

## Employment Based Postgraduate Programme Research Scholarship - Invitation to “Employment Partners” to partner with DCU

*The Irish Research Council’s Employment Based Postgraduate Programme Research Scholarship offers the opportunity for a candidate (EU or Non-EU) in any discipline to become a full-time employee of a private or public sector organisation (if not already employed by them) while being registered as a full-time postgraduate research student at DCU for the same period of time - 24 months for a Masters by research or 48 months for a PhD (if the candidate is a new entrant; continuing students may also apply). The candidate’s salary will be paid jointly by the IRC and the employer and the IRC will cover payment of DCU tuition fees and costs.*

*DCU, Ireland’s University of Enterprise, is now inviting “employment partners” to enter into partnership*

### Irish Research Council to co-fund company research

- The Irish Research Council (IRC) will co-fund an employee of a private or public sector organisation to pursue/continue pursuing a Masters or PhD. Funding will include University fees and costs and a contribution to salary
- Eligible employment partners include SMEs, multinationals, indigenous Irish companies, and private and public sector organisations with a physical operational base in the Republic of Ireland
- The funded researcher will be / become a full-time employee and will carry out their project primarily on the employer’s premises, with access to the full range of DCU facilities and training options
- Ideally candidates will be new employees of the employment partner although existing employees may also be facilitated
- Candidates (in the case of new entrants) will register at DCU no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and no earlier than January 2015.
- Benefits to the employment partner -
  - Research of direct relevance to the company co-funded by the IRC
  - A significant opportunity for upskilling and education of an employee
  - Access to significant experience and expertise in DCU
  - An opportunity to build research networks and collaborations
  - The chance to maximise the potential for innovation

*“the funded researcher will be a full-time employee and based primarily on the employer’s premises”*

### Why DCU?

- DCU is Ireland’s ‘University of Enterprise’ - we’re company-focused and have a long history of engaging with enterprise to foster highly collaborative research
- Our partners include national and international academic, clinical and industrial bodies, and we are keen to continue expanding our portfolio of partnerships
- Our cutting-edge Innovation and Enterprise Centre, INVENT, supports our translational and commercial activities to exploit the discoveries and skills of our research community
- We are currently ranked in the top 4% of all universities, and in the top 50 new universities, worldwide



- Our current annual research expenditure is in the region of €43m, and over €100m has been invested to date in the development of our state-of-the-art research facilities

### Benefits to the researcher

- A full-time employment contract with an employment partner for a period of 24 or 48 months (in the case of new entrants or less if a continuing DCU student). Employment contract to be sorted before the award commences – candidate to be employed full-time temporarily or permanently for the duration of the award.
- Candidates will register as a full-time DCU student for 24 months (Masters by research) or 48 months (PhD) in the case of new entrants, for a lesser period in respect of continuing students
- Maximum exposure to a commercially/socially-orientated research environment
- A unique opportunity to define a research project with an employment partner and one of the world's leading universities
- Supervision and mentoring from enterprise and academic experts
- Registration as a full-time DCU research student (if not already registered as a full-time student) and access to state-of-the-art on-campus services and facilities
- Membership of DCU's international, innovative and interdisciplinary postgraduate community
- Access to training in professional development and the business aspects of research
- A research degree, a broad range of skills and significantly enhanced employability on completion



### The role of the company

- Agree a project work plan to incorporate a Research Career Development Plan, in association with the researcher and DCU Academic Supervisor
- Appoint an Employment Mentor for project supervision and professional guidance
- Issue a full-time employment contract and co-fund salary costs for the duration of the scholarship
- Enter into a collaborative research/IP agreement with DCU
- Facilitate access to the necessary company-based research infrastructure and facilities
- Agree to ring-fence the researcher's in-company time for dedication to their project
- Contribute to annual progress reports to the Irish Research Council for each year of the scholarship

### How do we proceed with an application?

Once the project has been agreed, the research candidate will coordinate the funding application to the Irish Research Council – the closing date for receipt of applications is 16:00 GMT on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014. This funding scheme has been specifically designed by the IRC to involve a low level of bureaucracy, with a streamlined process from application to award.

*“this scheme has been specifically designed to involve a low level of bureaucracy, with a streamlined process from application to award”*

If successful, DCU will assist the employment partner and the research candidate with all contractual documentation. DCU will provide a full set of collaborative agreement templates dealing with such issues as administration of funding, intellectual property

ownership, materials transfer, confidentiality, division of researcher's time between the company and DCU, and the role of both parties in supervision. IP issues will be fully explored with each

company at the outset. If you would like to explore partnership opportunities with DCU for collaborative postgraduate research, contact the Graduate Studies Office by emailing [graduatestudiesoffice@dcu.ie](mailto:graduatestudiesoffice@dcu.ie). Alternatively if you would like to discuss the mechanics of the scheme with the IRC directly, please contact Dr. Ross McKiernan, Enterprise Programmes Manager by email: [rmckiernan@research.ie](mailto:rmckiernan@research.ie) or by phone – 01 231 5000.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Irish Research Council:

[www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)

DCU Graduate Studies Office:

[www4.dcu.ie/graduatestudies](http://www4.dcu.ie/graduatestudies)