



Research Centre

Post title

Level on Framework

Post duration

DCU Institute of Education

Postdoctoral Researcher

Global Citizenship and Democracy

Level 1

25 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.

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

The project is based within DCU Institute of Education and managed by Justin Rami and John Lalor from FETRC (Further Education & Training Research Centres) and Benjamin Mallon from CHRCE (Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship Education)

The project, entitled DEMOCRAT, aims to address issues related to Education, especially Education for Democracy (EfD) and intends to contribute to the defence and enhancement of democracy.

To reinforce the resilience and sustainability of democracy, DEMOCRAT aims, through a participatory approach, to develop curricula for EfD based on a framework of responsible democratic competencies (RDCs), to test them in open, local, innovative learning projects and to develop a toolbox to support the development of transformative EfD practices in the EU and beyond. DEMOCRAT's ambitious research and innovation programme will also provide insights into the points of comparison and contrast in EfD in the EU member states. It will garner insights into the factors influencing the impact of EfD on public participation through the analysis of European datasets, with a particular focus on the relation between socio-economic and educational inequalities and political and social participation.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- Conduct individual and collaborative research in the field of Education for Democracy to the highest ethical standards in university, school and non-formal education settings.
- Carry out administrative work associated with the DEMOCRAT project, including the co-design, planning, facilitation and evaluation of a programme of Living Labs.
- Engage with DEMOCRAT project partners through national and transnational workshops.
- Engage in the dissemination of research to relevant research stakeholders in the appropriate form, including through conferences, articles and other mediums.
- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of the DCU FETRC, DCU CHRCE and DCU Institute of Education.
- Participate in national and transnational workshops both in Ireland and across the European partner consortium.
- Participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future research collaboration.
- Participate in learning and development opportunities.

Minimum Criteria

- Applicants should have a PhD in Education. In addition, it is desirable that the candidate has experience in conducting and designing research connected to democratic education, social change curriculum.
- Conducting qualitative and survey-based research, preparing reports and academic articles and presentations for stakeholders, preparing bid proposals and research management.

- It is also desirable that the candidate have experience of working with teachers, communities through dialogical processes.

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