



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Research Assistant School of Health & Human Performance Fixed-term contract (18 months)**

#### **Dublin City University**

Dublin City University (DCU) 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’, DCU is a values-based institution, committed to the delivery of impact for the public good. DCU was named Sunday Times Irish University of the Year 2021.

DCU is based on three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra region of north Dublin. More than 18,000 students are 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 delivering a transformative student experience, and its positive social and economic impact. The university continues to develop innovative programmes in collaboration with industry, such as the DCU Futures suite of degrees, which are designed to equip graduates with the skills and knowledge required in a rapidly evolving economy.

DCU’s pursuit of excellence has led to its current ranking among the top 2% of universities globally. It is also one of the world’s Top Young Universities (QS Top 100 Under 50, Times Higher Top 150 Under 100). In the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2021, DCU ranked 23rd in the world for its approach to widening participation in higher education and its ongoing commitment to eradicating poverty, while it ranks 38th globally for its work in reducing inequality and 89th globally for gender equality.

The university is ranked 23rd in the world and first in Ireland for its graduate employment rate, according to the 2020 QS Graduate Employability Rankings. Over the past decade, DCU has been the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer, as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

#### **Overview of the department**

A dynamic and rapidly growing School within the Faculty of Science and Health, the School of Health and Human Performance at DCU is developing an international reputation in health, sport and exercise

science, and physical education. As such, the School of Health and Human Performance is committed to researching, understanding and disseminating knowledge about exercise and physical activity across the continuum from health to elite sport performance, and to the area of musculoskeletal medicine. The mission of the School is to foster optimum wellness in all phases of the human life cycle through the provision of academic programmes, research and the translation of research into public health or high performance strategies with practical implementation.

Faculty and postgraduate research students in the School of Health and Human Performance investigate a wide range of topics concerning human movement and education, athletic performance, musculoskeletal medicine and health promotion. The School has a thriving research environment and the candidate must have the ability and desire to achieve excellence in their chosen area. The successful individual will be based in the School of Health & Human Performance, DCU. Fieldwork will be undertaken at participating site.

### **Role Profile**

The School of Health & Human Performance wishes to recruit a Research Assistant on a fixed-term contract basis to aid in the development, implementation, and evaluation of a bespoke, evidence-based mental health education programme to improve Irish farmers' knowledge of mental health issues and help-seeking funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This three-year study research project aims to improve the Irish farming community's mental health literacy and intentions to seek help when experiencing mental health issues. This role requires the successful individual to have a background in psychology and an interest in farmer health and well-being, intervention-based research, and mental health.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

Reporting to his/her Principal Investigator the duties and responsibilities of the Research Assistant will include:

- Conduct a specified programme of research under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigator
- Assist the PI and research group in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the research programme
- Conduct focus groups with participants in accordance with pre-determined protocols, data collection procedures, and documentation standards
- Assist the PI in the management / co-ordination of key aspects of the research programme (e.g. reporting, equipment management etc.)
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which he/she is engaged to the wider research community with the assistance 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 with internal and external stakeholders including academic and industry partners / collaborators as appropriate

- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme as necessary

## **Qualifications and Experience**

### **Minimum Criteria**

Applicants for this position must hold a degree in a relevant discipline (e.g., Psychology, Health Psychology, Mental Health, Health Studies).

In addition, it is desirable that applicants have:

- Experience in one or more of the following areas: health interventions, mental health and/or psychology;
- Previous experience in research;
- Be able to take initiative and work under pressure to tight deadlines;
- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English (essential), good communication and interpersonal skills both written and verbal;
- Proven ability to prioritise workload and work to exacting deadlines;
- The ability to be flexible and adaptable in meeting stakeholder needs;
- The self-assurance to work on one's own initiative and be a strong team player who can contribute to the overall success of the team;
- Passionate and structured approach to research and development;
- Excellent problem solving abilities;
- Background in or knowledge of the farming industry.