



**DCU Institute of Education  
Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education**

**Post title** Post-Doctoral Researcher (Adult Religious Education and Faith Development)

**Level on Framework** Level 1

**Post duration** Fixed Term Three Year Contract

**Research Career Framework**

As part of this role, the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework <http://dcu.ie/hr/ResearchersFramework/index.shtml>. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

DCU has a strong track record in attracting both Irish and European Union research funding under Horizon 2020 (and all previous Framework Programmes), Marie Curie Actions and Erasmus. We offer a dynamic and internationally-focused environment in which to advance your academic career.

**Background & Role**

The Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education (MDCCE) seeks to appoint a Post-Doctoral Researcher in Adult Religious Education and Faith Development.

MDCCE is Ireland's leading Centre for Catholic Education, based at Ireland's first full Faculty of Education, the Institute of Education, Dublin City University. The Centre promotes teaching, learning and research within the Catholic education sector and draws on the expertise of DCU's Institute of Education across early childhood, primary, post-primary, third-level and adult education.

This position is being established at the MDCCE for a three-year period supported by funding from the Provincial Leadership Team of the Presentation Sisters, North East Province, Ireland. MDCCE is seeking a talented individual to join its research team.

## **Principle Duties and Responsibilities**

The role of the Post-Doctoral researcher will be to seek to expand knowledge of current practice in adult religious education and faith development within the Catholic community and beyond, in Ireland and further afield, identifying and testing new possibilities in order to inform pastoral activity. Within this role, the Post-Doctoral Researcher will be involved in both desktop and field-based research, and be required to collaborate with other researchers as necessary to fulfil the research mission of the MDCCE.

Reporting to his/her Principal Investigator the Postdoctoral Researcher will:

in YEAR 1:

- Review the literature in adult religious education and faith development, together with other associated or useful areas
- Review available qualitative and quantitative research to ascertain the needs, interests and possibilities that might impact on adult religious education in Ireland
- Investigate models of adult education and adult religious education in order to evaluate their usefulness for adult faith development in the Catholic community, and other faith communities, in Ireland
- Critically review formal and informal adult religious education practice currently observable in Ireland today

in Year 2:

- Building on what has been learned in Year 1, engage with some local communities in reviewing their current adult religious education projects, evaluating their needs moving forward
- Develop a number of pilot projects testing new approaches in partnership with local faith communities
- Follow through with local faith communities recording how they progress

in Year 3:

- Complete pilot projects, evaluating what has been learned
- Disseminate research findings through conference presentations and publication of journal articles and a book
- Evaluate the research project, recommending also any areas of further research that might be deemed useful for a future project arising out of the work that has taken place

The Post-Doctoral Researcher will also be expected to:

- Report on progress at meetings and in writing to MDCCE Director
- Participate in MDCCE centre activities, such as stakeholder showcases, annual reviews and

stakeholder-targeted projects

- Supervise and assist undergraduate and postgraduate students working in this area with their research
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Principal Investigator, the Research Centre, or the University.
- Engage in teaching and teaching support as required by the DCU research framework, to be agreed with the relevant Head of School and the Centre Director.
- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary
- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders and academic partners/collaborators
- Assist in identifying and developing future research and funding initiatives.

### **Funding Information**

The position is funded through MDCCE collaboration with the Provincial Leadership Team of the Presentation Sisters, North East Province, Ireland.

### **Minimum Criteria**

It is *essential* that applicants have a doctoral qualification in religious education or closely associated area, as well as excellent research skills and excellent IT skills. Applicants for this position should be able to demonstrate their understanding of and experience in employing qualitative research methods such as conducting semi-structured interviews, focus groups and case studies. Ability to use quantitative research methods, such as developing a preliminary survey to help define the direction of the project, would be an advantage. Evidence of ability to collaborate with other researchers should be provided. A record in presenting at conferences and in publishing is expected. Previous involvement in designing pilot projects would be an advantage, as would experience in lecturing at third-level and/or mentoring/ supervision of such students.

**Salary:** €36,854 - €39,138

Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Closing date:** 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Candidates will be assessed on the following competencies:**

**Discipline knowledge and Research skills** – Demonstrates knowledge of the research discipline and the ability to conduct a specific programme of research within that discipline.

**Collaborative Skills** – Demonstrates the ability to work with other researchers, and with stakeholders and community groups

**Communicating Research** – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research with their peers and the wider research community (for example presenting at conferences and publishing research in relevant journals) and the potential to teach and tutor students

**Managing & Leadership skills** - Demonstrates the potential to operate a research project including the supervision of undergraduate students.

**Understanding the Research Environment** – Demonstrates an awareness of the research environment (for example funding bodies) and the ability to contribute to further grant applications

**Informal Queries to:** Dr. Gareth Byrne, Associate Professor, Director, Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education, DCU Institute of Education. Email: [gareth.byrne@dcu.ie](mailto:gareth.byrne@dcu.ie). Please do not send applications to this email address, instead apply as described below.

### **Application Procedure**

Application forms are available from the DCU Current Vacancies (open Competitions) website at <http://www.dcu.ie/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 923 Post-Doctoral Researcher (Adult Religious Education and Faith Development).

Applications should be submitted by email to [hr.applications@dcu.ie](mailto:hr.applications@dcu.ie) or by Fax: +353 (0)1 7005500 or by post to the Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel: +353 1 700 5149; Fax: +353 1 700 5500 Email: [hr.applications@dcu.ie](mailto:hr.applications@dcu.ie)

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