



Candidate Information Booklet

Job title: Project Officer – Research Processes

Grade: Engineer Grade III

Closing date: 5pm, Monday, 20th October
2025

Please read carefully

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is undertaking a competition to identify suitable candidates for appointment to the position of:

Role Title:	Project Officer – Research Processes
Grade:	Engineer Grade III
Location:	Cork, Dublin or Galway
Tenure:	1 x Permanent Vacancy
	Additionally, HIQA may create a panel for future permanent and fixed term vacancies that may arise
Blended Working:	1 - 2 days a week in the office and the remainder of the working week spent working from home. Further information can be found below in the Principal Conditions of Service under Blended Working Arrangements .
Salary:	€39,474 (Engineer Grade III, Point 1)
Closing date:	5pm on Monday, 20 th October 2025

This recruitment campaign will be in compliance with the Code of Practice, Appointment to the Civil Service and Public Service prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA). The competition will be conducted under the recruitment licence of the Health Information and Quality Authority. The final Selection Process will be carried out by the Health Information and Quality Authority.

This Code of Practice is published by the CPSA and is available on www.cpsa.ie



About the Health Information and Quality Authority

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is an independent statutory body established to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public.

Reporting to the Minister for Health and engaging with relevant government Ministers and departments, HIQA has responsibility for the following:

- **Setting standards for health and social care services** — Developing person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services in Ireland.
- **Regulating social care services** — The Chief Inspector of Social Services within HIQA is responsible for registering and inspecting residential services for older people and people with a disability, and children's special care units.
- **Regulating health services** — Regulating medical exposure to ionising radiation.
- **Monitoring services** — Monitoring the safety and quality of permanent international protection accommodation service centres, health services and children's social services against the national standards. Where necessary, HIQA investigates serious concerns about the health and welfare of people who use health services and children's social services.
- **Health technology assessment** — Evaluating the clinical and cost effectiveness of health programmes, policies, medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic and surgical techniques, health promotion and protection activities, and providing advice to enable the best use of resources and the best outcomes for people who use our health service.
- **Health information** — Advising on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, setting standards, evaluating information resources and publishing information on the delivery and performance of Ireland's health and social care services.
- **National Care Experience Programme** — Carrying out national service-user experience surveys across a range of health and social care services, with the Department of Health and the HSE.

Visit www.hiqa.ie for more information.

Mission

To enable the best possible health and social care outcomes for all, through evidence-informed decision-making, standard setting, and regulation



Vision

Health and social care services consistently deliver excellent standards of care and the best possible outcomes for the people of Ireland



Key Areas for Performance

HIQA has identified key behavioural and technical competencies for effective performance through a Competency Framework as seen below. Please refer to the role description for an overview of each competency and the proficiency levels required for this role. For more in-depth information on the competencies. It is important that you review the full competency framework guidance document which is available at: <https://www.hiqa.ie/about-us/careers>.

