



Job Description

Schools	School of History & Geography School of Law & Government
Post title	Postdoctoral Researcher - Addressing the Political-Economic Barriers to Climate Adaptation in Ireland
Level on Framework	Level 1
Post duration	12 Month Fixed Term Contract (Full-Time)

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.

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

The School of History & Geography is an ambitious, research-focused school in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. While maintaining and promoting an international perspective, the School has a particular focus on Ireland – its geography, history and landscape. Both History and Geography are offered in the Bachelor of Arts: Joint Honours programme, where they are consistently among the most popular subjects. The School also offers an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Climate & Environmental Sustainability. At the postgraduate level, the School offers a PhD programme and contributes to the MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society. It has a growing and dynamic postgraduate community.

The School of Law & Government has a strong and growing cohort of staff specialising in environmental politics, law, and social sciences and contributes actively to scholarship as well as societal discourses in these areas. In 2018, DCU launched the MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media, and Society, which brings together the University's teaching expertise across the social sciences, humanities, and related disciplines. The School of Law & Government has over forty research students and offers a structured PhD in Politics and International Relations.

The DCU Centre for Climate and Society (www.dcu.ie/climate) is a new research centre that aims to provide cutting-edge research, innovation and engagement on the societal dimensions of climate change by bringing together DCU's significant expertise in the humanities, social sciences and related disciplines as they relate to climate change. The Centre is the first climate change research centre in Ireland with a core focus on humanities and social sciences perspectives. Staff from both the School of History & Geography and the School of Law & Government are active members of the Centre.

Role profile

Dublin City University is seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Researcher to support a one-year project that seeks to identify the political-economic barriers to climate adaptation in Ireland and identify what can be done to address them. The research is grounded in practice, and is evidence-informed using four sectors exposed to water-related risks to identify how governance at different scales impacts adaptation implementation in practice. There has been limited application of a political economy framework to climate adaptation despite the inherently political nature of policymaking on implementation of climate adaptation. This project therefore seeks to address this gap.

The project aims to provide a clear understanding of how national and sub-national adaptation Governance processes work and interact across sectors. It will seek to increase knowledge for specific sectors underperforming with respect to adaptation implementation.

The main objectives of this research are therefore to:

- Evaluate whether current adaptation governance structures support or constrain national, sub-national and sectoral adaptation efforts.
- Examine adaptation barriers and outcomes from a political economy perspective across four water-related sectors, each of which have been categorised by Ireland's Climate Change Advisory.

- Council as having achieved different levels of adaptation progress to-date.
- Identify interventions for improved adaptation implementation within these four sectors and the applicability of these interventions to other sectors and the overall governance of adaptation in Ireland.

Funding has been provided by the Environmental Protection Agency to DCU to undertake this project. The successful candidate will work with the two Principal Investigators, Dr. Darren Clarke and Dr. Danny Marks to conduct this research. Alongside Dr. Clarke (School of History & Geography) and Dr. Marks (School of Law & Government), the successful candidate will produce comprehensive evaluation reports of four key sectors, a summary report of key findings, and peer-reviewed journal articles.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to the project's two Principal Investigators, the Postdoctoral Researcher will perform research principally based in DCU to deliver the objectives of this research on climate adaptation. The main duties and responsibilities include:

- Undertaking a comprehensive literature review of climate adaptation in Ireland;
- Leading in the writing of evaluation reports of four key sectors, a final comprehensive report and peer-reviewed journal articles;
- Conducting interviews and convening meetings with key stakeholders;
- Participating in steering group meetings and responding to feedback on report drafts in a timely manner;
- Overseeing the timely completion of project deliverables and regular progress reports;
- Preparing and publishing necessary analyses in support of the reports and journal articles;
- Presenting the key findings to various stakeholders nationally and internationally;
- Engage in teaching and teaching assistance as assigned by the Head of School under the direction of the Principal Investigators;
- 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 must have a PhD in environmental social science (e.g., geography, political science, environmental governance), ideally with a focus on climate change.

Relevant postdoctoral research experience or equivalent would be an advantage.

In addition, the ideal candidate will have:

- Strong research profile on social science dimensions of climate change
- Track record of peer reviewed academic publications
- Excellent empirical research, analytical, and writing skills
- Proven ability to work in an interdisciplinary setting
- Strong interpersonal and organisational skills
- Ability to communicate effectively to both academic and practitioner audiences
- Experience in conducting interviews with key stakeholders
- Knowledge of the Irish climate adaptation and/or disaster risk reduction landscape

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