



Research Assistant in School Evaluation and Leadership
Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection
DCU Institute of Education
Fixed-Term Contract up to 18 Months

Dublin City University www.dcu.ie is a research-intensive, globally-engaged, dynamic institution that is distinguished both by the quality and impact of its graduates and by its focus on the translation of knowledge into societal and economic benefit. Through its mission to transform lives and societies through education, research and innovation, DCU acts as an agent of social, cultural and economic progress. DCU is Ireland's fastest growing university, and now hosts more than 17,000 students across its three academic campuses: DCU Glasnevin Campus, DCU St Patrick's Campus and DCU All Hallows campus.

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 to advance your academic career.

DCU Institute of Education

The DCU Institute of Education is the newest faculty of Dublin City University. It is based in a €70 million purpose built facility on the DCU St Patrick's Campus in Drumcondra in Dublin. Established in 2016 as Ireland's first University faculty of Education, it has a staff of more than 140 full-time academics and a student body in excess of 4,000. The Institute brings together students of education across all sectors from early childhood, to primary and post-primary and further and higher education. As well as providing a range of undergraduate programmes in education, the Institute offers a rich menu of taught and research-based post-graduate programmes, at doctoral, masters, diploma and certificate levels. As a centre of expertise and excellence in teacher education and education more generally, the Institute hosts a range of research centres in key areas of priority and has an ambitious and growing programme of research.

Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection

The Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection ([EQI](#)) is a multidisciplinary research group based at the Institute of Education. It brings together evaluators, policy analysts, and economists and explores the thematic areas of School Evaluation and Assessment and Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA). It also hosts the Irish Evaluation Network (IEN) – the national database for Evaluators working on the island of Ireland.

The Centre has had a longstanding interest in the development of models of evaluation and Inspection in Ireland and beyond. In recent years it has successfully bid for and coordinated a number of EU funded projects. These projects have examined the impact of Evaluation on schools (ISI-TL) and the role of networks in school development and planning (PINS). It currently coordinates two Erasmus plus projects exploring the potential of culturally responsive evaluation and Leadership in Schools.

In addition to work undertaken in the area of school evaluation the Centre has been involved in research into the impact of the rapid diversification of the student population in Irish schools. Research work has sought to address the major questions that are being raised as to how schools and teachers can be supported to respond to this rapid cultural and demographic change. Areas that have been highlighted in this context include the training of teachers, curriculum content and teaching methodology, and the

impact of inspection, evaluation and quality assurance methodologies. EQI, in partnership with CREA, has sought to develop a suite of responses in this field based on original research and focused on enhancing the capacity of networks of school communities to address issues of evaluation and quality in a rapidly changing demographic context. This work has seen EQI coordinate a major EU project on Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Leadership and to work with European colleagues to examine the role of Leadership and Evaluation in supporting migrant learners in EU schools.

Finally, EQI actively engages in the tendering process for a range of external evaluation projects. It has recently completed an evaluation of the national ePortfolio pilot project, is involved in evaluating ICT use in ITE programme provision and has evaluated a series of resources for the support of school self-evaluation.

Role Profile

We are now seeking a Research Assistant to join our team. The position is focused on research in and with schools, around the impact of culturally responsive leadership and evaluation on issues of equity and equality, with particular reference to the rapidly diversifying student population. In particular, the role examines the appropriate methodologies for the involvement of parents and students in their schools but, more specifically, in relation to evaluation and leadership. Possible approaches to maximising stakeholder voice, including the development of school based research in distributed networks of schools, will also form a part of this role. The role will also see the job holder work with colleagues in the management and submission of research and evaluation bids.

Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to the project Principal Investigator or nominee, the duties and responsibilities of the Research Assistant will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assist with the preparation of project outputs, interim and final reports as required by the project schedule
- Carry out administrative work associated with the EQI programme of research as necessary
- Liaise with both external and internal stakeholders, including academic partners, funding agencies, school communities and key systemic organisations in the education arena
- Conduct a specified programme of research on the implementation of research projects involving fieldwork with schools in the areas of Culturally Responsive Leadership and Inter Cultural Community Evaluation and Planning
- Assist in the development of research proposals
- Attend and present results as required at network meetings, projects meetings and conferences as required
- Engage in dissemination of results at project events, national and international conferences and support the publication of research outputs in high impact international journals
- Variation of these duties and any other relevant duties as assigned by the Principal Investigator and/ or his/ her immediate supervisor.

Candidate Requirements

-Essential

- A primary degree in education or a related area
- Excellent communication (oral and written) skills
- Team player
- Strong organisational and administrative skills.

-Desirable

- Postgraduate qualification in educational evaluation or cognate discipline
- Field work experience with and in schools.

Mandatory Training

The post holder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: GDPR and Compliance. Other training may need to be undertaken.