

**PhD Opportunity in Mathematics Education,
School of Mathematical Sciences,
Dublin City University**

Project description:

This research programme aims to investigate the impact of Project Maths upon our highest achieving students, during their time at second-level and at third-level; both in terms of their mathematical literacy and fluency, as well as their attitudes and motivations when studying mathematics. Traditionally, Ireland has performed poorly in terms of providing sufficient educational support for students of higher ability, and this is reflected in our repeated poor performance in PISA, where we consistently score significantly lower than the OCED average for top-performing students. The Report of the Project Maths Implementation Support Group voiced concern that this new approach to mathematics teaching and learning does not address the needs of such high-achievers. This is an ideal time to study the impact of Project Maths in this way, given that the first cohort of students to have studied only Project Maths for their entire second-level career will be sitting the Leaving Certificate in 2018.

Prerequisite qualifications:

- A 2.2 or higher in primary degree, in the area of mathematics, mathematics education or education, or a postgraduate qualification in education.
- See <http://www4.dcu.ie/registry/postgraduate/index.shtml#Entry> for full details of DCU entry requirements for PhD students.

Start date and duration:

As soon as possible, but must be before 1st April 2015.

The PhD is expected to take between 3.5 and 4 years of full-time study.

The project will be based in the School of Mathematical Sciences, DCU.

Funding:

- University tuition fees will be paid for four years.
- A tax-free monthly stipend of €1,000 will be paid for the first 24 months. No stipend is currently available for the remaining period of the studentship. However, there will be an opportunity to

tutor in DCU Maths Learning Centre for the duration of the PhD, which will provide additional financial support, as well as valuable experience. Further funding will be sought during the course of the PhD, but is not guaranteed at this time.

- A small amount of funding is available for conference attendance, approximately once a year.

Supervisor:

Dr. Eabhnat Ní Fhloinn, School of Mathematical Sciences

Expressions of Interest:

Interested parties should send a detailed CV, along with contact details for two academic referees, to eabhnat.nifhloinn@dcu.ie by **Friday, 21st November 2014**. Any queries should also be directed to this address.

The successful candidate will be required to submit a formal application to DCU via the Postgraduate Applications Centre (www.pac.ie) - please visit the Graduate Studies Office website for more information.