



Research Assistant Language Technology
ADAPT Centre
Fixed Term Contract up to 12 Months

Overview

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.

Background

The ADAPT Centre, a world-leading SFI Centre, is Ireland’s global centre of excellence for digital content technology funded through Science Foundation Ireland’s Centres programme. ADAPT combines the expertise of over 300 researchers across eight Higher Education Institutes (Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Munster Technological University, Athlone Institute of Technology, Maynooth University, and National University of Ireland, Galway) with that of its industry partners to produce ground-breaking digital content innovations.

The ADAPT Centre executive function is co-hosted between Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University. ADAPT brings together more than 300 researchers who collectively have won more than €100m in funding and have a strong track record of transferring world-leading research and innovations to more than 140 companies. ADAPT partners are successfully advancing the frontiers of Artificial Intelligence (AI), content analysis, machine translation, personalisation, e-learning and education, media technologies, virtual and augmented reality, and spoken interaction, as well as driving global standards in content technologies.

ADAPT's Irish Language Technology team wishes to recruit a Research Assistant on a fixed term contract to work on the European Language Equality (ELE) project, the focus of which is to produce a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030. In this context, the Research Assistant will conduct background research and prepare reviews of the current relevant scientific literature, state-of-the-art services, tools and technologies -- especially in the context of Ireland and the Irish language -- that will contribute to the definition of the concept of digital language equality used in the project. The landscaping of the field will involve preparing focused reports on the state-of-the-art of basic and applied research in relevant disciplines, including linguistics, computational linguistics, natural language processing, computer science, artificial intelligence, data and information science, etc.

Role Profile

The successful individual will work within a group of Academics, Postdoctoral Researchers, PhD students and Research Engineers comprising the ELE team based in the ADAPT Centre in the School of Computing at DCU. This is an excellent opportunity for those with both an interest and enthusiasm for linguistics and minority languages, especially Irish. The position is particularly suitable for graduates and students with a specific interest in the applications of AI, computing and data science to languages, and Irish in particular

Duties and Responsibilities

Duties and Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Contribute to reports and deliverables as required to ensure project deadlines are met,
- Contribute to activities related to the promotion of Irish Language Technology, and selected projects within the Irish Language Technology group.
- Conduct Irish language data collection and analysis:
 - Liaise with Irish language data-holders in order to collect and record Irish LT resources
 - Collaborate with colleagues overseeing similar Europe-wide activities and carrying out related work in other countries and for other languages
 - Assess the quality of parallel texts that have been through automated processing, presenting findings to Research Engineers
 - Clean and correct parallel resources (automatically or manually, as necessary) to improve their quality
- Research existing scientific literature and provide a range of reports

- Assist in the creation and analysis of surveys containing both qualitative and quantitative questions
- Work with ELE project partners and coordinate the development of the Irish language report for the ELE project
- Participate in ELE meetings and represent the DCU team when required

Qualifications and Experience

Minimum criteria

The successful individual will have a Primary degree in Linguistics, Language Studies or a closely related discipline.

In addition to the above it is desirable that the candidate possess a subset of the following skills.

- Excellent communication skills, written and oral proficiency in English and Irish
- Experience with data analysis and data management
- Experience in English-Irish translation and translation reviewing
- Good understanding of linguistics and language (and translation) technologies
- Proven ability to prioritise workload and work to agreed deadlines
- Excellent organizational skills, with the ability to coordinate and progress the tasks associated with own initiative
- Ability to work efficiently in a distributed team involving a range of complementary role
- A solid understanding of linguistics and machine translation
- Experience with NLP
- Knowledge of at least one other European language
- Knowledge of R programming language
- Knowledge of document preparation in LaTeX
- Understanding of statistics
- Good analytical skills

Mandatory Training

The post holder will be required to undertake the following mandatory compliance training: Orientation, Health and Safety and Intellectual Property and Data Protection training. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.