



**Dublin City University**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and DCU Institute of Education**

**DCU Anti-Bullying Centre**

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): Early Stage Researcher – 3 positions**

**PARTICIPATE Project: Parents and Technology in Cyberbullying: Intervention and Prevention for Future Experts**

**Fixed-term three-year contract**



Funded by  
the European Union

**MSCA Doctoral Networks - Project Ref 101073332**

### **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.

**Research Centre: DCU Anti-Bullying Centre**

DCU Anti-Bullying Centre (ABC) is a national university designated research centre located in DCU's Institute of Education. The Centre is known globally for its research excellence in bullying and online safety. It is home to scholars with a global reputation as leaders in the field. The work of the Centre builds on over 25 years of research in which we were the first in Ireland to undertake studies on school, workplace, homophobic and cyberbullying. <https://antibullyingcentre.ie/about-us/>

**The PARTICIPATE Project**

Cyberbullying is a significant social, health and behavioural concern throughout the EU and worldwide, yet crucial areas in its prevention and intervention have largely been side-lined, namely the key role of parents, as well as the role of gender, disability, ethnicity and sexuality. PARTICIPATE will address this research and action gap, by delivering a world-class multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary doctoral training program incorporating plans for substantial networking and exchange of information, expertise and action potential regarding the nature and extent of cyberbullying across Europe. <https://msca-participate.eu/>

By focusing on parents, as well as on gender, disability, ethnicity and sexuality, the project aims to empower both parents and young people, creating a safer space online for our youth, while placing Europe firmly at the forefront of cyberbullying research and practice.

**Essential requirements for all positions (MSCA)**

Candidates must have obtained a degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited.

Candidates cannot have been awarded a doctoral degree and/or completed more than four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g. work, studies) in the hosting country for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date – unless as part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention. This excludes short stays such as holidays.

The successful candidates will be required to work in a team and to work cross-culturally at an international level. They must be prepared to travel to conferences and network training events, and to take part in an academic and non-academic secondment abroad. Ability to work with a range of stakeholders including NGOs, social media companies, policy makers, parents and young people, and academics is essential.

All Doctoral candidates are required to undertake two secondments abroad, one academic and one non-academic, of between two and six months duration.

**Essential Training**

The postholder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: Orientation, Health & Safety, and Data Protection (GDPR). Other mandatory network training activities will be undertaken when appropriate throughout the project.

All ESRs are required to undertake 2 secondments abroad, one academic and one non-academic, of between 2 and 6 months duration.

The three doctoral candidate / ESR positions will be based in DCU Anti-Bullying Centre at Dublin City University's All Hallows Campus and will work across all of the University's campuses.

**Salary range:**

Salary Scale €43,693 - €49,036 per annum before taxes (as determined by EU guidelines).

In addition, funds are provided to cover the cost of **research, networking and training**.

The **funding covers the 36 months** during which the successful candidate is enrolled for PhD studies at the host institution.

**For detailed information on each position**, please refer to individual details for each position below.

**The individual doctoral candidate positions are as follows:**

**Doctoral candidate position 1 - Project Title: Parents' experiences of young people's involvement in online gendered and sexual harassment (in particular in relation to 'radicalisation' into extreme online groups and ideas). Ref: DCUPART01DG**

**Objectives:** Objectives: Online misogyny and sexual harassment have become especially acute since the Covid-19 pandemic, with young people spending more time online. A recent UK study (Ringrose et al., 2019) found that nearly all 15 year olds had received unwanted sexual content online. These phenomena can take many forms, including derogatory or abusive comments, the sending of unsolicited sexual content, the non-consensual creation and/or distribution of private sexual images, technologically-facilitated coercive control and the threatened dissemination of sexual or embarrassing content without consent (often referred to as 'sextortion'). This study addresses the involvement of parents of both victims and perpetrators of online sexist and sexual bullying. Of particular interest is the role played by online anti-woman movements in providing a 'rationale', discourse and set of tactics to many young people who engage in this type of abuse. The study will ask how parents became aware of their children's involvement, how schools or other organisations (e.g social media platforms) intervened, and what supports were available to them and their children.

**Secondments:** The host institution will be Dublin City University, Ireland. The project includes two planned secondments at (1) Dell Technologies, Ireland, at month 12 for 3 months and (2) Aarhus University, Denmark, at month 26, for 4 months.

**Eligibility criteria:**

The candidate should have an undergraduate degree in sociology, and a suitable postgraduate degree, preferably in the area of gender or masculinity studies, internet studies, digital culture, online abuse and harassment and/or online extremism. Experience of conducting surveys, focus groups and in-depth interviews is desirable.

Candidates must have high proficiency in English language.

The successful candidate will be required to work in a team and to work cross-culturally at an international level. They must be prepared to travel to conferences and network training events, and to take part in an academic and non-academic secondment abroad. Ability to work with a range of stakeholders including NGOs, social media companies, policy makers, parents and young people, and academics is essential.

Candidates must have obtained a degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited.

Candidates cannot have been awarded a doctoral degree and/or completed more than four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g. work, studies) in the hosting country for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date – unless as part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention. This excludes short stays such as holidays.

