



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

Research Centre	Institute of Education - EQI: Centre for Evaluation, Quality & Inspection
Post title	Postdoctoral Researcher in Education
Level on Framework	Level 1
Post duration	Fixed Term Contract up to September 2025 (Part time post – 2.5 days 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.

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.

Background & Role

EQI is a multidisciplinary research group based at the DCU Institute of Education. It brings together evaluators, policy analysts, and economists and explores the thematic areas of School Evaluation and Assessment and Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA).

The Centre has had a longstanding interest in the development of models of evaluation and Inspection in Ireland and beyond. In recent years it has successfully bid for and coordinated a number of EU funded projects. These projects have examined the impact of inspections on schools (ISi-TL), the development of culturally responsive approaches to school leadership (CRELES) and the role of interculturalism and networks in school development and planning (ICCEP). EQI actively engages in the tendering process for a range of external evaluation projects. It has also designed and implemented a series of national projects exploring the development of ethos evaluation frameworks for Educate Together and the Education and Training Boards, Ireland.

EQI is currently a partner in a Horizon Europe Funded project exploring the impact of disadvantage on school retention. (SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR REDUCING UNDERACHIEVEMENT AND EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING IN EUROPE. SCIREARLY) and the advertised role is connected to this project

Specifically you will work as a part-time Post-Doctoral Research on the SCIREARLY programme for the EQI Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection. Your duties will require you to work in a range of research areas including literature reviews, policy analysis, report drafting and general research support as part of the SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR REDUCING UNDERACHIEVEMENT AND EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING IN EUROPE project. The specific aspects of the projects which you will work are detailed below.

The research will be managed by Prof Joe O'Hara and Dr Martin Brown, Directors of the Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection (EQI), and co-PIs of the SCIREARLY project. The post-doctoral researcher will be hosted at EQI, located on DCU's Drumcondra campus, and will be involved in the day-to-day management, coordination and implementation of all components of the research. EQI and the DCU Institute of Education is home to a cadre of international researchers across a range of funded projects. The person appointed to the role will join this vibrant community, with opportunities for professional and career development, a programme of events and workshops across the faculty and University. There will be support for conference travel and presentations, opportunities for publication, and for contribution to teaching and workshops

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist in collection, analysis and interpretation of the qualitative and quantitative data generated by EQI
- Represent the SCIREARLY project, including presentation of preliminary outcomes.
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities, as required.
- Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders including staff, students, industry, and academic partners/collaborators.
- Assist in the preparation of interim and final reports.
- Assist in the dissemination of research outcomes, including formative feedback, journal publications, conference presentations.
- Carry out administrative work associated with the SCIREARLY project and other relevant research projects currently managed by EQI .

Minimum Criteria

Applicants should have a PhD in Psychology/Social Science/Education or in a cognate discipline. In addition, it is desirable that the successful individual has experience in and ability to :

- Strong research skills, and of working with a variety of data sources and types.
- Experience of supporting research projects at scale
- Strong research and data management skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Professional writing skills in English

Individuals 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