Research Centre	DCU Anti-Bullying Centre (ABC)
Post title	Postdoctoral Researcher in Detection of Online Grooming, Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) — Cilter DTIF Project
Level on Framework	Level 1
Post duration	2 Year Fixed Term Contract

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 & Role

We are looking for an experienced postdoctoral researcher (8-10 years of postdoctoral research experience) to conduct research into optimizing the detection of grooming, CSAM and child solicitation behavioural patterns, for the development of Cilter technology. Cilter is a parental control software modification at the kernel level that allows for cyberbullying, self-harm, suicide-related and grooming content detection on all apps on the child's phone (from WhatsApp to various social media apps). The project CILTER: Protecting and empowering children online is funded by the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) Ireland (Call 4) which is managed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and administered by Enterprise Ireland. The DTIF consortium Cilter (SME) is a collaboration between DCU Anti-Bullying Centre, SFI ADAPT and Amarach research. The experienced postdoctoral researcher in grooming, CSAM and child solicitation detection will be based in DCU Anti-Bullying Centre and will work closely with the research fellows in ABC and ADAPT DCU who are supervising the project in ensuring the timely provision of deliverables related to: development of research methodologies that will contribute to machine-readable grooming and CSAM content classification and modeling.

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

- Work with other researchers in ABC and ADAPT at DCU to identify datasets with grooming, CSAM and solicitation-related content on which machine-readable models can be built upon
- Working with natural language processing scholars in using corpus-based techniques to develop research methodologies for subsequent classification and modeling
- Conduct social scientific research that will contribute to a machine-readable classification model for the detection of grooming and child solicitation
- Such social scientific research includes but may not be limited to:
- Qualitative social scientific research with children
- Co-design research with children
- Lead, write, produce and ensure timely delivery of relevant reports (deliverables)
- Lead, write, produce and ensure timely delivery of scientific articles
- Present research at scientific conferences and other research venues internationally and nationally as requested by the research lead
- Regularly liaise with and report on progress to the research team
- Respond to media requests related to the project (media interviews etc.)
- Contribute to research, teaching and other activities of the research centres, as necessary
- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders
- Support the Principal Investigator, Centre Director and research group in the design, development and implementation of the broader research programme
- Contribute to the organization of academic and policy seminars and workshops
- Contribute to all aspects of the research programme under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigator

- Contribute to teaching and outreach activities of the group
- Provide assistance and advice to PhD students working on similar topics
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Centre Director/Principal Investigator
- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary

Minimum Criteria

Applicants should have a PhD in a social scientific discipline such as education, communication, psychology, criminal justice, sociology or similarly relevant discipline.
In addition, it is desirable that the candidate has previous research experience with qualitative research with children in the field of children's digital media use
Previous experience with research on online safety, grooming, CSAM, child abuse and solicitation and proven research outputs and publication-record

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