



Research Centre

DCU Anti-Bullying Centre

Post title

Research Fellow - Cilter

Level on Framework

Level 2

Post duration

12 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

We are looking for a research fellow (more than 5 years of postdoctoral research experience) to conduct research into optimizing the detection of harmful online content 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). Cilter technology development is funded by the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) Ireland and it is a partnership between Cilter (SME), DCU Anti-Bullying Centre, ADAPT Science Foundation Ireland and Amarach research. The research fellow will work with the PI in leading the work of three postdoctoral researchers who are working across the three domains of detection of harmful online content; in order to ensure the timely provision of deliverables related to: development of research methodologies that will contribute to machine-readable content classification and modeling.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to his/her Principal Investigator the Research Fellow will:

- Day-to-day supervision of three postdoctoral researchers who work on social scientific deliverables related to detection of harmful online content for the Cilter project
- Ensuring the timely completion of all the Centre's deliverables within the Cilter project
- Scoping available datasets related to harmful online content (self-harm, cyberbullying and online grooming)
- Close collaboration with computational scholars (ADAPT SFI) and interdisciplinary research teams in dataset design and AI model development
- Supervising and engaging in quantitative and qualitative social scientific research with children (e.g. surveys, in-depth interviews and focus groups)
- Ensuring that ethical and data protection standards are in place for the research (including submitting Research Ethics Committee applications)
- Producing and supervising the production of high quality academic and non-academic publications and other research dissemination outputs related to the project
- Contributing to Centre's other research projects as requested by the Centre director
- Conducting media and other public engagement related to the research
- Contributing to teaching university-level modules as requested by the Centre director
- Contributing to day-to-day operations of the Centre (curating the Centre's social media and other accounts)
- Engaging in writing funding applications, as requested by the Centre director
- Serving on advisory boards to partner organisations on behalf of the Centre director

Essential Criteria:

- Ph.D. in a relevant social scientific discipline (e.g., Communication, psychology, education, sociology etc.)
- Applicants should have a minimum of 4 years relevant postdoctoral research experience or equivalent at Level 1 of the Research Career Framework
- Evidence of high-quality publications in top ranked journals in the relevant fields or other significant publication outputs
- Evidence of significant research dissemination experience (including leading conferences in the field)
- Evidence of public engagement such as media interviews and ability to successfully interact with a range of stakeholders (academia, industry, regulators)
- Evidence of previous engagement with interdisciplinary teams
- Evidence of previously acquired research funding
- Excellent qualitative and quantitative social science research skills
- Demonstrable knowledge of and previous research in the field of children and digital media work, and online safety in particular

Desired criteria:

- Previous teaching experience is a plus
- Evidence of collaboration with computational scholars (natural language processing, machine learning/artificial intelligence in the field of online safety) is a plus
- Dataset development experience is a plus
- At least 1 year of research team management experience

Please note this appointment will be subject to the individual successfully completing the Garda Vetting and Foreign Police Certification processes where applicable

Individuals will be assessed on the following competencies:

Discipline knowledge and Research skills – Demonstrates the ability to design and implement part of a programme of research (for example by using critical thinking and the application of relevant research methodologies).

Understanding the Research Environment – Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the research environment both nationally and internationally and the ability to contribute substantially to grant applications.

Communicating Research – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research effectively to the research community and wider society (for example by publishing their research in high quality peer reviewed journals) and the ability to teach and tutor students.

Managing & Leadership skills - Successfully manages research projects including the management and supervision of postgraduates and/or junior research staff.