JOB DESCRIPTION

Senior Academic Developer
Professional 6 (P6)
Teaching Enhancement Unit/Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Permanent (Full-Time)

Dublin City University

Dublin City University (DCU) is a leading innovative European University. It is proud to be one of the world's leading Young Universities and is among the world's top 2% globally. DCU is known as Ireland's University of Impact, with a mission to 'transform lives and societies' and focuses on addressing global challenges in collaboration with key national and international partners and stakeholders.

DCU has over 20,000 students in five faculties spread across three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra area of North Dublin. Thanks to its innovative approach to teaching and learning, the University offers a 'transformative student experience' that helps to develop highly sought-after graduates. DCU is currently No. 1 in Ireland for Graduate Employment Rate, and for graduate income (CSO).

DCU is a research-intensive University and is home to a number of SFI-funded Research Centres. The University participates in a range of European and international research partnerships. DCU is also the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

As a 'People First' institution, DCU is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - a University that helps staff and students to thrive. The University is a leader in terms of its work to increase access to education, and is placed in the world's Top 10 for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Overview of the department

The role of the Teaching Enhancement Unit (TEU) is to support innovation and excellence in teaching across DCU. TEU is a centralised service unit in the Academic Affairs portfolio, which reports to the Dean of Teaching and Learning. It provides research-informed leadership in teaching and learning guided by DCU's Strategic Plan and the University's Teaching and Learning Plan. The TEU has two core functions.

Firstly, the TEU team is focused on strengthening staff capabilities to develop innovation, teaching excellence, and flexibility in delivering on the University's commitment to a transformative student learning experience. It works closely with DCU's Faculties to identify teaching development needs and design professional development opportunities for both individual staff and programme teams. Some of this work involves supporting programme-wide curriculum design in strategic areas of development, such as the DCU Futures and ECIU University initiative. These initiatives strongly emphasise new models of Challenge-based Learning (CBL) and the transformative potential of new

digital technologies in the teaching and learning experience. The TEU also manages teaching awards and DCU's commitment to the AdvanceHE Teaching Fellowship Programme. In supporting academic development, the TEU aims to foster strong disciplinary and interdisciplinary communities of practice that help to share best practices in teaching, learning and assessment.

Secondly, the TEU manages and supports DCU's virtual learning environment (VLE) known as Loop. This work involves managing a helpdesk service for both technical and teaching support, including more advanced pedagogical guidance on harnessing the potential of new learning technologies. The TEU team is also actively involved in national professional development initiatives supported by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and related professional bodies. They are well-known nationally for their work in supporting teaching enhancement and for their leadership in using new digital technologies for teaching, learning and assessment.

Role Profile

The TEU is now recruiting for the role of Senior Academic Developer. This is an exciting and challenging role for an experienced Academic Developer who will be responsible primarily for leading the Academic Development Group in the TEU. The post holder will manage the day-to-day activities within the group, liaising with faculty staff and working to implement key priority initiatives identified in the TEU Annual Plan and DCU's Teaching and Learning Plan. The work will involve designing and facilitating core teaching enhancement activities such as workshops, seminars, master-classes and related professional development opportunities. It will also involve working with programme teams to support curriculum design, assessment for learning, and the effective integration of new digital learning technologies. This post offers an exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to make a significant contribution to teaching enhancement and DCU's commitment to excellence and a transformative student learning experience.

The position will report to the Head of the Teaching Enhancement Unit, who has overall responsibility for promoting teaching enhancement activities. This position will be primarily located on the Glasnevin campus.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the position include, but are not restricted to, the following:
- Leading the Academic Development Group in the TEU;
- Day-to-day management of the Academic Development Group;
- Designing, implementing and evaluating TEU's core professional development programme;
- Promoting the AdvanceHE Teaching Fellowship Programme and other accredited forms of professional development;
- Supporting Programme Chairs and programme teams in the pedagogical aspects of teaching, learning and assessment, including major curriculum design;
- Fostering strong disciplinary and interdisciplinary communities of practice that share best practices in teaching, learning and assessment;
- Contributing to key priorities in an annual TEU work plan and supporting and reporting on their implementation;
- Responsibility for designing, implementing and evaluating TEU's core professional development programme, including workshops, seminars, master-classes and related professional learning opportunities;
- Assisting the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning (ADTLs) and specific Faculty needs;
- Any other duties as requested by the Head of TEU.

The post holder will have key relationships with, but not limited to:

- Learning Environment Team Leader
- Academic Integrity Officer (or equivalent)
- Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning
- Programme Chairs
- Dean Teaching and Learning
- DCU's Professor of Digital Learning
- ECIU Education Coordinator
- Faculty Library Liaison Officers

Qualifications and Experience

Essential Criteria:

- Applicants must hold an appropriate post-graduate qualification and a minimum of three years' relevant experience in a related field.
- Successful experience as an Academic Developer is essential and ideally have experience of leading a team of Academic Developers.
- Experience of teaching in a higher education environment and supporting programme-wide curriculum design is preferable along with evidence of scholarship in a relevant area of academic development.
- The successful candidate will exhibit a high degree of IT skills, and possess excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to establish effective working relationships with a range of staff.
- The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate significant expertise in designing and facilitating impactful professional development to academic staff in relation to enhancement of academic practice.
- Additionally, they will have excellent communication skills, good project and time management skills, and the ability to work as an integral part of a team to meet key deliverables.
- Excellent command of the English language.

Desirable criteria:

- Experience in the development of online teaching resources and strong knowledge of the use of new learning technologies to support teaching, learning and assessment.
- Experience with Moodle would be highly desirable.