



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Assistant Professor in Inclusive and Special Education School of Inclusive and Special Education, DCU Institute of Education Permanent Contracts**

#### **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**

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 130 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 post-graduate 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, sustainability, literacy, evaluation, digital learning 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 education in the 21st century.

The School of Inclusive and Special Education is one of six schools within DCU Institute of Education. It is the first such school in an Irish university. It has a critical mass of expertise in areas of inclusive education and special education and is dedicated to supporting the rights of all children and young people to an appropriate education and to learning for all. It has a strong research focus with staff and research students both full and part-time creating a vibrant community of inquiry.

The School provides a full range of continuing professional development programmes for teachers working in inclusive and special education roles, including a Graduate Diploma in Inclusive Education, Learning Support and Special Education, Masters in Special Educational Needs, Masters in Specific Learning Disabilities (Dyslexia), Graduate Certificate and Master of Education in the Education of Pupils on the Autism Spectrum and an online Certificate/Diploma in Inclusive and Special Education. It also contributes to the College's initial teacher education programmes and taught doctorate.

## **Role Profile**

The School of Inclusive and Special Education is seeking to recruit two Assistant Professors to work collaboratively with members of the School and Institute.

They will make a substantial contribution to the design, development, and management of present and future initiatives addressing the needs of learners with additional/special educational needs. Continuing the School's historic engagement in the development of policy in Ireland in the area of inclusive and special education, the appointees will be expected to participate in research and policy networks and engage with key system stakeholders.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

The duties and responsibilities of the position include, but are not restricted to, the following:

#### **Teaching and Learning**

The successful candidates will be required to contribute significantly to the development, teaching, assessment and administration across a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs at primary and post-primary levels.

The persons appointed will contribute as appropriate to the above programmes and be expected to contribute to the teaching of other areas of Education (as requested by the Head of School) in addition to the specialist areas, and to contribute to the wider work of the DCU Institute of Education.

They will engage in practicum school visits and write evaluative reports to assist teachers' planning and practice.

#### **Research and Scholarship**

The successful candidates will be committed to high-quality impactful research and publication in the field of inclusive and special education on an individual and a collaborative basis. They will contribute to the scholarship and intellectual life of the University by conducting research which will enhance its reputation as a research-led teaching institution and which will make a significant contribution to the development of the DCU Institute of Education's research agenda.

#### **Service and Contribution to University and Society**

The successful candidates will be expected to participate in school and university meetings, engage in meetings related to programmes and represent the School in marketing and recruitment of students. The appointee will also be expected to be involved in the organisation of seminars and conferences and in developing relationships with stakeholders across the University and in the education sector more generally.

### **Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Essential**

- Primary degree (NFQ Level 8) in a relevant area and a post-graduate qualification in areas related to Inclusive and Special Education, preferably at Doctoral level;
- Three years' relevant experience.

#### **The ideal successful individual will have the following qualifications and experience**

- Post graduate qualification in Inclusive and Special Education;
- Previous experience of in-career development work with teachers of students with special educational needs would be an advantage;

- Experience of working with learners with additional/special educational needs;
- Applications are welcome from teachers with a background and post graduate qualification in Inclusive and Special Education and from professionals and researchers in cognate areas;
- Strong social and team-work skills, excellent administrative and organisation skills.

The positions are subject to the candidates being Garda Vetted.