Research Assistant
Ideas Lab
National Institute for Digital Learning
One Year Fixed Term Contract

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. As Ireland’s University of Enterprise and Transformation, DCU is characterised by a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship and a track-record of effective engagement with the enterprise sector, including commercial, social and cultural enterprises. Excellence in its education and research activities has led to DCU’s consistent position in the rankings of the world’s top young universities.

The Institute

The National Institute for Digital Learning (NIDL) aims to be a world leader at the forefront of designing, implementing and researching new blended, on-line and digital (BOLD) models of education. We have a mission of transforming lives and societies by exploring BOLD new models of education for a better and more sustainable future for all. The NIDL is committed to providing strategic leadership, building strong communities of innovation, and enabling and contributing to world-class research. We support a comprehensive suite of professional development opportunities in BOLD education from workshops to advanced postgraduate and doctoral study. The NIDL consists of three units: the Teaching Enhancement Unit, the Ideas Lab and the Open Education Unit.
Role Profile

The Research Project Officer will work primarily on DCU’s Ideas Lab and NIDL projects to deliver DCU’s strategic ambitions in digital teaching, learning. These projects include the Fáilte ar Líne /Welcome on Line, Digi-Culture and Microcredential projects which are focused on researching and developing global digital learning solutions. Building upon existing pioneering research in digital learning, and working with a dynamic team of colleagues, this post offers an exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to make a significant contribution to the enhancement to research in this space. Under the direction of the Head of the Ideas Lab, you will work closely with a team of project staff including academics, learning technologists, researchers, external consultants and other partners to deliver the Ideas Lab and NIDL research objectives. The contract will be for a period of up to one year commencing on appointment.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct research under supervision and development activities across a number of research and development projects.
- Co-ordinate and liaise with internal and external stakeholders.
- Administer project files.
- Support the work of the Principal Investigator(s).
- Other related duties as determined by the Head of the Ideas Lab.

Qualifications, Experience and Skills required:

The candidate will hold a primary degree, with at least three years’ experience researching in a higher education. The ideal candidate must hold a doctoral degree or be in the final stages of a doctorate in research in online learning environments and cognitive and affective learner experiences in particular. The candidate should possess knowledge and experience of MOOC development, microcredentials and research environments and demonstrate deep knowledge of the field of digital learning. The successful candidate will exhibit a high degree of communication skills in both English and Irish with evidenced competency to degree level in the Irish language.

The successful candidate will:

- Demonstrate deep knowledge of online learning and affective and cognitive learner experiences, the field of microcredentials and higher education with publications in this area.
- Demonstrate a clear comprehension of relevant technologies required to conduct research in this domain
- Possess excellent social skills and the ability to establish effective working relationships with a range of staff.
● Experience working with research, academic and third-party stakeholders in a higher education environment.
● Have the ability to work as an integral part of a team.
● Establish clear priorities and be able to manage their own workload.
● Experience with working with project management packages.
● Demonstrate excellent communication skills in both English and Irish.
● Be willing to travel between campuses, from home and work out of hours as necessary.

**Mandatory training**

The post holder 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 required.