

**LIDLAW UNDERGRADUATE LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

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Programme	<i>PPES – Political Science and Economics</i>
Year of Study	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> year</i>
Research Project Title	<i>Exploratory research into the human experience of integration - Ukrainian refugees in Ireland</i>
Proposed Supervisor(s)	<i>Rachel Hoare</i>

Before completing this submission, you should review the [Laidlaw Programme Application Guide](#) sections and “Leadership-in-action experience proposal (Summer 2)”

<p><b>Research Project Proposal</b> (750-1000 words max.)</p> <p>See <i>Self-defined research project proposal (Summer 1)</i> in the guidance for more information</p>
<p><b><u>Introduction</u></b></p>
<p>While the arrival of immigrants to Ireland is a contemporary phenomenon, the recent Russian invasion of the Ukraine has led to a significant increase in refugees arriving in the country. Ukrainian nationals entering Ireland seeking shelter and humanitarian assistance have and continue to be welcomed with xenophobia and lack of support, making their integration a complex experience. Although both European, majorly ethnically white and victims of a historically troubled past, the anti-refugee sentiment in Ireland towards this group has not been without discrimination in the form of xeno-racism. Furthermore, factors like the language barrier, lack of job and study opportunities, trauma, etc. have been neglected. This research will explore the circumstances and impact of this experience.</p> <p><b><u>Motivation and Research Question</u></b></p> <p>Motivation behind this research proposal is rooted in the effect of my Trinity elective class “Displacement: exploring the human experience of forced migration”. By the end of the 11</p>

lectures I was able to learn from refugees sharing their first hand experience in Ireland, as well as experts in the area. It sparked an interest in me that I now plan on pursuing as a career in the future. I have now become an intern in English language classes for refugees and asylum seekers in Trinity which convinces me more that this is the field I will make a profession of.

I presented this project idea to the Ukrainian Action representative, Halyna Herasym. Within the organization they are constantly searching for collected data about the experience of Ukrainian refugees in Ireland. Halyna requested to be able to use the results of this project in her work with Ukrainian Action. This not only gives this research project grounds to occur but also a purpose. I believe it could contribute to a wider effort to make Ukrainian refugees integration in Ireland a better experience.

Research Title: Exploratory research into the human experience of integration - Ukrainian refugees in Ireland

### **Literature Review**

The demonisation of those seeking asylum and refuge finds its roots in the equivocal capitalist western idea of economic preservation and national identity (Fekete 2001). Thus, the anti-refugee sentiment is very present in societies like the Irish. A society that already has problems in the areas of unaffordable rent, healthcare, poverty, homelessness, etc. Despite praise for the 'human rights' approach of the government that, according to Bennett et al. (2022), is a blueprint for the Irish International Protection system, the response is not faultless. Elinder et al. (2022) highlight the importance of not only immediate assistance for refugees but " long-term integration policies" as well. This includes language learning facilities, career development opportunities, healthcare, transport access, etc. Research on integration factors has focused mainly on the Middle East and Africa demographic. Despite sharing several similarities, the experience of Ukrainian nationals requires a unique and specialized approach.

### **References**

Elinder, M., Erixson, O., & Hammar, O. (2022). Where Would Ukrainian Refugees Go if They Could Go Anywhere?. *International Migration Review*, 01979183221131559.

Fekete, L. (2001). The emergence of xeno-racism. *Race & Class*, 43(2), 23-40

Kelly, A., Bennett, C., Moriarty, D., Cubie, D., Forde, G., McCarthy, J., McGeady, J., Balfe, K., Barry, J., O'Neill, R., Healy, S., Curran, S., Daniel, V. O. I. (2022). Migrations in our common home: Responding with care-Ireland's response to the Ukrainian crisis

## Project Methodology & Timeline

A qualitative approach will be applied/ The project will consist of a focus group of 6 experts in the field of refugee aid as well as individual interviews with each. Through the focus group, the different factors of integration that are relevant for Ukrainian refugees in Ireland, their degree of importance and effect through the perspective of expert workers will be identified. Interviews will allow for the exploration of the individual experience professionals in the field of refugee help regarding the integration of Ukrainian refugees in Ireland. The participants of the research will be six different experts involved in a different area of integration: language, mental health/trauma care, basic services access, discrimination and racism, cultural separation, Irish government support, education/employment, children integration, etc. for example.

