**Institution/Track:** DCU

**Project Title:** Investigating patients querying behaviour for health related topics

**Suitable for students who are studying in the following areas:** Computing, Software Engineering, Computer Science, Enterprise Computing, and related fields.

**Skills needed:**
- Experimental evaluation methods
- Use of statistical methods for evaluation of experimental data
- Interest in conducting surveys and writing questionnaires
- Good programming skills (desirable)

**Project Description:**
Health is one of the most popular topics which people search for on the internet. Many different types of people search for information relating to health and medical issues, e.g. patients, patients' family members, nurses, doctors, students, etc.

Information retrieval studies methods to enable people to satisfy their information needs using search engines. People search for information for many reasons, often the accuracy and quality of the results is not really important. However, in the context of health search, the quality and relevance of documents retrieved is essential. Being supplied with inaccurate or misleading implications could create significant problems for the searcher, e.g. if they took an inappropriate medicine based on incorrect advice obtained from the web.

In order to improve information retrieval in the context of health and medical search, it is necessary to understand the users and their search behaviour.

The goal of this internship is to study how patients look for medical information, and more specifically how they query search tools. The intern will investigate how patients querying behaviour can be characterized and assessed, which will involve the following activities:
- Creation of an evaluation strategy involving the creation of an assessment system (web-based system)
- Recruitment of participants
- Analysis of the results

**The Role of the student & benefits gained from participation in this project:**
The primary role of the student will be to work on evaluating patients querying behaviour, with support and guidance from the research group. This is a fantastic opportunity for a student to gain first-hand experience of working within an international dynamic research group, and increase their experience of running evaluations.

It is foreseen that the insights gained on individuals’ medical querying behaviours through these evaluations will result in a research publication, of which the student would be a co-author.

**Who will be working with you?**
The student will work closely with Dr Lorraine Goeuriot and Dr Liadh Kelly researchers in the group. S/he will also be supervised by Dr Gareth Jones, the team leader of the group.

**Short description of the group:**
We have 10 people in our group – Dr Gareth Jones (the team leader), 3 post-docs and 6 PhD students.

**Recommended Reading Material:**

**Other information (Funding?)**

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1. This is an initial description of the role of the student and it is liable to change following discussions between the investigators and the student.
For further details on this project please contact:

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