



**Dublin City University**  
**Group Financial Controller**  
**Permanent**

DCU is a young, dynamic and striving university with a distinctive mission to transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation & engagement. Since admitting its first students in 1980, DCU has grown significantly both in student numbers and size. DCU currently has in excess of 17,000 students and operates across six campuses in the Glasnevin, Drumcondra and Citywest areas of Dublin.

DCU's excellence is recognised internationally with the University being ranked highly among prominent global institutions. DCU is the only Irish University that has been ranked in the QS Top 50 Universities in the world under 50 years old out of almost 10,000 universities established since 1966. DCU is the Ireland's fastest growing University. It has a turnover in excess of €200m generated from the University's activities and from a significant commercial group of companies.

Under its current strategic plan for the period 2017 to 2022, the University will see a further period of expansion of the University and its commercial activities both domestically and internationally. DCU is currently making strategic investments of more than €0.3bn, including a €0.2bn campus development plan. Philanthropy, students and loan facilities from the European Investment Bank and the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund sponsor this development plan.

The Finance Office has overall remit for the financial environment within the University and provides a comprehensive range of services to DCU Faculties, Schools, Research Centres, Maintenance Departments and thirteen wholly owned commercial companies.

The Group Financial Controller will report directly to the Deputy Director of Finance. They will be a key member of the management team within the Finance Department and will work with the Director and Deputy Director of Finance and other senior managers within the department in setting the strategic direction of the Finance Office and delivering on its strategic objectives in the context of the overall DCU group strategy.

The Group Financial Controller will have direct line accountability for the University's financial accounting function and all aspects of the financial and management accounting function for the commercial group of companies.

In addition, they will have accountabilities for specific commercial development and project activities within the group. They will play a key role in the development of financial structures to be put in place to fund the further expansion of the group property and buildings and to fund commercial investment opportunities. The Group Financial Controller will substitute for the Deputy Director of Finance as appropriate.

**Key Aspects of the role Include:**

- Managing teams to co-ordinate and deliver on internal and external reporting essentials and ensuring the University and subsidiary companies reporting essentials are met
- Provide direction to the accounting teams on technical accounting matters
- Preparation and critical reasoning of the Group and University Financial Statements
- Full accountability for the subsidiary group companies budget and financial reporting cycle
- Preparation of Subsidiary Board trading updates and commentary papers
- Preparation of financial forecasts for the group
- Oversee the annual audit engagement with the statutory auditor (Comptroller and Auditor General) and external auditor, ensuring audit compulsions are met in a timely manner
- Accountability for group taxation affairs, both domestic and international, and liaising closely with the DCU corporate tax advisers
- Ensuring financial controls are effective and being appropriately applied within the subsidiary companies group and university
- Monitoring and enhancing tax compliance controls, structures and automated processes to ensure effective management of the Group's overall tax compliance
- Providing guidance to the accounting teams
- Identifying projects across the Finance Office as part of the continuous improvement program, including the utilisation of technology and financial systems to streamline business processes and give further enhancement to customer service while maintaining and effective control framework
- Management of the treasury function, including cash forecasting and ensuring structures are in place to meet loan facility conditions and obligations.
- Guiding the assessment of business development opportunities within the university and the commercial group of companies
- Providing guidance to business development activities within the DCU group including contract negotiation
- Presenting guidance as appropriate to University management groups and subsidiary company Boards
- Managing and guiding teams to ensure that staff receive continuing training and development
- Liaising as appropriate with key stakeholders both internally and externally including the Comptroller and Auditor General, the external and internal auditors, the Department of Education and Skills and the Higher Education Authority.

## Key attributes

- Qualified accountant with several years relevant post qualification experience in a similar senior role in an organisation with similar scale and complexity
- Excellent technical accounting skills
- Strong commercial acumen with a demonstrable track record in commercial projects
- Demonstrable experience working in a complex environment with a record of success
- Board Level experience
- Project management and delivery experience
- Demonstrated ability to guide and manage teams within a fast paced dynamic and changing environment
- Ability to produce insightful reports and disseminate key information to guide solution focused approach.
- Demonstrable track record of implementing change through technology to achieve continuous service improvement
- Ability to achieve tight deadlines
- Good working knowledge of Irish tax legislation
- Track record of effective engagement with internal and external stakeholders

## Personal characteristics

- Initiative and ability to work individually
- Proactive self-starter
- Excellent influencing, persuasion and negotiating skills
- Ability to build positive relationships with colleagues in the DCU group and key external stakeholders
- Excellent interactive, written and oral communication skills
- Excellent management skills
- Demonstrable problem solving ability
- Attention to detail
- Record of achievement
- Ability for, and demonstrated experience of, guiding and developing teams

## Mandatory Training

The postholder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: Orientation, Health & Safety and Data Protection (GDPR). Other training may need to be undertaken when appropriate.

**Salary Scale:** €80,760 to €105,621\* (Administrator III)

\* Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience

**Closing Date:** Friday 04<sup>th</sup> October 2019

All applications must arrive on or before the closing date.

## **Application Procedure**

Informal enquiries to: Mr Ciaran McGivern, Director of Finance, Dublin City University. Email: [ciaran.mcgivern@dcu.ie](mailto:ciaran.mcgivern@dcu.ie) Tel: +353 1 700 5151

*Please do not send applications to this email address, instead apply as described below.*

Application forms are available from the DCU Current Vacancies (open Competitions) website at <https://www4.dcu.ie/hr/vacancies/current.shtml> and also from the Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel: +353 (0) 1 7005149.

Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email

Subject line: **Job Ref #BC1012 Group Financial Controller**

Applications should be submitted by email to [hr.applications@dcu.ie](mailto:hr.applications@dcu.ie) or by post to the Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Dublin 9.

***DCU is an Equal Opportunities Employer***