



Job Description

Research Assistant

CORE Project

DCU School of Communications

14 Months Fixed Term (Part-Time)

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.

Background & Role

The School of Communications at Dublin City University invites applications for a Research Assistant position as part of an EU-funded project - CO.R.E. - Corruption Risk indicators in Emergency) aimed at developing and validating new Composite Indicators (CIs) of corruption risk in public procurement that also work in times of pandemics, when emergency regulations and procedures apply. The CIs procedure is based on a collection and cross-processing of public procurement data and is intended at enhancing earlier detection of corruption risk and fostering a stronger evidence base for policy reform, by serving primarily anti-corruption Authorities and law enforcement agencies, but also journalists and the general public/citizenship for accountability objectives. The DCU unit it is responsible for the Sustainability and Exploitation of the project, focusing on fostering the synergy between the core components of the project and the European investigative journalism community. This role is 15 hours per week, and will be scheduled Monday to Friday 2pm -5pm.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

Duties and Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Organising, conducting, transcribing, and analysing interviews with journalists and other stakeholders to produce input to be taken into consideration in the design, evaluation and improvement of both the CIs and the data visualization platform;
- Assisting the DCU-based Principal Investigator (PI) in the accomplishment of the research and communication activities for the CORE project, in particular in drafting the sustainability and Exploitation deliverables; in identifying the project exploitable results, relevant stakeholders, and barriers and risk for exploitation; and in defining the strategies for the sustainability of the project and the transferability of its outputs in other member states;
- Mapping and collecting available public procurement data, identifying the limitations in its use to fight against corruption, and reviewing public procurement procedures and legal frameworks in Ireland;
- Supporting the project partners' activities aimed at developing the CIs, creating a database and a data visualization tool, and disseminating the project results;
- Traveling to conduct interviews and to attend project meetings and conferences;
- Supporting the dissemination of the project results by co-authoring articles in relevant academic and non-academic publications.

Minimum Criteria

Essential:

Applicants should hold a Postgraduate degree in a subject area related to Journalism, Political Science or Sociology (other social science disciplines may also be considered). In addition, the successful individual must have previous experience with conducting interview-based research. The successful individual will require a strong ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team and to take responsibility to contribute to the overall success of the team.

Desirable:

- Previous professional experience in Journalism;
- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English and at least another European language would be desirable;
- Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills;
- A proven ability to prioritize workload and work to strict deadlines;
- Demonstrated ability in conveying their research nationally and internationally (for example by publishing in high quality peer reviewed journals of international standing, presentation at conference and through interaction with industrial partners).
- Experience in assisting with the supervision of postgraduate students would also be desirable, as would financial management of a research project.

Candidates will be assessed on the following competencies:

Discipline knowledge and Research skills – Demonstrates the ability to design and implement part of a programme of research (for example by using critical thinking and the application of relevant research methodologies).

Understanding the Research Environment – Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the research environment both nationally and internationally and the ability to contribute substantially to grant applications.

Communicating Research – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research effectively to the research community and wider society (for example by publishing their research in high quality peer reviewed journals) and the ability to teach and tutor students.

Managing & Leadership skills - Successfully manages research projects including the management and supervision of postgraduates and/or junior research staff.

Essential Training

The post holder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: Orientation, Health and Safety and Intellectual Property and Data Protection training. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.