Proficiency Levels

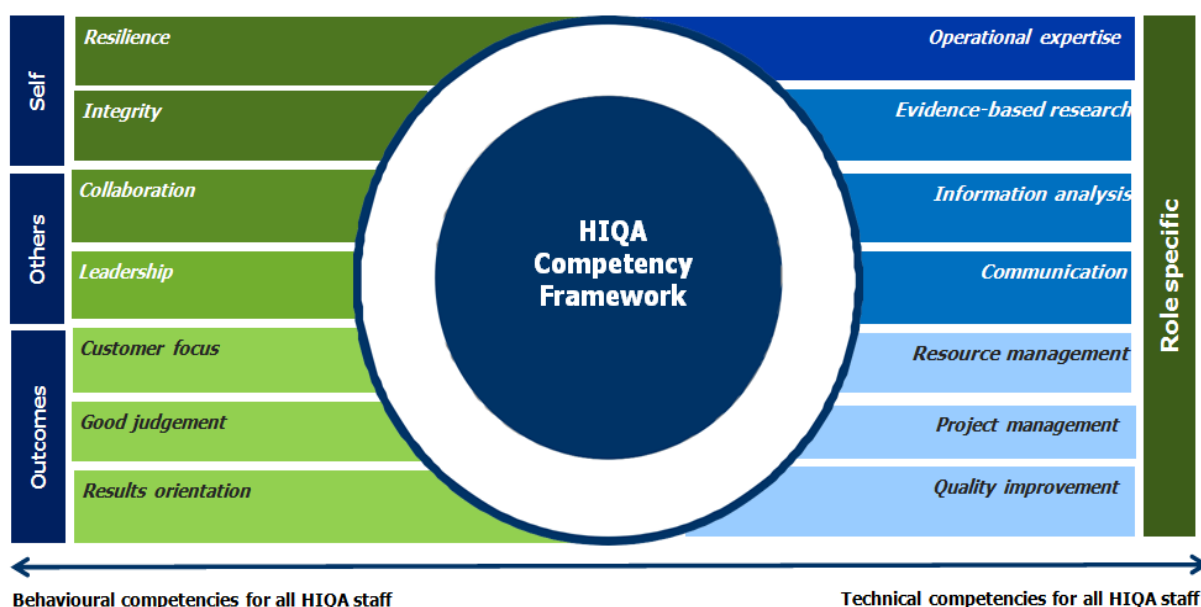
This Competency Framework is based on four levels of proficiency that build on each other:

Emerging/Developing: The level of competency required to carry out some of the core requirements of the role, with support/leadership required to develop competency in other requirements

Proficient: The level of competency required to carry out the core requirements of a role

Skilled: The level of competency required to carry out the core requirements of a role, and develop capability in others or demonstrate the competency in a more senior or complex role

Master: The level of competency required to carry out the core requirements of a role, develop capability in others, demonstrate the competency in a more senior or complex role and be seen as a role model in the organisation or field in that area of competence.



Role Description

Role Overview	
Role Title	Project Officer – Research Processes
Directorate	Health Information and Standards
Grade	Engineer Grade III
Reports To	Programme Manager – Research & Quality
Role Purpose	
<p>The purpose of this role within the relevant business unit and for HIQA as a whole:</p>	<p>HIQA has a role to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and personal social services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public. The Health Information and Standards (HIS) Directorate has the following teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governance, Research and Strategy (GRS); drives quality and consistency in governance, quality, strategy and research related activity across the HIS Directorate. ▪ National Care Experience Programme; conducts national service-user experience surveys and engagements across a range of health services, in conjunction with the Department of Health and the HSE. ▪ Health Information Quality and Assurance; advises on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, assessing compliance against national standards for national data collection and ehealth services, and evaluating information resources to support health and social care services in Ireland. ▪ Health Information Standards; sets national standards and develops frameworks and guidance to support the exchange of health and social care information. ▪ National Standards for Health and Social Care Services; develops person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services. <p>The GRS team is a new team. This is an exciting and dynamic role that will support this evolving team and the other four teams within the HIS Directorate. The purpose of this role is to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist with developing and standardising our research processes to conduct evidence reviews, undertake national service-user experience surveys, set national standards and develop frameworks and guidance. ▪ Assist with developing and standardising all data and information management processes within HIS. ▪ Assist with developing, refining, piloting and running literature search strategies for evidence reviews. ▪ Support the use and implementation of relevant technology including generative AI to build efficiencies into our research processes. ▪ Support co-ordination of the monthly HIS Research Working Group. ▪ Support co-ordination of student support and development. ▪ Assist preparation of peer-reviewed academic publications. ▪ Support co-ordination of corporate and governance reporting. ▪ Assist with co-ordinating staff wellbeing activities across the directorate including HIS Away Days. ▪ Co-ordinate corporate induction. ▪ Co-ordinate general communication for HIS. ▪ Manage log for technical issues. <p>This role will require strong evidence synthesis, information management, communication and project management skills. Their support will extend across the Directorate as required, ensuring that we meet our business objectives.</p>
Behavioural Expectations	
<p>The way that HIQA people are expected to work to role model HIQA values:</p>	<p>The incumbent of this role is expected to demonstrate HIQA's values in the delivery of every day work and interactions with clients and colleagues, by putting people first, being fair and objective, being open and accountable, demonstrating excellence and innovation and working together.</p>

