PhD Scholarship in Science Education
DCU Institute of Education
School of STEM Education Innovation and Global Studies / Centre for the Advancement of STEM Education Teaching and Learning (CASTeL)

Dublin City University (www.dcu.ie) is a research-intensive, globally-engaged, dynamic institution that is distinguished by both the quality and impact of its graduates and its focus on the translation of knowledge into societal and economic benefit.

The Institute of Education at Dublin City University represents the largest body of educational expertise and is the only Faculty of Education in Ireland. The Institute delivers programmes in education and training, early childhood education and teacher education, providing graduates with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to excel in a variety of educational contexts such as preschools, schools, vocational, adult and community settings.

The School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies (SEIGS) in the Institute of Education contributes to a diverse range of taught and research programmes in STEM education. The School of SEIGS provides and encourages opportunities for students to adopt a global and social perspective on STEM issues related to their studies. SEIGS works collaboratively with schools, the further education and training sector, communities, industry and other stakeholders to affect societal change. It promotes leadership, innovation and creativity. At the heart of SEIGS' endeavours is a commitment to excellence in teaching, learning and research, creating a positive and supportive educational environment for staff and students alike.

CASTeL is Ireland's largest research centre in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. CASTeL’s mission is to support the development of STEM learners from an early age, and so enhance the scientific, mathematical and technological capacity of Irish society. For over two decades, CASTeL has made significant contributions in the field of STEM education both national and internationally. Through evidence-based research, CASTeL is leading and advising on the development of innovative and effective curricula, teaching and learning in STEM education across the continuum from early childhood to postgraduate level.

We now have an opportunity for a three year fully-funded PhD Scholarship in the area of Science Education. Under the supervision of Dr. Cliona Murphy and Dr. Margaret Leahy, the successful candidate will be part of a research team that is investigating innovative approaches in science education to enhance effective teaching and learning about Climate Change and Energy in primary and post-primary classrooms in Ireland and Europe. As part of this research team, the candidate will be researching and developing educational resources to support teaching and learning, and will be part of the design team that will be developing, implementing and assessing the impact of a European professional learning programme for teachers.

As part of the doctoral process, the successful candidate will be expected to engage in professional development courses as required by DCU's doctoral regulations and to contribute to STEM education research through the writing of research reports/academic papers and presentations at conferences in Ireland and abroad.

Scholarship
An annual package of up to €28,500 per annum for a maximum of three years comprises:

- Tax-exempt stipend of €22,000 per annum
- Fee contribution of up to €5,500 per annum
- Research expense funding of €1,000 per annum to facilitate travel to conferences and purchase of research materials - to be managed through DCU supervisor/nominee
Criteria
Applicants should have:
1. at least a 2.1 honours’ Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Science Education degree;
2. a Master’s degree in science education, STEM education or a related field;
3. a good understanding of current issues in science education;
4. the ability to conceptualise and undertake research projects pertinent to science education;
5. high level competence in written and oral communication in English;
6. the interpersonal skills necessary for productive collaborations;
7. the ability to take the initiative and to work independently to meet demanding research goals.

It should be noted that the award is contingent on the applicant meeting all of the requirements for admission to doctoral studies at DCU (https://www.dcu.ie/instituteofeducation/phdmasters-research-application) and, following the initial selection process, developing a detailed research proposal in consultation with Dr. Murphy and Dr. Leahy, and having this approved at Faculty level.

The successful candidate will be engaged full-time in their research and will be based at St Patrick’s Campus, DCU.

To Apply:
Please email the following documents as a single pdf to joe.seigs@dcu.ie and put PhD Scholarship in Science Education in the subject bar:
• Cover letter
• Full Curriculum Vitae (including the names of two academic references)
• Statement indicating how you meet each of the criteria 2-7 above (write about 250 words in respect of each)
• A certified colour-copy of your degree certificate or transcript relevant to each qualification

Closing date for receipt of application documentation is 5pm (Irish time) on Friday 2nd September 2022.

All shortlisted applicants will be interviewed.

Informal enquiries should be directed to:
Dr. Cliona Murphy, director CASTeL: cliona.murphy@dcu.ie
Dr. Margaret Leahy, Head of SEIGS: margaret.leahy@dcu.ie

Qualifications/eligibility may not be verified by Dublin City University until the final stage of the process. Therefore, those candidates who do not possess the eligibility requirements, and proceed with their application, are putting themselves to unnecessary effort/expense and will not be offered a position from this campaign. An invitation to interview or any element of the selection process is not acceptance of eligibility.