



**Research Centre
Post title**

EQI: Centre for Evaluation, Quality & Inspection
Postdoctoral Researcher in Education

Level on Framework

Level 1 or 2 on IUA Scales dependent on
experience

Post duration

Fixed Term Contract up to 31st March 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.

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to Researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

Background & Role

EQI is a multidisciplinary research group based at the DCU Institute of Education. It brings together evaluators, policy analysts, and economists and explores the thematic areas of School Evaluation and Assessment and Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA).

The Centre has had a longstanding interest in the development of models of evaluation and Inspection in Ireland and beyond. In recent years it has successfully bid for and coordinated a number of EU funded projects. These projects have examined the impact of inspections on schools (ISi-TL), the development of culturally responsive approaches to school leadership (CRELES) and the role of interculturalism and networks in school development and planning (ICCEP). It currently is currently a partner in a Horizon Europe Funded project exploring the impact of disadvantage on school retention. (SCIREARLY).

EQI actively engages in the tendering process for a range of external evaluation projects. It has also designed and implemented a series of national projects exploring the development of ethos evaluation frameworks for Educate Together and the Education and Training Boards, Ireland.

This project will evaluate the educational and institutional outcomes of DCU Futures, funded[2] by the Government of Ireland as part of the Human Capital Initiative. The evaluation will run parallel to the Futures programme and focus on three overarching questions:

- What has changed as a result of DCU Futures?
- Did the changes result in improvements, and in what way?
- Are the changes sustainable and scalable?

The research will be managed by Dr Eemer Eivers, Director of DCU Futures Evaluation, in collaboration the Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection (EQI), the Centre for Assessment Research Policy and Practice in Education (CARPE), and key colleagues from the Institute of Education. The post-doctoral researcher will be hosted at EQI, located on DCU's Drumcondra campus, and will be involved in the day-to-day management, coordination and implementation of all components of the research. EQI and the DCU Institute of Education is home to a cadre of international researchers across a range of funded projects. The person appointed to the role will join this vibrant community, with opportunities for professional and career development, a programme of events and workshops across the faculty and University. There will be support for conference travel and presentations, opportunities for publication, and for contribution to teaching and workshops

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to his/her Principal Investigator the Postdoctoral Researcher will:

- Conduct a specified programme of research under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigator
- Assist in identifying and developing future research and funding initiatives
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which he/she is engaged with the assistance of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator
- Supervise and assist undergraduate students working in this area with their research
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Principal Investigator, the School or Research Centre, or the University
- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders including industry and academic partners/collaborators
- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary

Qualifications and Experience

Applicants should have a PhD in Psychology/Social Science/Education or in a cognate discipline. In addition, it is desirable that the individual has experience in and ability to:

- Assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive evaluation framework.
- Assist in collection, analysis and interpretation of the qualitative and quantitative data generated
- Represent DCU Futures Evaluation, including presentation of preliminary outcomes.
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities, as required.
- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders including staff, students, industry and academic partners.
- Assist in the preparation of interim and final reports.
- Assist in the dissemination of evaluation outcomes, including formative feedback, journal publications, conference presentations.
- Carry out administrative work associated with the evaluation.

Minimum criteria:

- A PhD in Psychology/Social Science/Education or other relevant discipline
- Strong quantitative research skills, including survey design, delivery and statistical analysis (using SPSS)
- Experience of qualitative research methods and of working with a variety of data sources and types.
- Experience of supporting research projects at scale
- Strong research and data management skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Professional writing skills in English

Candidates will be assessed on the following competencies:

Discipline knowledge and Research skills – Demonstrates knowledge of a research discipline and the ability to conduct a specific programme of research within that discipline

Understanding the Research Environment – Demonstrates an awareness of the research environment (for example funding bodies) and the ability to contribute to grant applications

Communicating Research – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research with their peers and the wider research community (for example presenting at conferences and publishing research in relevant journals) and the potential to teach and tutor students

Managing & Leadership skills - Demonstrates the potential to manage a research project including the supervision of undergraduate students