Common Tasks

Team Member

- Seek clarity on the tasks associated with own role
- Complete tasks in compliance with policies and procedures
- Adhere to relevant legislation, standards and internal audits
- Fulfil any mandatory or professional competency requirements
- Maintain confidentiality and a professional approach
- Raise any concerns in relation to workplace health and safety
- Actively identify learning needs and development opportunities
- Actively contribute as a team member
- Follow direction and take on new and different tasks
- Set and achieve performance goals that contribute to HIQA strategy
- Regularly seek feedback to meet performance expectations and goals

Role Specific Tasks

The key tasks and activities associated with the role:

The key activities associated with this role are:

Research Processes

- Supporting with developing, strengthening and standardising our research processes to conduct evidence reviews, undertake national service-user experience surveys, set national standards and develop frameworks and guidance. These processes include evidence synthesis (scoping reviews and narrative literature reviews), quantitative (surveys) and qualitative (focus groups and interviews) research.
- Assisting with developing and standardising all data and information management processes within HIS including all systematic processes related to collecting, storing, analysing, securing, reporting and sharing data and information. Will assist with checking compliance of these processes.
- Assist with developing, reviewing and refining search strategies for evidence reviews including scoping and narrative literature reviews. Assisting

with piloting and running search strategies with the project teams.

- Identifying relevant information sources for evidence reviews including academic research databases and grey literature.
- Supporting project teams undertaking evidence reviews with article screening, data extraction and quality assessment.
- Retrieving articles from academic libraries for evidence reviews.
- Supporting the use of relevant technology including generative AI to ensure that we are efficient with the research processes that we use. Supporting use of IT tools when undertaking evidence reviews including EndNote, Covidence and Microsoft Excel.

Research Working Group

- Assisting with co-ordination of the monthly research group; scheduling meetings, assist with preparation of agendas and update the research resources hub and Padlet for HIS staff, conference tracker, research training log, peer reviewer record and academic publications tracker.

Student Support

- Assisting with co-ordination of student support including student placements, internships, supervision and structured training.

Academic Publications

- Supporting HIS teams to prepare peer-reviewed academic publications.
- Leading or co-authoring on peer-reviewed academic publications.

Corporate Planning & Reporting

- Planning, preparing and providing administrative support for business planning and corporate reporting including scheduling meetings and preparation of associated papers such as agenda, minutes and reports.
- Assisting with co-ordination of corporate reporting including the HIQA Annual Report and Knowledge Translation and Impact Report.

	<p>Cross Directorate Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assisting with the co-ordination of HIS Directorate activities including the HIS Away Days, staff survey action plan and other activities that promote staff wellbeing. ▪ Co-ordinating corporate induction. ▪ Co-ordinating general communication for HIS. ▪ Monitoring general technical issues and reporting to the Programme Manager for Research & Quality. ▪ Managing the structure of the GRS SharePoint site ensuring that files are organised, saved using a standardised process and adhere to the record retention policy. <p>The content of any role description are not exhaustive and are intended to be indicative of the scope of the role</p>
Qualifications	
<p>The qualifications that are essential to effectively meet the requirements of the role:</p>	<p>In determining your eligibility the following are the essential qualifications that will be assessed as part of the shortlisting stage of the selection process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree qualification (Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualification or equivalent) in Library or Information Science or a discipline deemed relevant¹ to the role by the authority.
<p>The qualifications that are desirable to effectively meet the requirements of the role:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PhD with research skills in Health or Social Care.

