D6.8 – Award of Doctoral Degree (ESR 7, ESR8, ESR9, ESR17)

Status	On-going		
	NT	Natalie Tham - ESR 8	TCD
	HZ	Hassan Zaal - ESR9	TCD
	KT	Kentaro Tenaka - ESR17	TCD
Status	Exited		
	MO	Mohamed Osman - ESR7	TCD
Contributors	JD	Prof. John Dinsmore	TCD
Reviewers	JD	Prof. John Dinsmore	TCD
	FF-R	Prof. Francisco Florez-Revuelta	UA

Dissemination Level	
Public	X

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Deliverable Version History

Version	Date issued	Release comments
V0.1 (D)	06/02/2025	Deliverable Template Structured by TCD PI - Prof. John Dinsmore. Sent to Coordinator (CO) – Prof. Franciso-Florez Reveulta for structural check
V0.2 (I)	19/02/2025	Confirmation of structure with CO.
V0.3 (I)	20/02/2025	TCD PI updated document.
V0.4 (I)	25/02/2025	CO final review of content
V0.5 (R)	27/02/2025	Deliverable finalised by TCD PI for submission to the European Commission (EC)

- **Draft (D):** describes planned contents and main structure of the different sections. Document is between 0% - 50% completed.

- **Intermediate (I):** document is approximately between 50% - 100% completed. It is the previous step before it could be released.

- **Released (R):** document is 100% completed, reviewed and authorised for release by the partner responsible of the deliverable or the WP leader.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

This deliverable presents information on the Trinity College Dublin (TCD) Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) and the status of the degree to be awarded at the end of the visuAAL project (2025). The deliverable compliments D3.1 – *Doctoral Theses* (M54). As per the Grant Agreement (GA) awards may be given after the end of the project, as ESRs may require more than 3 years to finalise their degree and submit their thesis. Additionally, academic or administrative requirements may delay the awarding of degrees.

Document Structure:

- **Introduction:** A brief overview of the deliverable's aim and content.

- **ESR Award status:** A summary of each ESR research topic and award status at the conclusion of the visuAAL project.

- **Summary:** A brief summary of the deliverable.

1. Introduction

The aim of this deliverable is to provide information on the Trinity College Dublin (TCD) Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) and the status of the degrees awarded at the end of the visuAAL project (2025). The deliverable compliments D3.1 – *Doctoral Theses* (M54 – February 2025), which contains copies of ESR's thesis/thesis draft (ESR 8,9) or PhD proposal (ESR17) at M54. As per the Grant Agreement (GA) awards may be given after the end of the project, as ESRs may require more than 3 years to submit their theses and finalise their degrees. Additionally, academic or administrative requirements may delay the award of degrees. In total 4 ESRs were recruited by TCD and a summary of their status at the end of the project is as follows:

- **ESR7** – Exited the programme in M38 (October 2023).

- **ESR8** – Submitted their PhD in M53 (January 2025). Viva to be held in April 2025.

- **ESR9** – Plans to submit their MSc by research thesis in March 2025.

- **ESR17** – Completed scoping review and draft PhD proposal in M54 (February 2025) to target future PhD scholarship awards.

Section 2 below provides full details of the award status of each ESR and where relevant their post project plans.

2. ESR Award Status

This section provides the final award status of each ESR at the end of the visuAAL project. Where relevant, post-project plans for each ESR to complete their post-graduate qualification (ESR 8 and 9) or seek a future PhD Scholarship award (ESR 17) is outlined.

ESR 7 – Mohamed Osman

Draft PhD Title: The use and acceptance of video-based wearable cameras to support physical activity self-management for older adults living at home with multimorbidity

Award Status: ESR 7 was recruited to the project on the 30th August 2021 (M12) and exited on the 22nd October 2023 (M38).The ESR did not complete their intended PhD research programme or submit a thesis.

ESR 8 – Natalie Tham

PhD Title: Using Behavioural Insights to Increase Older Adults Acceptance of Camera-Based Active and Assisted Living Technologies

Award Status: ESR 8 completed their fellowship between the 1st June 2021 (M10) and the 31st May 2024 (M45). Following the fellowship period the ESR remained a student in TCD and successfully submitted their PhD thesis on the 30th of January 2025 (M53). The ESR is due to sit their viva in April 2025 (aiming for summer 2025 graduation). The ESR has published two journal papers and one conference paper during the project.

ESR 8 – Hassan Zaal

MSc by Research Title: Improving Home-Based Care – Robots Capabilities Using Natural Language Interface

Award Status: ESR 9 completed their fellowship between the 4th February 2022 (M18) and the 3rd February 2025 (M54). The ESR was transferred to an MSc by Research from September 2023 (M37). The MSc by Research at TCD offers students the opportunity to conduct in-depth, independent research under expert supervision in their chosen field. The program focuses (similar to a PhD) on developing advanced research skills and critical thinking, culminating in a thesis that contributes to academic knowledge or practical applications. As with a PhD, graduates of the MSc by research at TCD are well-prepared for careers in research, academia, or industry. Post project ESR 9 will remain a student at TCD with the aim of submitting their thesis in the spring 2025, for a summer 2025 graduation. The ESR has published two conference papers during the project.

ESR 17 – Kentaro Tanaka

PhD Research Proposal Focus: Examining the Role of Video Based Telehealth in Multimorbidity Care: Perspectives of Healthcare Professionals.

Award Status: ESR 17 completed their fellowship in the period between the 24th May 2024 (M45) and 28th February 2025 (M54). Due to their limited time in the project, it was agreed that this ESR would not be required to pursue/complete a post-graduate qualification. Instead, their research focus was on the development of a scoping review and PhD proposal which can be used to target future PhD scholarship awards post project. Both the scoping review and PhD proposal were complete in M54 as planned. The ESR published one journal article during the project. Post-project the ESR will use the PhD proposal to target national and international PhD scholarships[1]

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[1] Using tools such as: https://www.mastersportal.com/scholarships/

awards, with support from the TCD supervisory team. Example scholarships to target include:

- **Trinity Research Doctorate Award:**
  https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/awards/trda-pi/

- **Irish Research Council – Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme:** https://research.ie/funding/goipg/?f=postgraduate

- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual and Co-Fund Fellowships:**
  https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/

3. Summary

This Deliverable complements D3.1 – *Doctoral Theses* (M54), presenting the final status of Trinity College Dublin (TCD) Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) at the end of the visuAAL project (February 2025).

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