



**TUS**

**Technological University of the Shannon:  
Midlands Midwest**  
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:  
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

## **POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY**

**Project Title:** Men and Baby Loss: A Project Examining Men's Experiences of Baby Loss and Support

**Short Project Description:** Men's experiences of baby loss, whether through miscarriage, termination for foetal anomaly, stillbirth, or neonatal death, remain largely overlooked within bereavement research and care. Although baby loss profoundly affects both parents, existing policies, services, and cultural narratives continue to prioritise maternal perspectives (Obst et al., 2020; Murphy, 2024). Consequently, men's grief is often unacknowledged, misunderstood, or expressed in ways that fall outside traditional expectations of fatherhood. This PhD addresses that imbalance by exploring how men experience baby loss within contemporary Irish society, identifying what support systems can better meet their needs, and outlining a feasible pathway for integrating such supports into Ireland's healthcare infrastructure.

**Aims and Objectives:** The aim is to develop a nuanced, evidence-based understanding of men's bereavement experiences and co-produce a practical, implementable intervention to enhance support for fathers after baby loss. The objectives are to: **(1)** analyse national policies and service frameworks to assess representation and support for men; **(2)** explore fathers' experiences and perceptions of formal, informal, and healthcare-related support; **(3)** investigate healthcare professionals' perceptions of barriers, challenges, and training needs; and **(4)** co-design an intervention with bereaved fathers, professionals, organisational leaders, and policymakers to identify drivers, structures, and actions for sustainable implementation.

**Duration of Project:** 48 months (4 years)

**Funding Agency:** TUS Strategic Research Fund

**Type of Degree Offered:** PhD

### **Funding Details:**

- **PhD stipend:** €16,000 per annum
- **Materials and consumables:** €1,500 per annum
- **University fees waiver for 4 years**

### **Minimum Qualifications/Experience Necessary/Any Other Requirements:**

#### **Applicants must have:**

- BSc in Psychology, Sociology, Public Health or other closely related areas with a minimum 2:1 degree classification.

- Ability to work independently and collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Empathy, compassion, and active listening skills, with the ability to engage sensitively with diverse populations and stakeholders.
- Willingness and ability to travel within Ireland for data collection and stakeholder engagement.
- Strong project management and organisational skills, including the ability to plan, prioritise, and deliver work to deadlines across multiple study phases.

**Desired attributes include:**

- Completion of a Master's degree and/or demonstrated experience working in psychology, public health, or grief and bereavement contexts.
- Experience with qualitative and co-design research approaches. Training will be provided to build advanced skills.
- Evidence of research dissemination (e.g., publications, conference presentations, reports, creative knowledge translation activities).

**Additional information:**

- Appointment to the PhD programme requires that you are admitted to the Technological University of the Shannon PhD programme within three months, and that you participate in a structured PhD programme during the PhD period.
- It is a prerequisite that you are present at and accessible to the University on a daily basis.

**English Language Requirement:**

IELTS [International English Testing System] Applicants must have a minimum of 6.5 with no component score less than 6.5. Please contact [pro@tus.ie](mailto:pro@tus.ie) for any specific questions on this requirement.

**Project Supervisory Team:**

Lead supervisor: Dr. Lewis King

Co-supervisor: Dr. Kieran Dowd

Advisors: Dr. Marita Hennessey, Dr. Sam Murphy, Dr. Noel Fitzpatrick.

For further information please contact: [lewis.king@tus.ie](mailto:lewis.king@tus.ie)

**Closing date** for receipt of completed application forms is Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 by 5pm. Interviews will be held between Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**To apply**

1. Download the TUS Scholarship application form here: [Research Application Form 2025.docx](#)
2. Send the completed application form to [pro@tus.ie](mailto:pro@tus.ie). Please include the project title in the subject line (“Men and Baby Loss: A Project Examining Men’s Experiences of Baby Loss and Support”).