¹ Relevant specialist area(s) - Public Health, Health Informatics, Healthcare-related science or equivalent

Experience

The experience that is **essential** to effectively meet the requirements of the role:

In determining your eligibility the following are the essential knowledge and experience that will be assessed as part of the shortlisting stage of the selection process.

- Demonstrable Librarian skills and practical experience with developing literature search strategies for evidence reviews.

The experience that is **desirable** to effectively meet the requirements of the role:

- Peer-reviewed academic publication record

ROLE COMPETENCY OVERVIEW		
HIQA Competencies (Behavioural)	Description	Required Proficiency
Resilience	Maintains personal confidence and is able to manage self and emotions in a flexible and adaptive manner when faced with adversity or challenging situations	Proficient
Integrity	Is sincere, respects and values others, maintains a high standard of personal ethics, reliably delivers on promises and takes a rights-based approach to all decisions and actions	Proficient
Collaboration	Builds relationships based on collaboration and trust, is politically and socially astute in approach and is able to resolve difficult situations and conflict	Skilled
Leadership	Orients self and others to a vision, engages with and contributes to an inclusive and productive work environment; holds to account, promotes learning and challenges self and others to achieve a shared purpose	Proficient
Customer Focus	Recognises internal and external customers and stakeholders, and proactively seeks to understand, uphold and respond to their needs	Proficient
Good Judgement	Seeks and analyses information to better understand complex situations, applies an ethical framework to make critical and objective evaluations and reaches high-quality decisions that are contextually relevant	Proficient
Results Orientation	Can deliver results in challenging situations with and through others, strives to exceed expectations and creates as much value as possible	Proficient

ROLE COMPETENCY OVERVIEW		
HIQA Competencies (Technical)	Description	Required Proficiency
Operational Expertise	Applies knowledge, skills and abilities to fulfil requirements of the role effectively in the context of the operational area and function	Proficient
Evidence-Based Research	Critically seeks information and researches, exploring a range of potential sources, to ensure that a broad set of inputs, both quantitative and qualitative, are used to inform decisions and recommendations	Skilled
Information Analysis	Analyses and assesses information in a structured way to inform and improve decision-making, problem-solving, recommendations and everyday work	Skilled
Communication	Develops and delivers key messages and documentation based on quality inputs and consultation with others. Presents information in an authentic, clear, and easy-to-understand way that is impactful and tailored to the needs of the audience	Proficient
Resource Management	Manages available resources to achieve the best outcomes	Proficient
Project Management	Identifies, plans for and implements change projects and initiatives effectively in collaboration with others	Proficient
Quality Improvement	Delivers quality for customers and stakeholders in everyday work through high standards, effective problem-solving and continuous improvement	Proficient

Principal Conditions of Service

Probation

A probationary period of six months applies to this position.

Pay

Candidates will be appointed on the **minimum point of the salary scale (€39,474)** and in accordance with the Department of Finance guidelines. The rate of remuneration will not be subject to negotiation.

The incremental progression for this scale is in line with Government pay policy. The salary scale for this position is as follows:

Engineer Grade III (PPC)

€39,474	€41,996	€42,670	€46,036	€49,413	€52,824
€56,392	€58,645	€60,908	€63,191	€65,460	€67,736
€70,011	€72,279	€74,567	€77,094 ¹	€79,618 ²	

1. *After 3 years' satisfactory service at the maximum*
2. *After 6 years' satisfactory service at the maximum*

Entry will be at the first point of the scale. An exception may occur where an appointee has been serving elsewhere in the **public service** in an analogous grade and pay-scale. In this case the appointment may be assimilated to the nearest point of the advertised salary scale with their incremental date adjusted accordingly. Please note the rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.