My supervisor's expertise in psychotherapy and trauma-informed research on refugees will serve as a great support with the preparation and execution of the focus group. Halyna Herasym's guidance as a member of Ukrainian action and a Ukrainian national herself will also be indispensable.

Locations: Trinity Global Room

Timeline: June 5th, 2023 - July 17th, 2023

**Previous to 6-week:**

Booking location and confirming dates for focus groups

Initial contact and invitation to participants

Consent agreements

**Week 1-3:**

Data collection through focus group (6 participants) and individual interviews (same 6 participants)

**Week 4:**

Data analysis and drafting report

**Week 5:**

Supervisor review and continuous drafting

**Week 6:**

Report submission to Laidlaw Foundation

## Intended Outcomes

The purpose of the research is to gather relevant and comprehensive data about the human experience of integration post forced migration following the case study of Ukrainian refugees in Ireland through the perspective of the expert workers in the field.

The aims are:

1. Identifying the different factors of integration that are relevant for Ukrainian refugees in Ireland, their degree of importance and effect through the perspective of expert workers.
2. Exploring the individual experience professionals in the field of refugee help regarding the integration of Ukrainian refugees in Ireland.

**Planning for pre-approval requirements ( if relevant e.g. ethics approval, Garda vetting)**

Given that this project requires human participants, I will require Ethics approval by making an application to Trinity's Research Ethics Application Management System. My supervisor's previous experience doing research in Trinity will facilitate this process. I will also partake in training for trauma-informed practices carried out by my supervisor. Lastly, conditions and consent agreements will be provided in the focus group, they will be made according to guidelines by Trinity's Policy on Good Research Practice.

**Planning for expected additional project costs (if relevant e.g. lab expenses, subscriptions, software, project-related travel)**

N/A

**Are there any other relevant details to your proposal e.g., interdisciplinary collaborations, potential for international travel, or links to existing projects or organizations?**

This research project will be in collaboration with Halyna Herasym from Ukrainian Action who will facilitate the use of premises, contact of some expert workers in the field of refugee help, as well as a helping hand as a Ukrainian national herself. As she shared, this project could be a great help for the organization's understanding of the integration experience of Ukrainian refugees.

**Leadership-in-Action experience proposal (500 words max.)**

See *Leadership in Action Proposal (Summer 2)* in the guidance for more information

<b>LiA Category</b> Insert x as appropriate	Category A: Central Laidlaw Foundation Project	<b>x</b>
	Category B: Leadership Placement	
	Category C: In-field application of research	

The main goal of my summer 1 research proposal is to understand and assist an under-supported group of the Irish population, Ukrainian refugees. Think Pacific's mission in Fiji is not any different from it. From the building development project and youth empowerment section to the culture course, Think Pacific is the ideal place to practice leadership, collaboration and learning skills. Apart from immersing in the local culture through the different areas that this summer programme covers, I will be able to bring my unique experiences and abilities to make

a positive change.

According to Margaret Chung (1998), despite the strong sense of community and tradition, Fiji's networks and systematic structure fail to support some of the poorest sectors of the population that can't cover basic needs for food and shelter. For this reason, I consider the help of Think Pacific to be of the utmost importance. I believe firmly in this project's goals and believe I would be fitting to work in constant collaboration with the local community constructing a Health Clinic, learning about their culture and participating in workshops for the Fijian youth. The latter especially because of the interdisciplinary approach where I feel like I can contribute. I am passionate about the provision of mental health care and trust in the role of open discussion. I am especially excited for that workshop. Moreover, the topics of public health and environment are, in my opinion, one if not the most relevant for a country like this one. Where nature and community are the very pillars of life .

With the help of my supervisor I will accomplish the project goals in the time frame offered. This being: Becoming an active and participative leader and team member, learning from my colleagues and Fijian community and embracing the drastic change from my life in Peru and university life in Dublin. I will take advantage of my supervisor's expertise in psychology to work in an empathetic and considerate way of working in a culture different from mine. Furthermore, knowing my passion for languages, I would love to take on the challenge of learning Fijean. Even though I know it is not necessary, I do believe the effort is worth it. Overall I believe it will be an excellent experience to test my resilience and commit to a project that will bring great benefits to the community.

### References

Chung, M. (2019). The Fiji poverty report

**Are there any other relevant details to your proposal e.g., interdisciplinary collaborations, potential for international travel, or links to existing projects or organizations, plans to apply to a Study Abroad / Erasmus opportunity?**

I would partake in the Community and youth project with ThinkPacific in Fiji that would require travel.