



JOB DESCRIPTION

Learning Technology Analyst Professional 5

Teaching Enhancement Unit/Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs Up to Dec 2025

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.

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 Advance HE 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).

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 Digital Transformation pillar of the project. We know the importance of an enabling culture with an emphasis on Equity/Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and student engagement and partnership. Our Digital Transformation pillar focuses on supporting the development of institutional policies and practices for digital and open teaching and learning, including online, blended and face to face modes of learning. This aligns with DCU's Teaching and Learning strategic plan.

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 nominee) in the TEU, the Learning Technology Analyst is expected to play an active role in assisting Faculties and the implementation of DCU's Teaching and Learning strategic plans relating to digital technologies in education, with a particular focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Learning Analytics via our Moodle Virtual Learning Environment, Loop, Zoom data for teaching and learning and other tools like Mahara. The postholder will be primarily located on the Glasnevin campus and report to the Head of TEU of their nominee.

Major areas of activity of the unit include:

- Reviewing the sectoral landscape to see what resources currently exist for the UDL and
- Learning Analytics in VLEs, particularly Moodle
- Developing a suite of resources to facilitate the implementation of UDL in Loop
- Developing a suite of reporting tools on Learning Analytics
- Supporting the TEU team on UDL and Learning Analytics matters
- Supporting data analysis from DCU's Student Survey of Teaching (SSoT)
- Supporting data analysis for academic and programme accreditation
- Assisting with upgrades to the Loop VLE, and in particular, where upgrades interface with other DCU systems.

Duties and Responsibilities

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

- Reporting Loop analytics to the relevant stakeholders
- Developing tools to analyse Loop usage for senior management, programme chairs and individual module coordinators
- Enhancing the use of Loop across all Faculties in the University
- Enhancing Loop support, including use of the Student Survey of Teaching (SSoT) by faculty • staff
- Embedding the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in all modules on Loop
- Ensuring that academics leverage the Loop features that support Equity/Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), including the Accessibility Checker and other tools.
- Supporting TEU colleagues on Learning Analytics and UDL matters
- Supporting the Loop upgrade to version 4.1. This will involve liaising with TEU colleagues, ISS and the external partners on all technical matters relating to the upgrade, as well as updating existing TEU resources for the current version of Loop (version 3.9). Ensuring the learning analytics features and interfaces work with other DCU systems.
- Designing and developing a mini roadshow for Schools to explain the new features of Loop and how learning analytics can be used to enhance teaching and learning.
- Interacting with DCU's internal GURU and SIS (Student Information System) for data analysis • Any other duties as requested by the Head of TEU

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

- Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning
- Programme Chairs
- Dean Teaching and Learning
- Faculty Library Liaison Officers
- Colleagues in Information System Services

Qualifications and Experience

- The candidate must hold at least a level 7 degree, preferably in a Data Analytics area with an education focus and have experience in Universal Design for Learning and Learning Analytics and at least 3 years relevant experience.
- Experience of teaching in a higher education environment is preferable, including experience interacting with a higher education Student Information System.

- The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate expertise in designing and developing tools and resources for Learning Analytics.
- Experience with Moodle would be desirable.
- The successful candidate will exhibit strong IT skills, advanced knowledge of using spreadsheets for analysis and possess good interpersonal skills.
- The ability to establish effective working relationships with a range of staff.
- 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.