Superannuation

Pensionable public servants (new joiners) recruited on or after 1 January 2013 will be members of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme. Please note that the Single Public Service Pension Scheme applies to all pensionable first-time entrants to the public service, as well as to former public servants returning to the public service after a break of more than 26 weeks. In certain circumstances, for example, where the public servant was on secondment or approved leave or remains on the same contract of employment, the 26-week rule does not apply. The legislation giving effect to the Scheme is the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

For those who are not subject to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (e.g. those transferring from other public service employment where the break in service, if any, is less than 26 weeks), the terms of the Health Information and Quality Authority Superannuation Scheme will apply.

Annual Leave

Annual leave is 25 days, rising to 29 days after 5 years' service.

Hours of attendance

Hours of attendance will be fixed from time to time but will amount to not less than 35 per week. The appointee may be required to work additional hours from time to time as may be reasonable and necessary for the proper performance of his or her duties subject to the limits set down under working time regulations.

Blended Working Arrangements

HIQA has introduced blended working to offer more flexible working arrangements to all employees. We aim to strike a balance between being flexible, efficient, and resilient by facilitating blended working where practical, while enabling onsite interaction, collaboration, and support as required.

All roles in HIQA have been assessed under the criteria of business needs and role suitability for blended working. This determined the proportion of time that employees will spend working in HIQA offices and working from home, depending on their role.

Depending on the role, there may be a requirement to attend the office for more than the allocated number of days for training and on boarding purposes at the start of your employment and during the probation period.

A review of our blended working model confirmed that this model is working well in HIQA therefore we are now moving from Interim Blended Working to a long term Blended Working Model. Our existing policy and documentation will be revised and updated once the framework for the Work-Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act is published. Our model is in line with the Civil Service Framework for Blended Working in Ireland.

Further guidance on HIQA's Blended Working Policy, which includes eligibility criteria will be issued to successful candidates. This is an opt-in policy and details on how you can apply will be issued to you before you start.

Selection Procedure

An information booklet and application form are available at: [Careers with HIQA \(recruitisland.ie\)](https://recruitisland.ie)

How to Apply and Closing Date

The completed application form must be submitted by **5pm on Monday, 20th October 2025**.

Only applications completed online through [Careers with HIQA \(recruitisland.ie\)](https://recruitisland.ie) will be accepted. CVs will not be accepted.

Selection Process

The Health Information and Quality Authority will convene an selection panel to carry out the competitive stages of the selection process to the highest standards of best practice.

The approach employed may include:

- A shortlisting of candidates, on the basis of the information contained in their application
- One or more competitive competency-based interview
- Completion of assessments
- Presentation or other exercises
- Any other tests or exercises that may be deemed appropriate.

Please note the role competency overview referred to in the above role description. This will assist you when completing the application form and preparing for the competency based interview.

The number of applications received for a position generally exceeds that required to fill existing and future roles. While a candidate may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the role are such that it would not be practical to progress all candidates to the next stage of the selection process, HIQA may decide that a smaller number of candidates based on order of merit from shortlisting may be called to the next stage of the process.

HIQA will conduct a shortlisting process to select a group who, based on an examination of the application forms, appear to be the most suitable for the role. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that there are some candidates, who based on their application, appear to be more qualified and/or have more relevant experience.

The applications will be shortlisted by an selection panel. They will examine each application form against the essential shortlisting criteria (outlined in the role description above) and the Evidence of Competencies section on the application form.

The onus is on candidates to establish eligibility for the role, therefore it is in each candidate's interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of their qualifications, experience and Evidence of Competencies as requested on the application form.

Competition updates will be issued to the email address as entered on the application form.

The onus is on each candidate to ensure that they are in receipt of all communication. Candidates are advised to check emails on a regular basis throughout the duration of the competition; in addition, being sure to check junk/spam folders should any emails be mistakenly filtered. HIQA accepts no responsibility for communication not accessed or received by a candidate.

Interview Dates

The onus is on all candidates who are shortlisted for interview to ensure they are available for interview on the identified date.

Interview Expenses

The Health Information and Quality Authority will not be responsible for any expense, including travelling expenses that candidates may incur in connection with their application for this post.

