



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

***Education for Sustainable Development Officer  
Professional 5A  
Teaching Enhancement Unit/Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Up to Dec 2025***

### **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 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 Office of the Vice President Academic Affairs (OVPA) which reports to the Dean of Teaching and Learning (nominee of the VP Academic Affairs/Registrar). 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 academic 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 DCU Futures and ECIU University. These initiatives strongly emphasise models of active learning (particularly Challenge-based Learning) and the transformative potential of digital technologies in teaching and learning effectiveness. The TEU also manages the President's awards for teaching excellence 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. It also supports Academic Integrity initiatives, as well as initiatives focused on specific areas of emphasis within the curricula (such as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)).

Secondly, the TEU manages and supports DCU's virtual learning environment (VLE) known as Loop. Moodle is at the core of Loop but the VLE comprises various digital learning tools. This work involves the management of a help desk and drop-in clinic service for both technical and teaching support, including more advanced pedagogical guidance on harnessing the potential of the environment. This aspect of TEU's work involves supporting DCU staff to effectively integrate various digital tools and online platforms into their modules and academic programmes. Other dimensions of this work involve supporting the MyDCU orientation programme and working with staff and students, to evaluate their experiences of Loop and related digital tools.

The TEU team is also currently 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.

## **SATLE Initiative**

DCU has received funding under the Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (SATLE) 2022 initiative. The three key areas of focus are Education for Sustainable Development, Digital Enhancement and Academic Integrity. This post holder will work on the DCU's Education for Sustainable Development pillar of the project.

Sustainability is one of the key drivers for DCU's Strategy and is a core element of our Teaching and Learning strategy. The SATLE funding will enable us to provide support in coordination, evaluation, research, training and development to further the re-orientation of educational programmes and practices to address sustainability/sustainable development. There will be the opportunity to work with other tertiary institutions on the development and use of open courses on ESD/SDGs for professional development of educators and students in higher education.

### **Role Profile**

This is an exciting opportunity to work with the TEU and a team of highly committed and experienced Academic Developers and Learning Technologists as DCU embarks on this SATLE initiative. Reporting directly to the Head of the TEU or their nominee, the Education for Sustainable Development Officer is expected to play an active role in supporting Faculties and the implementation of DCU's strategic plans relating to Education for Sustainable Development. The post holder will be primarily located on the Glasnevin campus.

### **Major areas of activity of the unit include:**

- Promoting and supporting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through a variety of mechanisms, including workshops, seminars, master-classes and related professional development opportunities.
- Supporting staff to enhance the integration of Education for Sustainable Development into their programmes and modules
- Supporting the Dean of Teaching and Learning in the development and rollout of strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.
- Providing pedagogical expertise in the development of resources for Education for Sustainable Development, leveraging existing resources where appropriate
- Carrying out relevant research on Education for Sustainable Development

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

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

- Acceleration of training and development for DCU academic staff on the principles, core pedagogies, transversal knowledge and skills, and key competencies underpinning Education for Sustainability/Sustainable Development
- Design and development an immersed online introductory 'Sustainability 101' course
- Targeted enhancement of SDG-related thematic content in undergraduate and postgraduate modules across DCU programmes.
- Identification and sharing of case studies of good practice with respect to modelling of sustainability practices and educating for sustainable development
- Research on the outcomes from ESD practices within higher education
- System-wide revision of DCU policies and practices to foster and support organisational cultural transformations

- (Re-)formation of DCU policies to include sustainability principles
- Recognition and rewarding of excellence and commitment to ESD
- Supporting TEU colleagues on Education for Sustainable Development matters
- Contributing to ESD priorities in an annual TEU work plan and supporting and reporting on their implementation
- Any other duties as requested by the Head of TEU

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

- Education for Sustainable Development Programme Officer
- Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning
- Programme Chairs
- Dean Teaching and Learning
- Faculty Library Liaison Officers
- Sustainability Manager
- European Consortium of Innovative Universities Coordinator for Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Smart cities and communities)

### **Qualifications and Experience**

The candidate must hold at least an undergraduate degree and ideally have experience in the area of Education for Sustainable Development. Experience of teaching in a higher education environment and knowledge of the area is preferable along with evidence of scholarly research on Education for Sustainable Development. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate expertise in designing and developing resources on the topic along with an awareness of existing open-source resources in this area. Experience with Moodle would be desirable. The successful candidate will exhibit good IT skills, and possess strong interpersonal skills and the ability to establish effective working relationships with a range of staff. 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. The successful candidate is expected to have advanced English language skills.