



Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following position:

<b>Research Centre</b>	School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies, Institute of Education
<b>Post title</b>	Postdoctoral Researcher <i>Outdoor learning and Risky Play</i>
<b>Level on Framework</b>	Level 1
<b>Post duration</b>	11 month Fixed Term Contract, Part time (1 day per week)

### **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**

The School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies is one of six schools within the DCU Institute of Education. The School contributes to a range of high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across the education landscape. Through its teaching and research the School is centrally engaged in transforming the Irish education system and is a significant contributor to knowledge creation and policy development in the field of education.

## **The Project**

The 'Adventurous Play and Outdoor Learning' APOLE project seeks to develop and improve pedagogical competences of primary school teachers, teaching assistants and other staff in outdoor learning and risky or adventurous play and to measure the impacts on children. This will be achieved through collaborations with school partners and their communities, teacher education providers and other stakeholders.

The specific postdoctoral project focuses on:

- contributing to the knowledge base on outdoor learning and adventurous/risky play, specifically current understanding and perspectives on these in Ireland,
- identifying the key competencies that primary school teachers, and other staff need in order to facilitate high quality outdoor learning and risky play
- and evaluating the impact of outdoor learning and risky play on children.

This will be achieved through a rigorous research programme involving but not limited to engagement with teachers, parents, school children, initial teacher education students and educators and other stakeholders; and dissemination through peer-reviews journal publications and conference papers.

## **The Role**

The School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies invites applications for a fixed term postdoctoral researcher role in Outdoor learning and Risky Play. The position is available from no later than the 1st October 2023. This postdoctoral position is funded by Erasmus+ KA2. The position is based in Dublin City University and is a part of the 'Adventurous Play and Outdoor Learning' APOLE project as described above, which is a collaboration between Dublin City University and three European partner Universities and 4 primary schools from each partner country. The overall aim of the APOLE project is promoting and integrating the practice of outdoor learning through weekly risky or adventurous play activities in primary schools.

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

Please refer to the job description for a list of duties and responsibilities associated with this role.

## **Qualifications and Experience**

### **Essential**

- Postgraduate qualification in Education at Doctoral level in the area of Outdoor Learning;

- Strong academic background in outdoor learning, risky play and primary education in Ireland;
- Research experience relevant to the position, including experience with research ethics, researching with young children and working with mixed methods, including quantitative and qualitative data;
- Strong communication skills;
- Ability to work in a team and to take responsibility to contribute to the overall success of the team;
- Proven ability to prioritize workload and work to strict deadlines.

### **Skills**

- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English (essential).
- Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills.
- Proven ability to prioritize workload and work to strict deadlines.
- Ability to work in a team and to take responsibility to contribute to the overall success of the team.
- Strong problem-solving abilities.

**\*The position is subject to the candidate being Garda Vetted.**

### **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

### **Essential Training**

The postholder will be required to undertake the following essential compliance training: Orientation, Health & Safety, Data Protection (GDPR) and all Cyber Security Awareness Training. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.

**Salary Scale:** IUA Postdoctoral Research Salary Scale - €42,033- €42,621

\*Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and in line with current Government pay policy

**Closing date:** 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**For more information on DCU and benefits, please visit [Why work at DCU?](#)**

Informal Enquiries in relation to this role should be directed to:

Dr Orla Kelly; Associate Professor, School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies,  
Institute of Education, Dublin City University

Email: [orla.kelly@dcu.ie](mailto:orla.kelly@dcu.ie)

Applications should be submitted by e-mail with your completed application form to  
[hr.applications@dcu.ie](mailto:hr.applications@dcu.ie)

Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject  
line:

Job Ref Postdoctoral Researcher in Outdoor Learning and Risky Play

**Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer.**

**In line with the Employment Equality Acts 1998 – 2015, the University is committed to  
equality of treatment for all those who engage with its recruitment, selection and  
appointment processes.**

**The University's Athena SWAN Bronze Award signifies the University's commitment to  
promoting gender equality and addressing any gender pay gaps. Information on a range of  
university policies aimed at creating a supportive and flexible work environment are available  
in the [DCU Policy Starter Packs](#)**