Panels

A panel may be created from which future vacancies may be filled. You should only make a location choice where you would be prepared to work if offered an appointment.

Citizenship Requirements

Eligible candidates must be:

- a) A citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; or
- b) A citizen of the United Kingdom (UK); or
- c) A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or
- d) A non-EEA citizen who has a Stamp 4² permission: or Stamp 5 permission

To qualify candidates must be eligible by the date of any job offer.

It shall be the responsibility of the candidate to ensure these permissions are in place.

Further information is available from the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment: <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/>

² Please note that a 50 TEU permission, which is a replacement for Stamp 4EUFAM after Brexit, is acceptable as a Stamp 4 equivalent.

Candidates will be required to provide verification of citizenship eligibility and qualifications in a form acceptable to the Health Information and Quality Authority.

Candidate Obligations

Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify them and will result in their exclusion from the process.

Candidates must not:

- knowingly or recklessly provide false information;
- canvass any person with or without inducements;
- impersonate a candidate at any stage of the process;
- interfere with or compromise the process in any way.

Where a candidate is found guilty of canvassing or in breach of any of the above, then:

- where they have not been appointed to a post, they will be disqualified as a candidate; or
- where they have been appointed to a post, they shall forfeit that appointment.

Candidates must:

- Have the knowledge and ability to discharge the duties of the post concerned
- Be suitable on the grounds of character
- Be suitable in all other relevant respects for appointment to the post concerned – and, if successful, they will not be appointed to the post unless they:
 - Agree to undertake the duties attached to the post and accept the conditions under which the duties are, or may be required to be, performed
 - Are fully competent and available to undertake, and fully capable of undertaking, the duties attached to the position
 - Be passed medically fit to take up the appointment

Prior to appointing

Prior to recommending any candidate for appointment to this position HIQA will make all such enquires that are deemed necessary to determine the suitability of that candidate. Until all stages of the recruitment process have been fully completed a final determination cannot be made nor can it be deemed or inferred that such a determination has been made.

Should the person recommended for appointment not accept the appointment, or, having accepted it, relinquish it, HIQA may at its discretion, select and recommend another person for appointment on the results of this selection process.

Deeming of Candidature to be Withdrawn

Candidates who do not attend for interview when and where required by the Health Information and Quality Authority, or who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as the Health Information and Quality Authority require in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim for consideration.

Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts 2014, all enquiries and applications are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in the process.

Data Protection

Please note that all personal data shall be treated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Acts 1988 - 2018.

For further information on how the Health Information and Quality Authority processes your data, please review the privacy notice on our website:

<https://www.hiqa.ie/reports-and-publications/corporate-publication/hiqa-privacy-notice>

Protected Disclosures

HIQA is committed to maintaining a responsible and ethical culture with the highest standards of honesty, integrity, accountability and compliance in accordance with the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 (as amended) ("the Act").

If you are a HIQA worker, which includes a job applicant under the Act, you can make a protected disclosure about HIQA to HIQA. If you want to know more about making an internal protected disclosure please email internalPD@hiqa.ie for guidance.

The Health Information and Quality Authority is an equal opportunities employer.

HIQA welcomes applications from all suitably qualified candidates regardless of their gender, marital status, family status, religious belief, race, age, sexual orientation, disability or membership of the Traveller community.

If you require any reasonable accommodations to support you throughout the recruitment and selection process please outline this in the appropriate section of the application form and all efforts will be taken to accommodate those requests. All information disclosed will be kept confidential.

Guidelines for Dealing with Appeals/Requests for Review

The Health Information and Quality Authority will consider requests for review in accordance with the provisions of the codes of practice published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA). Where a candidate is unhappy with an action or decision in relation to their application they can seek a review under Section 7 of the Code of Practice governing the recruitment process.

Where a candidate believes that an aspect of the process breached the CPSA's Code of Practice, they can seek a review under Section 8 of the Code of Practice.

Codes of practice are published by the CPSA and are available on www.cpsa.ie

