



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Senior Occupational Therapist - Academic Support Student Support & Development Permanent Contract**

#### **Dublin City University**

Dublin City University [www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie) is a young, ambitious and vibrant University, with a mission 'to transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation and engagement'. Known as Ireland's 'University of Enterprise and Transformation', it is committed to the development of talent, and the discovery and translation of knowledge that advances society and the economy. DCU is the Sunday Times Irish University of the Year 2021.

The University is based on three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra region of north Dublin. It currently has more than 18,000 students enrolled across five faculties – Science and Health, DCU Business School, Computing and Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences and DCU Institute of Education. DCU is committed to excellence across all its activities. This is demonstrated by its world-class research initiatives, its cutting-edge approach to teaching and learning, its focus on creating a transformative student experience, and its positive social and economic impact. This exceptional commitment on the part of its staff and students has led to DCU's ranking among the top 2% of universities globally. It also consistently features in the world's Top 100 Young Universities (currently in QS Top 70 Under 50, Times Higher Top 150 Under 100).

DCU is placed 84th in the world, in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings – measuring higher education institutions' contributions towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Over the past decade, DCU has also been the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer, as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

#### **Overview of the department**

Student Support & Development (SS&D) provides professional, academic and personal support and development opportunities to students in DCU and is a busy and diverse Unit which includes the Student Advice Centre, Counselling & Personal Development, Student Learning, the INTRA work placement office, the Student Health Centre, the Disability & Learning Support Office, the Access Office and the Inter Faith Centre. Further information on SS&D can be found at: <http://www.dcu.ie/students/index.shtml>.

#### **Role Profile**

SS&D is currently seeking a Senior Occupational Therapist to provide an Occupational Therapy service to students registered with the Disability and Learning Support Service (DLSS). The role

will be based in the DLSS in the first instance but may, in line with service requirements, move elsewhere within SS&D. This post involves the development and delivery of a high-quality and dynamic Occupational Therapy service to students registered with the Disability & Learning Support Service (DLSS) in DCU. The purpose of Occupational Therapy within the DLSS is to support students to engage in the occupations/activities of student life, particularly academic activities. The Service focuses on skill development in areas such as life skills, transition skills, academic skills, time management, social integration, stress management, well-being, and communication.

Students who typically avail of this support include those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder or mental health conditions such as depression or anxiety. Support is tailored to meet the individual needs of the student, with the overall objective of improving academic outcomes and working with the student to meet the learning and study demands of his or her course.

The Senior Occupational Therapist will work within the context of the multi-disciplinary Disability & Learning Support Service team and the wider Student Support & Development Unit in DCU. The post holder will be required to work as part of a busy team and deal with a diverse and sensitive range of inquiries and at times work under pressure. The role will report directly to the Head of the Disability & Learning Support Service.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

**Occupational Therapy Process:**

The Senior Occupational Therapist will:

- Manage a caseload of students with disabilities across a number of Faculties.
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of occupational performance/participation and developing goals that are student-centred.
- Provide and evaluate interventions to meet the varied needs of individual students.
- Actively engage in the development, implementation and evaluation of group programmes
- Work closely with our Careers and Intra Services on the employability for DLSS students
- Provide awareness training for both internal and external partners (e.g. linked employers)
- Apply the therapeutic use of occupation to positively influence health and well-being
- Promote quality by evaluating, monitoring and reporting on the Occupational Therapy service regularly and integrating evidence based practice into the service
- Be aware of and refer students to other services within Student Support & Development as necessary.

**Communication:**

The Senior Occupational Therapist will:

- Actively engage in effective therapeutic/professional relationships with students, colleagues and other agencies
- Communicate in a clear and effective manner, adapting method of communication to suit individual/group needs

### **Practice Responsibilities:**

The Senior Occupational Therapist will:

- Maintain registration on the Occupational Therapists Register maintained by the Occupational Therapists Registration Board at CORU.
- Promote a safe working environment, sustainable practices, positive staff morale and a culture that values diversity.
- Maintain appropriate service user records, databases and statistics in accordance with HEA and DCU requirements, Freedom of Information Act, Data Protection Acts and other relevant legislation.
- Collect and evaluate data about the service user group and demonstrate the achievement of the objectives of the service
- Adhere to the ethical, legal, and professional requirements that inform safe and ethical Occupational Therapy practice
- Provide support, mentoring, and supervision for assigned staff/Occupational Therapy students.
- Perform such other duties appropriate to the office as may be assigned by the Head of Disability & Learning Support Service and/or the Director of Student Support & Development.

### **Education and Development**

The Senior Occupational Therapist will:

- Participate in mandatory training programmes and a range of continual professional development activities
- Engage in professional supervision
- Participate in performance review with line management
- Offer workshops to staff members in DCU, to share experience and expertise, as requested by the University

This role may change in line with department requirements and the strategic direction of the University. The post holder will be expected to carry out any duty requested by his/her Head of Unit and the Director of Student Support & Development.

### **Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Essential Criteria**

Candidates must have a primary degree or an equivalent (NFQ Level 7) qualification in an appropriate area in addition to 3 years' relevant experience.

#### **Desirable criteria**

- Candidates will ideally have a recognised validated qualification in Occupational Therapy at a similar level.
- Satisfactory experience in mental health occupational therapy practice

- A minimum of 3 years' experience in a third level environment, or within the disability field
- Comprehensive knowledge of disabilities and their effects in education
- Knowledge of the range of reasonable accommodations/adjustments available and the appropriate use of such accommodations/adjustments
- Knowledge of relevant legislation and its implementation (e.g. Disability Act 2005, Equal Status Act 2000 – 2008)

### **Mandatory Training**

The post holder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: Orientation, Health & Safety and Data Protection (GDPR). Other training may need to be undertaken when required. This post is subject to Garda vetting.