute to the teaching and training functions of the Psychology Department, including in-service academic events and postgraduate programmes as appropriate.
- Be informed of advances in professional knowledge and practice.
- Be informed of developments in national policies, strategies and legislation and perceived impact on practice.

These duties must be performed in accordance with the hospital health and safety policy. The successful candidate must comply with and contribute to the development of policies, procedures and safe professional practice and adhere to relevant legislation, regulations and standards and ensure their staff compliance. A working knowledge of HIQA or Mental Health Commission Standards as they apply to the role for example, Standards for Healthcare, National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, Hygiene Standards etc. is expected.

The above Job Description is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all duties involved and consequently, the post holder may be required to perform other duties as appropriate to the post which may be assigned to him/her from time to time and to contribute to the development of the post while in office. This document must be regarded as an outline of the major areas of accountability at the present time, which will be reviewed and assessed on an on-going basis.

The Hospital Structure is currently under review and therefore, reporting relationships may change.

Informal Enquiries or Role Specific Enquiries:

Dr Clíodhna O’ Donovan, Principal Psychology Manager Email: cliodhnaodonovan@svhg.ie

Person Specification

Factors	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recognised University degree or diploma obtained with first or second class honours in which psychology was taken as a major 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further training in therapeutic modalities appropriate to an acute setting.

	<p>subject and honours obtained in that subject</p> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an Irish post-graduate professional psychology qualification accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland in Clinical, or Counselling Psychology <p>OR</p> <p>An equivalent qualification from another jurisdiction validated by the Department of Health</p>	
<p>Experience (length and type)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of five years satisfactory postgraduate experience in the area of professional psychology in which the position is designated. <p><i>The above eligibility criteria apply without prejudice to applicants employed in a post of Psychologist or above in the Irish public health service at October 2002.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Combinations of supervised clinical placement experience as part of the qualification and post qualification supervised work experience within a single care group area to give a total of 60 days are not acceptable.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The five years' experience must comprise of no more than three years of Post Graduate training and no less than two full years' experience as a Staff Grade Psychologist. Years in excess of the permitted three years for completion of the Post Graduate training, or time not worked, cannot be taken into consideration when assessing the five years' experience requirement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working clinically with people with Long COVID, HIV and other infectious diseases. • Experience working as a psychologist in a hospital environment. • Experience of provision of psychological assessment, formulation and intervention with people with physical health conditions. • Experience in clinical service development and evaluation. • Experience of service innovations/ initiatives. • Experience of health service based clinical research and publication. • Demonstrated competence in the planning, development, delivery and evaluation of a quality psychological service in an acute hospital or other relevant setting. • Experience of inter-professional consultative work and MDT working.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide experience of teaching, training, presentations. • Record of professional conference contributions/publication.
Core Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning & Managing Resources • Decision Making & Judging Situations • Setting Standards & Ensuring Quality • Being the communication channel • Creating Team Spirit • Embracing the Change & Service Development 	
Health	Candidates for and any person holding the office must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.	
Character	Candidates for and any person holding the office must be of good character.	

Particulars of Office:

The appointment is: Wholetime, Permanent, Pensionable

Annual Salary: as at 01/02/2026, Senior Clinical Psychologist

99,488	101,852	104,237	106,608	108,960	109,864	113,402	116,942	LSIs
--------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	----------------	----------------	-------------

Panel: A panel may be formed to fill upcoming permanent, temporary, full and part time vacancies in the next 6 months.

These particulars are subject to change in line with overall public pay policy.

Candidates should expect to be appointed on the minimum of the salary range and in accordance with the Department of Finance guidelines.

Probationary Period: The appointee shall hold office for a probationary period of six months – The Hospital's Probation and Induction policy will apply.

Pension Scheme: The candidate will be entered into one of the Hospital Superannuation Schemes.

Working Hours: The person appointed will work a basic 35 hour week. You will be required to work the agreed roster / on call arrangements advised to you by your line manager. Your contracted hours of work are liable to change between the hours of 8am – 8pm over seven days to meet the requirements for the extended day services in accordance with the terms of the Framework Agreement. (Reference HSE HR Circular 003/2009). Flexibility on hours of attendance in response to service needs will be a requirement.

