



Research Centre

Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics and the School of Health and Human Performance

Post title

Research Fellow

Post duration

0.5 Part-Time/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.

Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics

The Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics (<http://www.insight-centre.org>) is an SFI funded Research Centre which brings together researchers from University College Dublin, NUI Galway, University College Cork, and Dublin City University, as well as other partner institutions, Trinity College Dublin (TCD), University of Limerick (UL), Maynooth University (MU) and Tyndall National Institute. It creates a critical mass of more than 400 researchers from Ireland's leading

ICT clusters to carry out research on a new generation of data analytics technologies in a number of key application domain areas, such as Health and Human Performance, Smart Communities, Internet of Things, Enterprise and Services and Sustainability and Operations.

The €150m Centre is funded by Science Foundation Ireland and a wide range of industry and European Union partners. Insight's research focus encompasses a broad range of data analytics technologies from machine learning, decision analytics and social network analysis to linked data, recommender systems and the sensor web. Together, with more than 220 partner companies, Insight researchers are solving critical challenges in the areas of Connected Health and the Discovery Economy.

School of Health and Human Performance

Research at the School of Health and Human Performance provides an environment devoted to learning, developing, understanding and advancing in the areas of sport, physical activity and health science. Our focus is on using the knowledge gained from our learnings to challenge and address the series of health issues which impact modern society in conjunction with evolving our knowledge associated with the factors critical to sporting performance.

With the academic proficiency and expertise existing within our school, underpinned by our strong multicultural partnerships, international research, and societal engagement, our research;

- Influences public policy.
- Contributes to successful sporting performance and maintenance.
- Promotes the importance of healthy lifestyle management and adaptation.
- Increases awareness over communicable disease prevention and control.
- Creates leaders for future generations.

The school boasts specialists in a wide range of areas such as physical activity and public health, sport psychology, cardiology, coaching, physiotherapy, athletic rehabilitation exercise physiology, cellular biology, biomechanics, motor control, and talent development. Each of our research clusters and centres is the spearhead in its own domain. As visionaries in progression, governance, policy development and application, from a sporting and physical activity field, our school cultivates the leaders of the future and the present.

The Role

The purpose of this role is to design & implement specific research programmes in association with the Principal Investigator, namely in several projects with high profile sporting organisations. This role is a prestigious role which represents a step change from Post-Doctoral researcher roles. Your work will be performed in accordance with the university's research integrity policy and all other relevant policies.

You will have dual goals in terms of the research project and your own career development. The training and development relevant to this position will be completed within the period of your contract in which time you will continue to develop skills and competencies with respect to the role and your future career options. This is outlined above in the Research Career Framework.

The Project

The project hopes to gain a deeper understanding across a variety of topics in sports coaching, talent development, and sports analytics. The importance of coach behaviours and their implications for athlete development, team performance and overall success (both in participation and performance setting), it seems more important than ever to investigate all factors leading to improved coach performance in sport. This role aims to explore all the factors that can influence coach behaviour, by embracing a pragmatic approach in utilising both qualitative and quantitative methods. With data playing an increasing role in decision making at an organisational level, it is intended to explore how and where big data fits in as part of a national governing body in relation to policy and practice. Central to the project will be disseminating research findings through scientific publication in keeping with the open access guidelines.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

The successful individual will report to, be directed by and be under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Behan, Insight SFI Research Centre of Data Analytics/School of Health and Human Performance, for the listed activities unless otherwise stated. You will be expected to carry out the below list of responsibilities along with any additional duties requested of you by your Principal Investigator/ Head of Academic Unit.

Research

- Assist in the project management of several research projects as part of the research team.
- Conduct individual and/or collaborative research to the highest ethical standards in a variety of settings.
- Carry out any administrative and management work associated with your programme of research.
- Proactively identify opportunities for external funding sources, prepare grant proposals and the assess research findings for potential commercial exploitation in collaboration with the PI.
- Engage in the dissemination of the top quality journal and conference publications of the research in which you are engaged in to the relevant research stakeholders in the appropriate form.
- Liaise with both external and internal stakeholders, including academics, undergraduate and postgraduate students, external supervisors and host placement schools.
- Preparation of project outputs, interim and final reports as required by the project schedule.
- Attend and present results at project progress meetings.

Contribution to Research Group and University

- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of your research group, centre or unit and contribute to its profile by participating in promotion activity.
- Participate in internal/external networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future research collaboration.
- Engage in teaching and support to postgraduate students working on similar topics.

Teaching, Learning and Mentoring

- Participate in limited teaching hours in furtherance of your own development and contribute to your unit's teaching and tutoring approaches. The extent of this must not adversely impact the primary research role.
- Supervise and provide day-to-day advice, support, mentoring, and assistance to research graduates, students and other junior members associated with your research group, centre or unit.

Personal Development

- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities to develop own transferable skills, career and reputation.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience Required

Individuals should have a PhD in Health and Human Performance or other related discipline, e.g., sports coaching, sport science, talent development). The appointed candidate will generally have 4-6 years postdoctoral research experience.

Knowledge and Expertise

- Demonstrates knowledge of a research discipline and field.
- Demonstrates the ability to generate new ideas and link and build upon existing ideas to generate unique concepts and solutions with integrity.
- Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the policy, practices and procedures that are relevant to the role, which may include broader University, sector, and external sponsor or funder policies.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the operational and management requirements of a successful research project.

Research Environment

- Demonstrates evidence of research activity and a commitment to ongoing research and publications.
- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the research environment both nationally and internationally and the ability to contribute substantially to grant applications.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the commercialisation process.

Interpersonal Skills

- Demonstrates good communication, mentoring, and interpersonal skills with the capability of working within a project team to achieve results.
- Demonstrates good class design, teaching and facilitation skills.

Personal Skills and Effectiveness

- Demonstrates an ability to manage self, time, resources and people to enable a high level of personal effectiveness.

Career Development

- Demonstrates a commitment to develop own transferable skills, profile and reputation to advance own career after the end of the contract period.

Research Career Framework

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework (<http://dcu.ie/hr/ResearchersFramework/index.shtml>). This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

DCU has a strong track record in attracting both Irish and European Union research funding under Horizon 2020 (and all previous Framework programmes), Marie Curie Actions and Erasmus. We offer a dynamic and internationally focused environment in which you can advance your academic career.

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.

Additional Training

In addition to inhouse training provided by DCU under the DCU Research Career Framework, extensive training is also provided by SFI in the areas of Design Thinking, Evidence Based entrepreneurship and Communications skills.

The successful candidates will be offered opportunities for developing their own careers in a number of directions including support for conference/workshop travel, upskilling through Insight's continuous professional development in areas like research ethics and data privacy, student supervision and development and submission of their own research project proposals.

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](#)