



**Engaged Research Lead  
Adapt Centre  
Professional 5  
3 Year 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.

**Overview of the Department**

ADAPT is the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centre for AI-Driven Digital Content Technology ([www.adaptcentre.ie](http://www.adaptcentre.ie)). ADAPT brings together more than 300 researchers who collectively have won more than €100m in funding and have a strong track record of transferring world-leading research and innovations to more than 140 companies. ADAPT partners are successfully advancing the frontiers of Artificial Intelligence (AI), content analysis, machine translation, personalisation, e-learning/education, media technologies, virtual and augmented reality, and spoken interaction, as well as driving global standards in content technologies.

ADAPT researchers and professional services teams are based across eight Higher-Education Institutions: Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Munster Technological University, Technological University of the Shannon,

Maynooth University and University of Galway. The ADAPT Centre executive function is co-hosted between Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University.

The ADAPT Education and Public Engagement (EPE) programme is a key pillar of ADAPT's role in 'future-proofing Ireland.' It aims to enable involvement in technology research by designing and delivering effective public engagement formats that will result in genuine and equitable dialogue and knowledge co-creation between ADAPT researchers and citizens. Thus the involvement of the Irish public in ADAPT's research involves active participation which will lead to (i) the public having a greater understanding of the basic scientific concepts behind digital engagement and acquiring skills necessary to engage fully in our digital world (ii) the opportunity to explore and interact with technologies that enable engagement in our digital world (iii) the co-creation or opportunity to contribute to research on the future of safe, user-mediated digital engagement.

### **Role Profile**

The Engaged Research Lead will drive ADAPT's engaged research strategy, helping to keep ADAPT at the leading-edge of engaged research methodology and practice in Ireland and maximising the societal impact of the Centre's research.

The role will be based at DCU, but the successful candidate should expect to work frequently at our partner institutions. Occasional visits to schools and community partner locations, and coordination of public events outside of standard working hours, will also be required.

### **Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

Working directly with ADAPT's Head of Education and Public Engagement, the Engaged Research Lead will drive development, rollout and evaluation of ADAPT's engaged research strategy. This new strategy will build on ADAPT's strengths in public engagement and maximise the impact of ADAPT's world-leading research on human-centric Artificial Intelligence.

The post will involve the following indicative responsibilities:

- Devise a coordinated strategy for involving public participants in ADAPT research authentically.
- Work with ADAPT researchers, including EPE Leads in ADAPT research strands, to identify opportunities to embed stakeholder engagement across the research lifecycle.
- Advise ADAPT researchers on appropriate participatory research approaches – and associated resource requirements and potential funding sources – across the engagement spectrum.
- Build and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with relevant communities, ensuring the inclusion of diverse voices in ADAPT research.
- Work with the ADAPT Head of Growth and Impact Strategy to evidence and communicate the outcomes and impact of ADAPT engaged research to diverse stakeholders, including citizens, community and civil society organisations, policymakers, and funders.
- Lead an internal audit of ADAPT researchers' engaged research experiences, perspectives, and support requirements, and build necessary supports to facilitate excellent participatory research.
- Coordinate a programme of training to enhance ADAPT researchers' engaged research capacity.
- Supervise interns, facilitators, specialist consultants and freelancers on engaged research projects.

- Establish a roadmap for strengthening ADAPT's contribution to the international body of knowledge on STEM EPE and ensuring ADAPT remains at the forefront of engaged research methodology and practice in Ireland.

### **Minimum Internal Service Criteria**

Please note that [internal service criteria](#) will apply.

### **Qualifications, Skills and Experience Required**

The post-holder must be educated to degree level in a relevant area (e.g., Computer Science, STEM education, Science Communication, Communications/Marketing, or Social Sciences) and have a minimum of three years' relevant work experience in a public engagement, participatory research management, or stakeholder engagement role in a STEM environment.

Ideally, the candidate will also hold a postgraduate degree in a relevant area (e.g., Public Engagement, Social Sciences) or equivalent research experience. Formal training in public engagement/engaged research/facilitation skills would be an advantage.

In addition, the successful candidate will have:

- Experience in developing and delivering engaged research activities with diverse stakeholders, including underserved and underrepresented audiences.
- Demonstrable knowledge of participatory research methodologies and strategies, such as co-creation.
- Experience of evaluating engaged research projects.
- A strong track record in securing competitive funding for public engagement projects.
- Evidence of presenting findings, reports and recommendations from engaged research projects to a range of stakeholders, including policy makers, academic audiences, and community and civil society organisations.
- Contributions to international best practice by sharing insights from work at science communication and research management conferences and workshops.
- Exceptional networking, communications and interpersonal skills and evidence of building long-term mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders, including researchers, community partners and funding agencies.
- Experience in building capacity for public engagement in an academic institution.
- Effective leadership and influencing skills, and an ability to motivate and lead those without line management or formal accountability.
- Ability to think strategically and a track record in proposing and advocating successfully for new approaches, infrastructure and resources.
- Knowledge of AI, language technology and wider issues relating to technology in society.
- Understanding of inter- and transdisciplinary research approaches.
- Advanced organisational skills with an ability to handle multiple complex projects efficiently.
- Experience managing budgets.
- Excellent facilitation skills.

### **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.

They will also be expected to engage with DCU/ADAPT training on Gender, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.

***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](#)***

