



<b>Research Centre:</b>	<b>National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre, DCU Institute of Education</b>
<b>Post Title:</b>	<b>Post-Doctoral Researcher in Cyberbullying, Cyberhate, and Online Harassment</b>
<b>Level on DCU Framework</b>	<b>Level 1</b>
<b>Post Duration</b>	<b>Fixed-Term Contract up to 36 Months</b>

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.

### **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.

### **National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre**

The National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre is a University designated research centre located in DCU's Institute of Education. The Centre is known globally for its research excellence in bullying and online safety. It is home to scholars with a global reputation as leaders in the field. Over the past 25 years researchers at the Centre were the first in Ireland to undertake studies on school, workplace, homophobic and cyber bullying. The aim of ABC is to contribute to solving the real-world problems of bullying and online safety through collaboration with an extensive community of academic and industry partnerships. The extent of our resources and the collaboration between disciplines drive quality education, understanding and innovation in this field. The objectives of the Centre are aligned to support the UN's overarching goal to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030 (SDG4) and supports the implementation of the Government of Ireland's Action Plan on Bullying (2013), Action Plan for Online Safety (2018-2019), the Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice (2018-2023), and the WRC/Health and Safety Authority's Code of Practice for Employers and Employees on the Prevention of Workplace Bullying (2021).

The Centre hosts the UNESCO Chair on Tackling Bullying in Schools and Cyberspace and the International Journal of Bullying Prevention. The activities of the Centre are supported by the Government of Ireland, the EU Commission, the Irish Research Council, the HSE, and our industry partner Facebook/Instagram.

### **Role Profile**

In February 2021 the Minister for Justice and Equality commenced the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act (2020), also known as "Coco's Law". In conjunction with the new law the Minister also announced an agreement had been reached between the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, and DCU National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre, to establish an 'Research Observatory on Cyberbullying' focused on providing up-to-date research, advice and resources related to cyberbullying, cyberhate, and online harassment, and the implementation of Coco's Law.

We now wish to recruit a post-doctoral researcher who will work on the observatory and across other research projects in the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre.

The successful candidate will work as part of an existing team to ensure that the Centre meets its obligations under the agreement with the Department of Justice and also across a number of other related projects in the Centre. The post-holder will report directly to the Chair of the research observatory and the principal Investigators for each project. The post also involves contributing to the Centre's wider work in tackling bullying in schools and online safety. The selected candidate will contribute to the development of the Centre/UNESCO Chair's programme of activities.

### **Research Career Framework**

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework (<http://dcu.ie/hr/ResearchersFramework/index.shtml>). This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

See job description for full list of duties and responsibilities.

## Candidate Requirements

### Minimum Criteria:

- A PhD in a relevant discipline, (e.g., Sociology, Psychology, Technology, Educational Sciences, etc.)

In addition, it is desirable that candidates have a subset of the following:

- Familiarity with existing research on cyberbullying, cyberhate, and online harassment
- A team player, capable of contributing to the research and policy agenda and the activities of the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre/UNESCO Chair on Tackling Bullying in Schools and Cyberspace
- Excellent communication (oral and written) skills
- Strong organisational and administrative skills
- Knowledge of bullying and/or digital safety
- Strong publication track record, or with experience in the management of research projects.

Please note this appointment will be subject to the candidate successfully completing the Garda Vetting and Foreign Police Certification 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

**-Management & Leadership Skills** - Demonstrates the potential to manage a research project including the supervision of undergraduate students

### 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.

**Salary Scale:** IUA Post-Doctoral Researcher Salary Scale: €38,632 -€50,029

*\*Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and will be made on the appropriate point of the salary scale, in line with Government pay policy.*

**Informal Enquiries to:** Professor James O'Higgins-Norman, National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre Director, DCU Institute of Education, Dublin 9; Phone: 00 353 1 700 9140; E-mail: [jamesohigginsnorman@dcu.ie](mailto:jamesohigginsnorman@dcu.ie) *Please do not send applications to this email address; instead, apply as described below.*

**Application Procedure:** Application forms are available from the DCU Current Vacancies website at <https://www.dcu.ie/hr/vacancies/current.shtml>. Applications must be submitted by e-mail to [hr.applications@dcu.ie](mailto:hr.applications@dcu.ie)

**Closing Date: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application form and email subject line:  
**Job Ref #RF1488 Post-Doctoral Researcher in Cyberbullying, Cyberhate, and Online Harassment**

*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](#)*