



JOB DESCRIPTION

**Research Assistant
Early Childhood Research Centre
Institute of Education
2 Year Contract (Part-Time – 3 days per week)**

Dublin City University

Dublin City University www.dcu.ie is a young, ambitious and vibrant University, with a mission ‘to transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation and engagement’. Known as Ireland’s ‘University of Enterprise and Transformation’, it is committed to the development of talent, and the discovery and translation of knowledge that advances society and the economy. DCU is the Sunday Times Irish University of the Year 2021.

The University is based on three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra region of north Dublin. It currently has more than 18,000 students enrolled across five faculties – Science and Health, DCU Business School, Computing and Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences and DCU Institute of Education. DCU is committed to excellence across all its activities. This is demonstrated by its world class research initiatives, its cutting-edge approach to teaching and learning, its focus on creating a transformative student experience, and its positive social and economic impact. This exceptional commitment on the part of its staff and students has led to DCU’s ranking among the top 2% of universities globally. It also consistently features in the world’s Top 100 Young Universities (currently in QS Top 70 Under 50, Times Higher Top 150 Under 100).

DCU is placed 84th in the world, in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings – measuring higher education institutions’ contributions towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Over the past decade, DCU has also been the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer, as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

Background and Role

Dublin City University has 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 Professor Mathias Urban, Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education, the centre is focused on building research capacity, and assisting the development of policy and practice in the field.

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 cooperative 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 infants, 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 Research Assistant Individual with a specific focus on international partnership, 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 (60% FTE / three days per week). ECRC is seeking an outstanding early-career researcher individual to join its research team.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities

The role of Research Assistant at ECRC involves active participation in the development and conduct of international research partnerships 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. Therefore, the appointee will be expected to take a proactive role in assisting the centre director in expanding partnerships with academic and civil society partners, and in developing research grant applications.

A central part of the role will be to assist the director in two externally funded projects:

1. The development of an Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters programme 'Integrated Early Childhood Systems and Policies';
2. The development of a 'Cultural Awareness Index' in the Erasmus+ project 'Reflecting Cultures of Education. Transnationality and Cultural Awareness in Early Childhood Education Programs' (RECOdE).

Reporting to his/her Principal Investigator the Research Assistant will:

- Conduct a specified programme of research under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigator;
- Assist in identifying and developing future research and funding initiatives;
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which he/she is engaged with the assistance of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator;
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Principal Investigator, the School or Research Centre, or the University;

- Engage in teaching and teaching assistance
- as assigned by the Head of School under the direction of the Principal Investigator;
- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders including industry and academic partners/collaborators;
- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary.

Essential Criteria

- BA level degree qualification relevant to the requirements of the post (see above);
- 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 cooperative and communication skills in culturally, professionally, and disciplinary diverse contexts;
- Excellent presentation skills to diverse audiences.

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.