



The Educational Disadvantage Centre (EDC), established in 2000, is a research centre with a track record of engaging in both international and national research leadership in the broad area of poverty and social inclusion in education, including lifelong learning. DCU Institute of Education is committed to advocating for positive changes and transformations in educational policy-making and practices across the island of Ireland and internationally.

In response to a recommendation of the Penal Policy Review Group, the Irish Prison Service (IPS) committed to undertake a study of the educational needs of those held in custody. (A previous study of literacy levels among the prison population was carried out in 2001 and 2002 and the results were published in 2003) The IPS, in conjunction with the Educational Disadvantage Centre, Dublin City University (DCU) Institute of Education, now proposes to publish the results of a comprehensive study of the core literacy and digital literacy competences of the Irish prison population based on a stratified sample-based survey. It is envisaged that at least some of the research findings from the study will contribute towards further PhD research.

To this effect, the EDC, with funding from the IPS, invites applications for two research fellowships at DCU – one to pursue research on literacy levels of prisoners, and one to pursue research on digital literacy levels of prisoners. The fees-only fellowships will cover full-time fees for PhD registration for 3 years, covering academic years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 (up to a maximum of €20,000 in total). It may fall upon an applicant to cover their own full-time fees for year 4. There may alternatively be an option to register for a part-time PhD while receiving funding for fees equivalent to three years full-time (up to a maximum of €20,000) paid over a longer time period.

Entrance requirements

The minimum entrance requirement for these positions is a second class honours degree, grade one. Candidates with a 2.1 or a 1.1 undergraduate degree will register on the PhD-track and undergo a confirmation procedure to the PhD register within months 12-21 of their initial registration. Candidates with a research masters will go straight on the PhD register. Non-native English speakers must present evidence at the time of application of having attained the required standard of English Language competency, as specified here:

<http://www.dcu.ie/registry/english.shtml>

How to apply

Candidates must submit the following:

A fully completed 2017 DCU Institute of Education **Bursary Application Form**.

Applications should be typed. This form also includes your PhD research proposal, with a maximum word count of 1,500.

Scanned copies of a full set of original, notarised academic transcripts of overall results for undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications (plus English language competency test results as applicable)

Scanned copies of two signed reference letters, one of which must be from an academic referee who can comment on your capacity to undertake research studies; the other must be an employer reference

Applications must be submitted **electronically** as a single PDF with filename: surname_firstname_DCUIoE_2017.pdf to the Director of the Educational Disadvantage Centre, Dr Paul Downes email: paul.downes@dcu.ie

Deadline for receipt of applications is Thursday May 10th 2018 @ 5pm

Initial enquires can be directed to Dr Bernadette Dwyer in the School of Language Literacy and Early Childhood Education: email bernadette.dwyer@dcu.ie phone 01 884 2261