



Senior Project Manager
ADAPT Centre
Professional 6
Fixed Term Contract up to 24 Months

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

The ADAPT Centre, a world-leading SFI Centre, is Ireland's global centre of excellence for digital

content technology funded through Science Foundation Ireland's Centres programme. ADAPT combines the expertise of over 300 researchers across eight Higher Education Institutes (Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Munster Technological University, Technological University of the Shannon, Maynooth University, and National University of Ireland, Galway) with that of its industry partners to produce ground-breaking digital content innovations.

The ADAPT Centre executive function is co-hosted between Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University. ADAPT brings together more than 300 researchers who collectively have won more than €100m in funding and have a strong track record of transferring world-leading research and innovations to more than 140 companies. ADAPT partners are successfully advancing the frontiers of Artificial Intelligence (AI), content analysis, machine translation, personalisation, e-learning and education, media technologies, virtual and augmented reality, and spoken interaction, as well as driving global standards in content technologies.

ADAPT's Design & Innovation Lab (dLab)

ADAPT's Design & Innovation Lab (dLab) connects Industry with our research expertise. We address business needs through collaborating on either short-term rapid prototyping or on tackling larger industry challenges. We take our partners through a unique customer journey to enable you to leverage product and service innovation from pioneering scientific research in digital content technologies from ideation through to proof of concept stage.

The dLab is made up of research engineers, designers and programme managers working closely with research colleagues to develop impactful prototype solutions to industry problems. The team is driven by Design Thinking practices. The dLab focuses on user-centred innovation where we try to really understand the target user of our technology, observe their behaviour, develop a clear point of view, generate ideas, build prototypes, test and iterate.

Role Profile

We now wish to recruit a Senior Project Manager on a fixed term contract basis to facilitate the management of Targeted Research projects with Industry partners. Working at the boundary of research and industry, the ADAPT Centre targeted research programme is an industry-focused programme where teams of researchers and software developers collaborate with industry partners to work on solutions to industry needs. The Senior Project Manager will ensure the successful delivery of multiple, concurrent Targeted Projects to schedule, cost, quality and to funding partners' expectations. Successful Industry participation is key to the ability of the centre to deliver economic and commercial impact, and to its future sustainability.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting into the Head of the DLAB, the Senior Project Manager will be responsible for managing a team of project managers who coordinate industry research collaboration projects. In particular, they will be responsible for management of the team as well as managing strategic collaboration projects

themselves.

This senior position will oversee the project management of a portfolio of targeted research projects and work with the Head of DLAB to develop and sustain relationships with stakeholders, industry partners and academics across ADAPT's eight partner institutions.

The Senior Project Manager will work closely with the customer and/or Product Owner and Software Developer(s) to understand our industry partner challenges and ensure these are aligned with the research and software development teams' activities.

- Ensure that the programme of Targeted Projects with industry are managed successfully.
- Working across the programme of industry targeted projects and in close collaboration with the wider project management and commercialisation team, the Senior Project Manager will;
- Drive the execution of the planned programme of projects, monitor performance of all aspects of the programme of projects, resolve issues or escalate as required.
- Ensure that all project deliverables (including research objectives) are to the appropriate levels of quality, on time and within budget, in accordance with the project plan and coherent with the overall project objectives.
- Coordinate and communicate with the project team and stakeholders, as appropriate, on all aspects of project progression and status.
- Monitor and report on resource usage and provide supporting evidence for accounts payable processes.
- Ensure intellectual property is managed appropriately.
- Supervise and develop the project management team.
- Nurture effective working relationships with ADAPT Industry Partners.
- Refine and improve the process of how projects are designed and implemented as appropriate.
- Collaborate with other ADAPT teams including the business development team on project scoping, estimation and resource planning.
- Oversee budgets for Targeted Projects.
- Perform executive reporting on the status of Targeted Projects.
- Encourage and promote career and skills development within the Spokes Project Management team.

The Senior Project Manager will be part of a distributed team delivering on Targeted Projects and will be expected to spend a portion of their time at Trinity College Dublin each week with regular visits to other ADAPT Centre partner sites.

Qualifications and Experience

Candidates appointed to this post must have a degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or a related discipline or have equivalent professional experience. The successful candidates must have a minimum of 5 years project management experience in a software development environment, or with industry focussed research projects.

Knowledge & Experience

- Experience of traditional and Agile software development methodologies.
- Experience in leading/supporting distributed teams. Experience with people management and supporting staff in career progression and skills development.
- Demonstrated financial reporting and budgeting experience across a portfolio of concurrent projects.
- Familiarity with the scientific evaluation and publication processes.
- Experience with designing and mobilising the project management process.
- Experience of having delivered projects for clients through all the lifecycle stages.
- Professional accreditation(s) in software development or project management methodologies is an advantage.
- Experience of producing executive reporting for stakeholders across all levels.
- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English (essential), excellent communication and interpersonal skills both written and verbal.
- Should possess excellent computer skills with experience of project management and collaboration tools.
- Organisational Ability; Excellent organisational and task management skills together with the ability to work on a number of tasks simultaneously. Have the ability to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines, be capable of working on your own initiative and work under time constraints.
- Flexible and adaptable in responding to stakeholder needs.
- Strong customer facing skills and negotiation skills required with a solid track record for developing internal and external relationships across all levels. Ability to negotiate access to resources in a matrix-type organisation.
- Excellent communication and conflict resolution skills. Ability to problem solve, to brainstorm and to generate innovative ideas and solutions.

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.

Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer.

In line with the Employment Equality Acts 1998 – 2015, the University is committed to equality of treatment for all those who engage with its recruitment, selection and appointment processes.

The University's Athena SWAN Bronze Award signifies the University's commitment to promoting gender equality and addressing any gender pay gaps. Information on a range of university policies aimed at creating a supportive and flexible work environment are available in [the DCU Policy Starter Packs](#)