



Research Centre

DCU Anti-Bullying Centre

Post title

Postdoctoral Researcher in Cyberbullying, Cyberhate & Online Harassment.

Level on Framework

Level 1

Post duration

1 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.

DCU Anti-Bullying Centre

DCU Anti-Bullying Centre is a university-designated research centre based in DCU's Institute of Education with members drawn from all faculties of the university and in other universities. The Centre hosts the UNESCO Chair on Bullying and Cyberbullying and is a national partner for the Government of Ireland and UNESCO on issues related to bullying, digital safety and wellbeing. Members of the Centre are currently involved in almost 50 research projects which are funded by Government, European Commission, Irish Research Council, Rethink Ireland and various industry partners. The Centre is committed to collaborative and engaged research that addresses real world problems in society.

Since 2021 the Centre hosts the Irish Observatory on Cyberbullying, Cyberhate and Online Harassment which is jointly funded by the Department of Justice and Department of Education.

Background & Role

We are looking for a postdoctoral researcher to conduct research into building prosocial approaches to tackling negative online extremism of boys via so-called influencer culture. Recent high profile coverage of the problematic impact of online personalities (such as Andrew Tate and the broader 'manosphere') on the development of, in particular, boys and young men have raised questions about how schools, parents and wider society should intervene.

This position will devise a work plan to achieve the following three objectives: 1) conduct an evidence and policy review on both the impact of influencer extremism on boys and young men, and also the strategies to address them; 2) conduct a content analysis within an Irish sample to ascertain consumption patterns; and 3) based on review and content analysis findings, conduct a qualitative co-design study with target population and stakeholders to formulate evidence-based psychoeducation response strategies.

This project is part of the Irish Observatory on Cyberbullying, Cyberhate and Online Harassment within DCU Anti-Bullying Centre (ABC). The creation of the Observatory in 2021 follows from the introduction of the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law). The Observatory seeks to provide up-to-date research on the contours, functions, and impacts of cyberbullying, cyberhate, and online harassment among teenagers and adults in Ireland. Working with the Department of Justice and the Department of Education, the research team at DCU Anti-Bullying Centre will focus on providing up-to-date research, and resources related to tackling cyberbullying, cyberhate, and online harassment, and the implementation of Coco's Law. The Observatory is currently Chaired by Dr Darragh McCashin – Research Fellow within ABC and Assistant Professor in DCU School of Psychology – who will supervise this position.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- Conduct a high level evidence and policy review to underpin the work programme
- Establish a clear research gap to inform an impactful content analysis with direct relevance for the Irish context – both quantitative and qualitative methodologies will be utilised
- Engage the target population and wider stakeholder network to conduct complete co-design session(s)
- Lead, write, produce and ensure timely delivery of relevant reports (deliverables)
- Lead, write, produce and ensure timely delivery of scientific articles
- Publish and present project research outputs at scientific conferences and other research venues internationally and nationally as requested by Principal Investigator(s)
- Regularly liaise with and report on progress to the research team
- Reply 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
- Assist 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(s) Contribute to teaching and outreach activities of the group
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Centre Director/Principal Investigator(s)
- Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary
- Contribute to proposal preparation at the national and international level

Minimum Criteria

Applicants should have a PhD in social science discipline such as psychology, sociology, criminology, communications, education, social policy or political science (other disciplines such as computer science or human-computer interaction will also be considered). Applicants should be familiar with the broad literature investigating sensitive topics related to negative online content, and the multilevel impacts such media has on boys and young men.

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