Informal Enquiries in relation to this project should be directed to: Dr. Debbie Ging, School of Communications, Dublin City University. Phone + 353 (0)1 700 7729 Email: [Debbie.ging@dcu.ie](mailto:Debbie.ging@dcu.ie)  
*Please do not send applications to this email address, instead apply as described at 'Application Procedure' below.*

**Doctoral candidate position 2 - Project Title: Apps for Good: Using cybersafety apps to support parental mediation in cyberbullying. Ref: DCUPART02JOHN**

**Research fields:** social psychology, psychology, sociology, social sciences

**Objectives:** Cyber bullying, hate, and harassment online against school aged children (10-17 years) are now major concerns for parents in Ireland and across Europe. Despite the recent introduction of lower ages of digital consent in the EU, the scale of use of social media and apps on smartphones by children and adolescents has increased exponentially in recent years. Furthermore, the recent impact of the global pandemic has seen the number of children and adolescents spending more time online increase beyond anything that could have been anticipated. Any child can be a target of online bullying, hate, or harassment but we know from research that some children and young people are more likely to be engaged in it than others. Females and those with poor friendships offline were more likely to be targeted online (DCU, 2019). There is currently no global solution to the problem of cyberbullying, hate, and harassment against children and adolescents, so the objective of this study is to explore the role that technology can play in supporting parental mediation of online spaces, particularly for females and others who experience themselves to be more vulnerable to cyberbullying online.

**Secondments:** The host institution will be Dublin City University, Ireland. The project includes two planned secondments at (1) National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, at month 12, for 4 months and (2) Dell Technologies, Ireland at month 26 for 2 months.

**Eligibility criteria:**

The candidate should have a postgraduate degree in sociology, psychology or education, should have a demonstrated interest in bullying and/or, digital safety and/or wellbeing. Experience of conducting surveys, focus groups and in-depth interviews is desirable.

Candidates must have high proficiency in English language.

The successful candidate will be required to work in a team and to work cross-culturally at an international level. They must be prepared to travel to conferences and network training events, and to take part in an academic and non-academic secondment abroad. Ability to work with a range of stakeholders including NGOs, social media companies, policy makers, parents and young people, and academics is essential.

Candidates must have obtained a degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited.

Candidates cannot have been awarded a doctoral degree and/or completed more than four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g. work, studies) in the hosting country for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date – unless as part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention. This excludes short stays such as holidays.

Informal Enquiries in relation to this position should be directed to: Prof. James O’Higgins Norman, DCU Anti-Bullying Centre, Dublin City University. Phone + 353 (0)1 700 9140 Email: [James.OHigginsNorman@dcu.ie](mailto:James.OHigginsNorman@dcu.ie).

*Please do not send applications to this email address, instead apply as described at ‘Application Procedure’ below.*

**Doctoral candidate position 3 - Project Title: Enhancing Family-School Partnerships to Prevent On/Offline Forms of Bullying. Ref: DCUPART03AB**

**Research fields:** Education and educational sociology

**Objectives:** The primary objective of this project is to enhance family-school partnerships in order to reduce and prevent online and associated offline forms of bullying. The role of schools in addressing specific instances of cyberbullying is complicated by the fact that online bullying, unlike more “traditional” (offline) forms of school bullying, transcends the school environment, making it generally less visible to school personnel and therefore less amenable to intervention. However, recent research suggests that offline and online bullying frequently coexist, such that more traditional forms of bullying spill over, or are transferred from, the school space to the online environment (Rodríguez-Álvarez et. al, 2021). The co-existence of online and offline forms of bullying highlights the need for schools and families to work closely and effectively together to address and prevent bullying.

The primary question posed by the research is: What enabling conditions (e.g., policies; practices; knowledge; skills etc.) are necessary for schools and families to work effectively together to reduce and prevent off/online bullying?

**Secondments:** The host institution will be Dublin City University, Ireland. The project includes two planned secondments at (1) Stichting International Parents Alliance, Netherlands, at month 12 for 3 months and (2). University of Stavanger, Norway, at month 24, for 4 months.

**Eligibility criteria:**

The candidate should have a postgraduate degree in sociology, psychology or education, and should have a demonstrated interest in at least one of the following areas: families, parenting, childhood studies, education as well as a demonstrated understanding of bullying and digital safety. Experience of conducting focus groups, in-depth interviews and document analysis is highly desirable.

Candidates must have high proficiency in English language.

The successful candidate will be required to work in a team and to work cross-culturally at an international level. They must be prepared to travel to conferences and network training events, and to take part in an academic and non-academic secondment abroad. Ability to work with a range of stakeholders including NGOs, social media companies, policy makers, parents and young people, and academics is essential.

Candidates must have obtained a degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited.

Candidates cannot have been awarded a doctoral degree and/or completed more than four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g. work, studies) in the hosting country for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date – unless as part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention. This excludes short stays such as holidays.

Informal Enquiries in relation to this position should be directed to: Dr. Audrey Bryan, School of Human Development, Dublin City University. Phone + 353 (0)1 700 9265 Email: [Audrey.bryan@dcu.ie](mailto:Audrey.bryan@dcu.ie) *Please do not send applications to this email address, instead apply as described at '**Application Procedure**' below*

**Closing Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Application Procedure:**

Application forms are available from the DCU Current Vacancies website at <https://www.dcu.ie/hr/vacancies-current-vacancies-external-applicants>

Applications should be submitted by e-mail with your completed application form to [PARTMSCA2023@dcu.ie](mailto:PARTMSCA2023@dcu.ie)

**Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject line: #NR284 PARTICIPATE MSCA: Early-Stage Researcher, Project Reference – see individual project title.**