



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Assistant Professor (above bar) in Physical Activity Behaviour Change  
School of Health & Human Performance  
Faculty of Science and Health  
Permanent**

### **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 84<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **School of Health and Human Performance**

As a dynamic and rapidly growing School within the Faculty of Science and Health, the School of Health and Human Performance at DCU is developing an international reputation in health, sport and exercise science and physical education. As such, the School of Health and Human Performance is committed to researching, understanding and disseminating knowledge about exercise and physical activity across the continuum from health to elite sport performance, and to the area of musculoskeletal medicine. The mission of the School is to foster optimum wellness in all phases of the human life cycle through the provision of academic programmes, research and the translation of research into public health or high performance strategies with practical implementation. It aims to achieve this through:

- Pioneering undergraduate and graduate level academic programmes;
- Undertaking research that transcends traditional boundaries leading to enhancement of health, physical performance and quality of life of the citizens of Ireland and beyond;

- Developing a wide range of community-based sport, health-related and injury research programmes;
- Building on our national reputation for excellence for sports performance, preventive medicine, health and physical literacy, and healthy ageing across the life course.

The School has already received significant support from the University through the appointment of a range of key academic and support staff and the development of extensive facilities for exercise and sport. As a member of this school you will become part of this multi-disciplinary team. Faculty and postgraduate research students in the School of Health and Human Performance investigate a wide range of topics concerning human movement and education, athletic performance, musculoskeletal medicine and health promotion. The School has a thriving research environment and the candidate must have the ability and desire to achieve excellence in their chosen area.

The School runs the following programmes:

1. BSc in Sports Science and Health [www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/shhp/sport-science-and-health](http://www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/shhp/sport-science-and-health)
2. BSc in Athletic Therapy and Training [www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/shhp/athletic-therapy-and-training](http://www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/shhp/athletic-therapy-and-training)
3. BSc in Physical Education with Biology [www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/shhp/physical-education-biology](http://www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/shhp/physical-education-biology)
4. BSc in Physical Education with Mathematics [www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/shhp/physical-education-mathematics](http://www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/shhp/physical-education-mathematics)
5. Professional Doctorate in Elite Performance (Sport) <https://www.dcu.ie/courses/postgraduate/school-health-and-human-performance/professional-doctorate-elite-performance>
6. MSc in Elite Sport Performance <https://www.dcu.ie/scienceandhealth/msc-elite-sport-performance>

The School attracts high calibre students who are offered undergraduate teaching, research opportunities and practical placements in industry, in education or in clinical settings according to programme. At the heart of development plans for the University, the School is in a unique position for significant growth with the planned development of a new, dedicated Health and Human Performance facility on campus at DCU.

**The role:**

The role is at the level of Assistant Professor on a permanent full-time basis, commencing August 2022. Experience in tertiary teaching and applied research across the areas of sports science, health and physical activity behaviour change and implementation science is required. Experience in the theory and application of behaviour change through applied intervention programmes in the lab or field setting is required.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

The duties and responsibilities associated with this post are described under three sections below: teaching, research and administration.

## Teaching

- The candidate is expected to contribute to the development, design, delivery and management of courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level within the School, including, but not limited to:
  - Undergraduate and graduate lecturing and research supervision, related to domain area, across the School of Health and Human Performance;
  - Undergraduate and graduate lecturing and research supervision in the theory and application of physical activity behaviour change and implementation science;
  - Supervising students on work placements;
  - Contributing to the development and delivery of taught BSc and MSc programmes in the School.
- The successful post-holder will have a broad expertise in physical activity psychology, with an ability to deliver foundational modules/courses across the discipline.
- The successful post-holder will be required to have evidenced specialism in the theory and application of behaviour change, specifically as it applies to the domains of physical activity or exercise promotion for health and wellbeing across the life course.
- The successful candidate will be required to have an understanding of the sport science, physical education and athletic therapy professions, and demonstrate their ability to promote these professions and areas of study at DCU.

## Research

The candidate will be required to:

- Pursue their research interests in an area of relevance to the School and contribute to the research output of the School by scholarly publications and conference presentations, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate student research supervision;
- Develop collaborations with the current academic staff and staff in the associated research institutes;
- Develop collaborations with academics and research groups internationally;
- Seek funding support for their research from both internal and external sources.

## Broad contribution

The post-holder will be expected to undertake administrative functions relating to the activities of the School of Health and Human Performance. These activities, defined by the Head of School, may include participating in School meetings, carrying out key school administrative or leadership roles at a Faculty or University level, chairing programmes of study, engaging with essential external stakeholders, actively contributing to advancement of his/her profession at a national level, engaging in meetings related to programmes, and representing the School in marketing and recruitment of students.

## Essential Criteria:

Applicants must hold the following qualifications:

- A PhD or Professional Doctorate in the broad area of physical activity behaviour change;
- Qualifications in Sports Science and Applied Psychology at undergraduate or post graduate level

Applicants must be able to demonstrate evidence of:

- Skills and experience in the delivery and management of content and students across Level 8 (undergraduate) programmes of study;
- Experience delivering content on taught postgraduate programmes (Levels 9 and/or 10);

- Experience delivering online and blended teaching to undergraduate and postgraduate students across a range of disciplines;
- A research and applied portfolio demonstrating scholarship in the theory and application of physical activity psychology, behaviour change and implementation science across a range of disciplines, including the sport and exercise sciences;
- An active research profile, including publication record and a experience in graduate student supervision, in a related area;
- Experience of working nationally and internationally with relevant agencies and governing bodies in the field of physical activity promotion, with a recognised portfolio of applied work;
- Experience and achievement reflected in a growing reputation in a research and applied area related to physical activity promotion;
- Experience applying for funding from external agencies.

### **Essential Training**

The postholder will be required to undertake the following essential compliance training: Orientation, Health & Safety and Data Protection (GDPR). Other training may need to be undertaken when required.