



Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following position

**Appointment of Senior Research Fellow**  
**DCU Futures Evaluation Project, DCU Institute of Education**  
**Dublin City University**  
**3 Years Contract**

**Introduction**

Dublin City University [www.DCU.ie](http://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 was 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. It ranks first in Ireland for graduate employment.

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to Researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

## **Overview of the department**

### **DCU Institute of Education**

The DCU Institute of Education is the newest faculty of Dublin City University. It is based in a €70 million purpose built facility on the DCU St Patrick's Campus in Drumcondra in Dublin. Established in 2016 as Ireland's first University faculty of Education, it has a staff of more than 140 full-time academics and a student body in excess of 4,000. The Institute brings together students of education across all sectors from early childhood, to primary and post-primary and further and higher education. As well as providing a range of undergraduate programmes in education, the Institute offers a rich menu of taught and research-based postgraduate programmes, at doctoral, masters, diploma and certificate levels. As a centre of expertise and excellence in teacher education and education more generally, the Institute hosts a range of research centres in key areas of priority and has an ambitious and growing programme of research.

With internationally-recognised experts in education policy, inclusive and special education, curriculum and pedagogy, assessment, literacy, evaluation and teacher education, the Institute provides a dynamic learning and working environment. Staff can expect to encounter opportunities for multi-disciplinary work, not just in the Institute, but across the University. As one of the world's leading young Universities, DCU has established its fifth and newest faculty out of a conviction that studies and research in education and the preparation and support of teachers are central to the transformation of lives and communities. Committed to academic excellence and innovation, the DCU Institute of Education is confident its students and staff, and its graduates can flourish and lead in the challenging and complex contexts of 21st century education.

### **Role Profile**

This is an exciting opportunity for the right candidate to guide the evaluation of a new approach to undergraduate education in an innovative University.

This project will evaluate the educational and institutional outcomes of [DCU Futures](#), funded by the Government of Ireland as part of the [Human Capital Initiative](#). The evaluation will run parallel to the Futures programme and focus on three overarching questions:

- What has changed as a result of DCU Futures?
- Did the changes result in improvements, and in what way?
- Are the changes sustainable and scalable?

The Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection (EQI), and the Centre for Assessment Research Policy and Practice in Education (CARPE) with key colleagues from the Institute of Education will lead the project, and in the first instance, will establish a "smart" evaluation framework that considers multiple perspectives, including those of staff, students, the institution, and the wider HE policy community.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

Please refer to the job description for a list of duties and responsibilities associated with this role.

### **Qualifications and Experience:**

The ideal candidate will hold PhD and will normally be required to have 6 years relevant experience, 2 of which should be Level 2 equivalent and will:

- Have experience of designing evaluation projects for innovations in educational settings, ideally in a tertiary institution or for tertiary systems;
- Have led or played a key role in the delivery of evaluation projects of this kind;
- Have a demonstrated track record in working collaboratively, including mentoring early career research colleagues in the delivery of high quality work;
- Have highly developed oral and written communications skills, and an ability to persuade and engage;
- Be confident and competent in the collection and management of data from a range of sources - institutional and programme level data, surveys etc.

The person will be located in DCU Institute of Education, and will work closely with the Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection in Education (EQI), and with the Centre for Assessment Research Policy and Practice in Education (CARPE). They will report to the project steering committee on the project.

In day-to-day matters, they will report to Prof Joe O'Hara, Director of EQI.

### **Essential Training**

The post holder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: Orientation, Health and Safety and Data Protection (GDPR). Other training may need to be undertaken when required.

### **Salary Scales:**

Senior Research Fellow (IUA Level 4): €69,254.00 - €74,322.00

Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience will be made on the appropriate point of the salary scale, in line with current Government pay policy.

**Closing date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**For more information on DCU and benefits, please visit [Why work at DCU?](#)**

### **Informal Enquiries in relation to this role should be directed to:**

Informal enquiries may be addressed in the first instance to Professor Joe O'Hara, Institute of Education, Dublin City University  
Email: [joe.ohara@dcu.ie](mailto:joe.ohara@dcu.ie)

or

Professor Anne Looney, Executive Dean, Institute of Education, Dublin City University

Email: [ioedean@dcu.ie](mailto:ioedean@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 website at <https://www.dcu.ie/hr/vacancies-current-vacancies-external-applicants> (external applicants)

Applications should be submitted by e-mail with your completed application form to [hr.applications@dcu.ie](mailto:hr.applications@dcu.ie)

**Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject line:  
Job Ref #RF1659 Senior Research Fellow, DCU Futures Evaluation Project**

*Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer.*

*In line with the Employment Equality Acts 1998 – 2015, the University is committed to equality of treatment for all those who engage with its recruitment, selection and appointment processes.*

*The University's Athena SWAN Bronze Award signifies the University's commitment to promoting gender equality and addressing any gender pay gaps. Information on a range of university policies aimed at creating a supportive and flexible work environment are available in the [DCU Policy Starter Packs](#)*