



Research Centre:	Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection
Post Title	Research Assistant School Evaluation and Assessment
Duration :	Part time (50%) Fixed Term Contract up to 24 months
Project Title:	Aiding Culturally Responsive Assessment in Schools (ACRAS) Distributed Evaluation and Planning in Schools (DEAPS)
Funding Agency:	EU Erasmus + Project

Introduction

Dublin City University (www.dcu.ie) is a research-intensive, globally-engaged, dynamic institution that is distinguished by both the quality and impact of its graduates and its focus on the translation of knowledge into societal and economic benefit. DCU prepares its students well for success in life, and in the workplace, by providing a high-quality, rounded education appropriate to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Through its mission to transform lives and societies through education, research and innovation, DCU acts as an agent of social, cultural and economic progress. As Ireland's University of Enterprise, it is characterized by a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship and a track-record of effective engagement with the enterprise sector. Excellence in its education and research activities has led to its consistent ranking in the top 50 of the world's young universities (QS Top 50 under 50).

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

The Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection ([EQI](#)) is a multidisciplinary research group based at the [DCU Institute of Education, DCU](#). It brings together evaluators, policy analysts, and economists and explores the thematic areas of School Evaluation and Assessment and Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA). It also hosts the Irish Evaluation Network (IEN) – the national database for Evaluators working on the island of Ireland.

The Centre has had a longstanding interest in the development of models of evaluation and Inspection in Ireland and beyond. In recent years it has successfully bid for and coordinated a number of EU funded projects. These projects have examined the impact of inspections on schools (ISI-TL) and the role of networks in school development and planning (PINS). It currently coordinates a project exploring the potential of distributed evaluation and planning on the development of quality measures in schools (DEAPS).

In addition to work undertaken in the area of school inspection the Centre has been involved in research into the impact of the rapid diversification of the student population in Irish schools. Research work has sought to address the major questions that are being raised as to how schools and teachers can be supported to respond to this rapid cultural and demographic change. Areas that have been highlighted in this context include the training of teachers, curriculum content and teaching methodology, and the impact of inspection, evaluation and quality assurance methodologies. EQI, in partnership with CREA, has sought to develop a suite of responses in this field based on original research and focused on enhancing the capacity of networks of school communities to address issues of evaluation and quality in a rapidly changing demographic context. This work has seen EQI coordinate a major EU project on Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) and to work with European colleagues to examine the role of peer mentoring as a mechanism for supporting migrant learners in EU schools (E-evalinto).

Finally EQI actively engages in the tendering process for a range of external evaluation projects. It has recently completed an evaluation of the national ePortfolio pilot project, is involved in evaluating ICT use in ITE programme provision and has evaluated a series of resources for the support of school self evaluation.

Role

This part-time (50%) Research Assistant position is focused on research in and with schools, around the impact of evaluation and assessment on issues of equity and equality, with particular reference to the rapidly diversifying student population. In particular, the role examines the appropriate methodologies for the involvement of parents and students in their schools but, more specifically, in relation to assessment, evaluation and school inspection. Possible approaches to maximising stakeholder voice, including the development of school based research in distributed networks of schools, will also form a part of this role. The role will also see the individual work with colleagues in the management and submission of research and evaluation bids.

Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to the project Principal Investigator or nominee, the duties and responsibilities of the Research Assistant will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conduct a specified programme of research on the implementation of research projects involving fieldwork with schools in the areas of Distributed Evaluation and Assessment and Culturally Responsive Assessment in schools
- Report to the Project co-ordinator of the Erasmus+ funded ACRAS and DEAPS project, carrying out a range of duties on these projects such as report writing, project administration, summarising literature, data collection and other duties as agreed with and assigned by the Project Co-ordinator.
- Deliver project outputs and reports as required by the project schedule
- Assist in the development of research proposals
- Attend and present results as required at network meetings, projects meetings and conferences as required
- Liaise with both external and internal stakeholders including academic partners, school communities and key systemic organisations in the education arena
- Engage in dissemination of results at project events, national and international conferences and support the publication of research outputs in high impact international journals
- Carry out administrative work associated with the EQI programme of research as necessary
- Variation of these duties and any other relevant duties as assigned by the Principal Investigator and/ or his/ her immediate supervisor

Experience and Qualifications

Candidates must have a primary degree in education or a related area. The successful candidate should ideally have a postgraduate qualification in education or a cognate discipline. Field work experience with and in schools would be a distinct advantage.

Closing Date: 19th September 2018

Salary Scale: *€21,674- €34,269 pro rata

**Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and will be made on the appropriate point of the salary scale.*

Informal Inquiries to:

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

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Application Procedure

In order to apply for this position, you are required to complete an application form. 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.

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

Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject line: Job ref # 985 Research Assistant, School Evaluation and Assessment, Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection.

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