Annual leave entitlement: 29 days per annum pro rata each year. Annual leave accrued must be taken within the duration of the contract or calendar year and as agreed between the candidate and the Head of Department.

Additional Information

Confidentiality:

During the course of employment staff may have access to, or hear information concerning the medical or personal affairs of patients, students, staff and / or other health service business. Such records and information are strictly confidential and unless acting on the instruction of an authorised officer, such information must not be divulged or discussed except in the performance of normal duty. In addition records must never be left in such a manner that unauthorised persons can obtain access to them and must be kept in safe custody when no longer required

Hygiene:

During the course of employment staff are required to ensure that the hospital's hygiene and infection control policies are adhered to at all times. All employees have responsibility to prevent transmission of infection by adhering to and implementing optimal hand hygiene and adhering to the Hospital's Hygiene processes. Hygiene is a fundamental component of St Vincent's University Hospital's quality system to ensure the safety and well being of its patients and staff and plays a role in the prevention and control of healthcare associated infection.

Policies / Legislation:

All Hospital policies and procedures form an integral part an employment contract and may be subject to update and revision, from time to time, in consultation with union representatives as appropriate. Employees are required to comply with all hospital policies, procedures (e.g. Dignity at Work, Trust in Care, Computer Usage Policy) and the Hospital's ethical codes of practice.

Employees are required to abide by the hospital's code of behaviour and the code of practice as defined by their relevant professional body.

Protected Disclosure Policy:

See link below for more information on our Protected Disclosure Policy as per the Protected Disclosure (Amendment) Act 2022;

[Protected Disclosures - St. Vincent's University Hospital \(stvincents.ie\)](https://www.stvincents.ie/protected-disclosures)

Please note the following:

- The Hospital Board is not responsible for loss or theft of personal belongings
- Fire orders must be observed and staff must attend the fire lectures periodically
- All accidents within the department must be reported immediately.
- In line with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act (2005), smoking within the Hospital Building is not permitted.
- All staff are advised to avail of Hepatitis B Vaccination with Occupational health
- The use of personal mobile phones is prohibited.
- St. Vincent's University Hospital buildings and grounds are **smoke-free**.

Application Process: St. Vincent's University Hospital is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to promoting an environment free from discrimination in accordance with the Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004. The Hospital values diversity and recognises the benefits of having a workforce that reflects the community we serve. We are committed to equality of access to positions within the Hospital. All recruitment activity and documentation will encourage applications from all potential candidates without discrimination.

Interested candidates should apply for vacancies of interest by visiting the Hospital Careers pages: <http://www.stvincents.ie/Home/Careers.html>

- Note the closing date(s) for the submission of on-line applications are specified on the list of vacancies. St. Vincent's University Hospital are not able to accept late applications.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they apply well in advance of the closing date.
- Any applications which are still in progress but have not been submitted after the closing date will not be registered by our Web Recruitment System.
- Applications for St. Vincent's University Hospital job vacancies will only be accepted through our Web Recruitment System.
- St. Vincent's University Hospital may only take into account technical issues raised by an applicant if advised to our Human Resources Department prior to the advertised closing date.

Non-European Economic Area Applicants: While St. Vincent's University Hospital is an equal opportunities employer, in line with current Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Employment Permit requirements, applications from non European Economic Area (EEA) will only be considered in the event that an EEA citizen cannot be found to fill the vacancy. Please note that if you are a NON-EEA applicant and are unable to supply documents (listed on www.djei.ie), you are not entitled to participate in this recruitment competition. This is in accordance with the EU Community Preference Rule. Further information is available at www.djei.ie.

Former Public Service employees: Eligibility to compete may be affected where applicants were formerly employed by the Irish Public Service and previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme including:

- Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)
- Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010)
- Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants

Applicants should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. This is a non-exhaustive list and any queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

Persons in receipt of a pension from specified Superannuation Schemes: Former Health Service and Public Sector Employees must adhere to the relevant prohibition of re-employment provisions where they have previously availed of a Public Service Voluntary Early Retirement or Ill Health Retirement Pension from any of the following Pension schemes:

- Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGSS)
- Health Service Executive Employee Superannuation Scheme
- Voluntary Hospitals Superannuation Scheme (VHSS Officers/Non Officers)
- Nominated Health Agencies Superannuation Scheme (NHASS)
- Other Public Service Superannuation Scheme

Among the Voluntary Early Retirement Schemes referred to above are the following:

- Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement (ISER)
- Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme 2010 (VER)

Prospective candidates must satisfy themselves as to their eligibility to be employed applying / competing for posts to be filled through this recruitment campaign.

Abatement of Pension (Section 52 of Public Service Pensions Act 2012): Where a person who is in receipt of a Public Service Pension (e.g. retired on voluntary age grounds) is subsequently appointed to another Public Service post, the Abatement of Pension Regulations apply. This means that in a situation where the total of a person's pension combined with their salary from their new post, exceeds the uprated (current) salary of the position from which they retired, his/her pension is reduced by any such excess amount. This provision applies irrespective of whether the relevant pension was accrued in the same Pension Scheme which applies to the new appointment, or in another Public Service Pension Scheme.

Shortlisting: Shortlisting will be carried out on the basis of information supplied on your curriculum vitae. The criteria for shortlisting are based on the requirements of the post as outlined in the Person Specification. Failure to include information regarding these requirements on your CV may result in you not being called forward to the next state of the recruitment process.

All overseas qualifications must be validated. No candidate can work in the Hospital without validated qualifications. If professional registration is also a requirement, candidates must provide documentation of same.

Canvassing will automatically disqualify.

Please note that you will be contacted mainly by mobile phone and email. It is important that your mobile phone number, postal address and email address are correct. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to your mobile voice mails and emails. We recommend that you use an email address that you have regular access to.

Competency based interviews follow the shortlisting stage of the recruitment process. Credit is awarded by the interview panel to candidates who demonstrate at interview that they possess the experience, competencies and skills listed in the person specification. Candidates will normally be given at least one week's notice of interview. All interviews are held remotely unless it is specifically noted otherwise in the Job Description. No subsequent or alternative dates to dates given will be offered to candidates. All posts are located in St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4 unless it is specifically noted otherwise in the Job Description.

Disability: Please let us know if you need any special assistance at interview, e.g. if you have difficulty in moving up or down stairs or have hearing or speech difficulties.

Candidates are notified of the result of their interview at the earliest possible date after the interview. The recommendation of the interview panel does not constitute a job offer. The process continues after the interview and includes clearance checks such as references, Garda clearance, occupational health clearance, validation of qualifications and experience. A job offer is made pending satisfactory clearances. SVUH reserves the right to remove candidates from specific recruitment panels and retract job offers if satisfactory clearances cannot be obtained or are deemed unsatisfactory.

** If you lived in any country for 6 months or more from the date of your 16th birthday other than the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland you will be required to provide security clearance for each jurisdiction in which you have resided. Your*

security clearance must be dated AFTER you left that country and cover the entire period of your residence. Seeking security clearances from other countries are the responsibility of the candidate. It is a process which can take an amount of time. Therefore we would strongly advise that you commence seeking international security clearances now.

For some recruitment competitions a panel of successful candidates may be formed as a result of the interviews. Candidates who obtain a place on the panel may, (within the life of the panel), be considered for subsequent approved vacancies. Candidates are placed on a panel in order of merit. A panel is typically live for 6 months.

It is normal procedure that candidates be placed on the first point of the relevant salary scale in accordance with the Department of Finance guidelines.

Declaration: Please read your application carefully and check for any errors or omissions. False declaration or omission in support of your application will disqualify you from appointment.

This document must be regarded as an outline of the major areas of accountability at the present time, which will be reviewed and assessed on an on-going basis.

Date: February 2026