



**Dublin City University
Institute of Education
School of Language, Literacy and Early Childhood Education**

Post Title: Project Officer (Level 1- Postdoctoral Level)
Project: Let's Talk about STEM –
Language and motivation around science in early childhood
Funding Agency: Science Foundation Ireland
Post duration: Fixed Term, Part-Time (2.5/3 days a week) 5 months

Project Background

Let's Talk about STEM is a pilot project, funded by Science Foundation Ireland, and organised by the Institute of Education in DCU in conjunction with the Centre for the Advancement of STEM Teaching & Learning (CASTeL) in DCU. This project is a collaboration between researchers in psychology and STEM education to deliver a pilot programme to address the underrepresentation of women in STEM by targeting girls' early engagement with science. Drawing on twenty years of robust international research and initiatives, this project delivers a STEM education programme for parents and educators of young children which highlights the potential impact of language on children's perception of, and motivation to engage with, science. In particular, it emphasises girls' views of themselves as capable users of, and investigators in, science. The programme invites parents, early childhood educators, infant classroom teachers and informal STEM educators to participate in workshops during which they consider evidence on the role of language in differentially motivating girls and boys interest in and persistence with scientific learning.

Function

Most of the workshops have been delivered and we wish to engage a project officer on a fixed term contract basis to manage and analyse the large amount of data from the evaluation of this initiative, including language and cognitive data on children's motivation and teachers' self-efficacy with regard to science teaching. The project officer will also assist with the evaluation and dissemination from the initiative.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

The Project Officer (PO) will report to the PI of the project, Dr Sinéad McNally. The PO will manage all aspects of the evaluation of the project. The work will include:

- Reviewing literature on young children's STEM education, engagement and motivation, especially on early gender differences in views of intelligence, STEM activities and STEM careers
- Collating and analysing data from the initiative, in particular evaluation of impact of initiative on understanding and engagement with STEM
- Managing the finances of the project budget
- Disseminating outputs from the project - publications, reports, presentations.

Minimum Criteria

- The post-holder must possess a primary degree and a postgraduate degree in psychology or cognate discipline.
- Have a solid understanding of child development - early childhood would be an advantage.
- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English, and excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience of managing projects, particularly with multiple partners (essential).
- Excellent research and evaluation skills, including quantitative analysis.

- Ability to work sensitively with a range of stake holders including students, teachers, senior management, and parents.

Experience

The following are all desirable:

- A research postgraduate qualification with academic publication record.
- Experience of project management, including financial management skills
- Awareness of issues relating to evaluation of pilot projects

Please note this appointment will be subject to the candidate successfully completing the Garda Vetting and Foreign Police Certification Processes.

Salary Scale: Post- Doctoral Researcher IUA scale, Pt 1 €37,223- max Pt 6 €43,029 per annum (Pro-rata for 5 months part-time)

Informal enquiries to: Dr Sinéad McNally, Assistant Professor in Psychology (Early Childhood), School of Language, Literacy and Early Childhood Education, Institute of Education, email: sinead.mcnally@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 from the Human Resources Department, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel: +353 (0) 1 8842112.

Closing date: 01st July, 2019

**Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject line:
Job Ref #RF1239 Project Officer (Level 1- Postdoctoral Level)**

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

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