



DCU Institute of Education

Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education / Early Childhood Research Centre

Post title Post-Doctoral Researcher (early childhood education and care systems)

Level on Framework Level 1

Post duration Fixed Term Two Year Contract. 0.5 FTE

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

Dublin City University has recently established the first dedicated Early Childhood Research Centre (ECRC) in Ireland.

The mission of the Early Childhood Research Centre is to connect research policy and practice in early childhood in Ireland and internationally. Led by the Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education in Ireland, the centre is focused on building research capacity, and supporting the development of policy and practice in the field. In order to realise its mission, the centre:

- provides an international, dynamic and transdisciplinary academic and research environment and doctoral community
- is grounded locally and is connected globally
- conducts critical collaborative inquiry for and with early childhood practice and policy at local, regional and international level

- contributes to social transformation and more equitable outcomes for *all* children, families and communities
- values diversity, equality and social justice.

The centre provides a critical opportunity to introduce cutting-edge international developments into the Irish early childhood education and care community, and to place Ireland firmly on the global map of critical early childhood research, policy and practice.

ECRC seeks to appoint a post-doctoral researcher in early childhood education and care, with a specific focus on international collaboration, early childhood development, education and care systems, and early childhood policy.

This position is being established at the ECRC for a two-year period on a part-time basis (0.5 FTE). ECRC is seeking an outstanding early-career researcher to join its research team.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities

The role of post-doctoral researcher at ECRC involves active participation in the development and conduct of international research collaborations in key areas of the centre's remit:

- Early childhood development, education and care systems
- Early childhood development, education and care policy
- International comparative inquiry in early childhood development, education and care

ECRC has a particular interest in strengthening its existing research and policy collaborations and partnerships in Latin America. Therefore the appointee will be expected to take a proactive role in supporting the centre director in expanding collaborations with academic and civil society partners in the Latin American region.

A central part of the role of post-doctoral researcher will be to develop, refine, and pursue the appointee's own research career, and to establish themselves as independent researcher in international contexts with a firm base at Dublin City University and ECRC. This entails individual and collaborative publications, individual and collaborative applications for external research grants, individual and collaborative presentations at leading international academic conferences within and beyond the anglosphere.

Within ECRC, the role involves working with members of the early childhood studies team, and with a diverse group of international doctoral students.

The post-doctoral researcher will further be expected to:

- Report on progress at meetings to ECRC director

- Participate in ECRC centre activities, such as research seminars, engagement with and consultancy for Irish, European and international policy, production of policy briefs and working papers, annual reports and other activities as advised by the centre director
- 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 initially funded through the Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education. It is envisaged that funding will be moved to an externally funded post-doctoral programme after appointment.

Essential Criteria

- Doctoral qualification relevant to the requirements of the post (see above)
- In-depth knowledge of early childhood development, education and care systems in Latin America
- Substantial experience in research contexts that straddle early childhood development, education and care policy and practice
- Excellent research skills, especially substantial experience in qualitative research methods
- Excellent IT skills as relevant to the post
- Excellent collaborative and communication skills in culturally, professionally and disciplinary diverse contexts
- Excellent presentation skills to diverse audiences
- A well developed track record of research publications and conference presentations

Desirable Criteria

- Good command of Spanish in oral and written communication
- Ability to, and experience with, lecturing and/or tutoring and mentoring of students in higher education

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.

Salary: €36,854 - €39,138 (pro rata, 0.5 FTE)

Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Closing date: 20th December 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: Professor Mathias Urban, Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education, Institute of Education, Dublin City University. E-mail: mathias.urban@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 #1062 Post-Doctoral Researcher (Early Childhood Education Systems).

Applications should be submitted by email to 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

Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer