



Research Centre	SEALBHÚ, School of Language, Literacy and Early Childhood Education
Post title	Jointly with the Educational Research Centre Postdoctoral Researcher
Level on Framework	Level 1
Post duration	Fixed Term Contract up to one and a half years

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.

The Educational Research Centre

The Educational Research Centre (ERC) was established as a Statutory Body in accordance with the Education Act (1998) in September 2015, but has been in existence since January 1966. It published its current strategic plan in April 2022. It has a dual remit of providing tests and support for these tests to schools and conducting educational research and evaluation studies. The ERC comes under the remit of the 2003 Official Languages Act. Its programme of work can be divided into seven strands (with more information available at www.erc.ie): 1. Oversight, delivery and national reporting of large-scale international assessments 2. Management, oversight and reporting of large-scale national assessments 3. Contributing to policy on, and evaluation relating to, educational disadvantage 4. Test development, standardisation, and support (in both paper and online formats) 5. Programme evaluation 6. Data analytic support 7. Independently initiated research. The main ERC building is located on the grounds of DCU's St Patrick's College Campus in Drumcondra, and its Test Department is nearby on Richmond Road, Drumcondra. The ERC employs about 40 staff who work together in small collaborative teams. The work is supported by an administrative team and the ERC's senior management team, which is comprised of the Chief Executive Office, senior researchers, senior administrators, and an IT manager. The ERC engages with various sections of the Department of Education and other agencies in its research projects and participates in a range of advisory and steering committees, both national and international.

Background and Role Profile

The person appointed will be employed by SEALBHÚ, the DCU Research Centre for Irish Language Learning and Teaching. The postdoctoral researcher will be a member of a group working on the Evaluation of the Gaeltacht Schools Recognition Scheme. The researcher will work closely with ERC staff to complete research between July 2023 and the end of the Scheme in December 2024. The researcher will be reporting to the Principal Investigator of the research and to the Director of SEALBHÚ in DCU.

A description of the Assessment of the Gaeltacht Schools Recognition Scheme can be found at: <https://www.erc.ie/programme-of-work/measunu-ar-an-sceim-aitheantais-scoileanna-gaeltachta/>

Minimum Criteria

Essential:

- Applicants should have a PhD in Irish or its equivalent
- Candidates must be fluent in Irish and must demonstrate a very high standard of accuracy in written Irish, at the level required to write or proofread reports on the research*

*An Irish language exam may form part of the application process.

Desirable:

- It is desirable that the candidate has an understanding of policies relating to Gaeltacht education.
- Experience of conducting research in one of the following areas: Irish-medium education, Gaeltacht Culture
- Experience of working through the medium of Irish in a research role

- Experience in preparing academic publications
- Experience of presenting research publicly
- Administrative experience
- Ability to function effectively as part of a team
- Well-organised, enterprising and able to meet targets
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

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

Knowledge of the Education system – An understanding of the education system in Ireland and education through the medium of Irish in particular