



Research Assistant

School of Communications - MEDIATIZED EU Project (H2020 Programme)

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Fixed term contract 3 years

Dublin City University 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.

School of Communications

The School of Communications is an internationally-focused centre for excellence in teaching and research in the areas of media, communications and journalism. With a tradition stretching back almost 40 years – and a long-established reputation as Ireland’s leading centre for communications – the School has been ranked in the top 150 of over 4,000 universities worldwide in the area of communications and media studies in the 2021 QS Rankings by Subject.

MEDIATIZED EU Project

The MEDIATIZED EU project, funded by the Horizon2020 scheme (GA: 101004534) aims to study how the media discourses are constructed to foster or hamper the European project and how they resonate among the public by focusing on the elite-media-public triangle. The MEDIATIZED EU consortium is led by DCU (Ireland) and includes partners in Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Estonia, Hungary and Georgia.

To study how the media discourses are constructed, how they evolve and how they resonate among the public, the project takes a comprehensive mixed-methods approach with qualitative, quantitative and deliberative research components. It integrates desk research to review the transformations of media discourses since the start of the 21st century, content analysis and critical discourse analysis of the current media discourses, in-depth interviews with political and media elites, nation-wide representative surveys of the population, and finally, deliberative discussions with relevant publics in the target countries. The project will provide a cross-country comparative analysis of the seven target countries, as well as develop policy recommendations for national and EU policymakers.

Role Profile

The School of Communications is seeking a Research Assistant (three-year fixed term contract, full-time) to work on the H2020 MEDIATIZED EU project to assist with research on media discourses about and perceptions of Europeanization in Ireland. The Research Assistant will assist the PI and other senior researchers in undertaking research on the Irish context, including conducting desk research, in-depth interviews and surveys, as well as analysis of collected data; and dissemination of project results.

The ideal candidate will have a postgraduate degree in media studies, communications, social sciences, or a related field, research experience in media analysis, qualitative methods, and media discourse analysis, knowledge of relevant literature on European media systems, EU and Irish media and politics, and European studies, and experience of collaborating with multidisciplinary and non-academic stakeholders in European projects.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Research Assistant will assist the DCU PI and other senior researchers on the DCU team in undertaking research on the Irish case study for the project, including conducting desk research, in-depth interviews and surveys, as well as analysis of collected data. The Research Assistant will also work with other project partners and stakeholders to prepare, communicate and disseminate project results.

Reporting to his/her Principal Investigator the Research Assistant will:

- Assist the PI and the research group in the development and implementation of the Irish portion of the research project.
- Assist the PI and research team in conducting a specified programme of research under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigator (e.g. data collection, data analysis, reporting, etc.).
- Assist the PI in the management / co-ordination of key aspects of the research project (e.g. research collaboration, partner liaisons).
- Participate in the dissemination of the results of the research in which he/she is engaged to the wider research community with the assistance and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.
- Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Principal Investigator, the School, or the University.
- Engage with internal and external stakeholders including academic and industry partners/collaborators as appropriate.

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must have an honor's primary degree and, ideally, a postgraduate degree (taught or research masters or PhD) in media studies, communications, social sciences, or a related field.

In addition, it would be desirable if applicants had:

- At least one year's work experience in a field related to their studies and/or this position, including research experience in media analysis, qualitative methods, and media discourse analysis;
- Knowledge of relevant literature on European media systems, EU and Irish media and politics, and European studies;
- The ability to engage with and promote collaboration with academic and administrative colleagues within DCU and in the project consortium;
- Excellent teamwork skills;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Excellent organizational skills with an ability to prioritize workloads and to work successfully on their own initiative.

Mandatory Training

The postholder 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.