



**Research Centre**

**Post title**

**Level on Framework**

**Post duration**

DCU School of Law and Government

2x Postdoctoral Researcher

Tech Against Terrorism Europe (TATE)

Level 2

18-month 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.

## **Background & Role**

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.

**Project background:** The Tech Against Terrorism Europe (TATE) project, funded by the European Union (ISF-2021-AG-TCO-101080101), will support smaller hosting services providers (HSPs) in preventing terrorist actors from disseminating terrorist content as defined in the EU's terrorist content online (TCO) regulation and in Directive (EU) 2017/541.

Combining unique industry-leading expertise from private sector organisations and directing academic institutions actively engaged in tackling TCO, the consortium of partners will ensure TATE delivers the long-term impacts of large-scale disruption of TCO on priority HSPs, providing a sustainable foundation for practical support mechanisms for smaller HSPs in countering terrorist content online.

The mission of TATE will be achieved by increasing awareness of the TCO Regulation and requirements among small HSPs through the creation of a series of unique interactive learning materials. This will be supported by the introduction of a bespoke TCO capacity-building programme for HSPs, taking priority HSPs through the capacity-building programme, scaling existing technical solutions to benefit all smaller HSPs in scope for the TCO regulation.

### **Objectives for the role:**

- To provide a data-directed examination of online terrorist ecosystems in order to identify at-risk platforms, namely the platforms that are used to share or store terrorist content, be it opportunistically or on a regular basis. These platforms span various products and include social media, encrypted messengers, cloud drives, websites, decentralized web, darknet links, email marketing and more. This work will be based on intensive monitoring of the foremost platforms exploited by terrorist groups and will inform TATE's outreach efforts to smaller HSPs;
- To assess the specific challenges smaller HSPs face in carrying out their existing work in line with the goals of the TCO regulation. Research will consist of in-depth qualitative interviews with priority EU-based HSPs. Outcomes of both of these goals will feed into objective three of the project, which is the development of an at-risk HSP prioritisation matrix.

## **Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

The post-doctoral researcher will play a critical role in developing, directing assisting the successful completion of the TATE project, including threat assessment and at-risk platform identification, as well as stakeholder network building.

Reporting to DCU's Principal Investigator (PI) the Postdoctoral Researcher will:

- assist and oversee project management coordination under supervision;
- Take responsibility for conducting a specific schedule of research under the direction and supervision of the project's PI;
- Contribute to identifying at-risk platforms, namely the platforms that are used to share or store terrorist content;
- Contribute to assessing the specific challenges smaller HSPs face in carrying out their existing work in line with the objectives of the TCO regulation;
- Conduct in-depth qualitative interviews with priority EU-based HSPs;
- Contribute to Stakeholder Network building and coordination;
- Liaise with research partners and stakeholder network, as required;
- Contribute to monthly and quarterly progress reports and meetings with the project coordinator;
- Engage in ongoing knowledge translation and dissemination activities including submitting manuscripts for publication and presenting at conferences, under the supervision of the PI;
- Assist the PI in identifying and developing future research and funding initiatives;
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the PI, the School or Research Centre, or the University;
- Carry out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

### **Minimum Criteria**

Applicants should have a PhD in Politics/International Relations, including particularly Security Studies, Communication and Media Studies, especially with an online focus, or other relevant discipline. In addition, it is desirable that the candidate has experience in extremism and/or terrorism research and:

- Excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills;
- Be able to take initiative and work under pressure to tight deadlines, and have the ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team;
- Strong leadership and influencing skills with expertise in project management;
- Well-developed qualitative and/or quantitative research skills;
- A publication track record.

**Candidates will be assessed on the following tests:**

**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