



Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following position

**Research Assistant
Student Support and Development
Fixed Term Contract up to Ten Months**

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 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.

Overview of the department

Student Support & Development (SS&D) provides professional, academic and personal support and development opportunities to students in DCU and is a busy and diverse Unit which includes the Student Advice Centre, Counselling & Personal Development, Student Learning, the INTRA work placement office, the Student Health Centre, the Disability & Learning Support Office, the Access Office and the Inter Faith Centre. Further information on SS&D can be found at:

<http://www.dcu.ie/students/index.shtml>.

Role Profile

The Institute of Education at Dublin City University (DCU) is the largest body of expertise on education while Mary Immaculate College, Limerick (MIC) is one of the oldest and most experienced

providers of teacher education courses in Ireland. Funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the research is a collaboration between the DCU Disability and Learning Support Service (DLSS) and MIC Access Office. Collectively, DCU and MIC remain steadfast in our commitment to widening access to higher education and to fostering a learning environment where all students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. The number of students with disabilities, significant on-going illnesses and or specific learning difficulties, progressing to teacher education programmes has increased, due to key programmes such as the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) and policy initiatives that prioritize students with specific health conditions or statuses of disability – physical/sensory for example. Most notably, in 2019, the first cohort of students who are deaf commenced their studies on DCU's - DC005: Bachelor of Education; Irish Sign Language Pathway. It is within this context that it is timely to assess the experiences of students with disabilities, of the school placement process, and the experience of key stakeholders within that process, and to conduct a comparative analysis of experiences in two higher education settings.

SS&D is currently seeking a Research Assistant and the role will be based in the Disability Office for the duration of the project which is focused on Exploring the experiences of students with disabilities on school placement, with a view to developing evidence-based good practice guidelines and an online module for placement coordinators and host schools'.

This Research Project Aims to:

1. Enable DCU and MIC to further enhance the supports they provide to students with disabilities on school placement
2. Give students, disability officers, academics (lecturers, supervisors, coordinators of school placement) and key stakeholders (participating host schools, principals, class teachers) an opportunity to identify 'what works well' in the school placement process
3. Indicate areas where supports could be developed further
4. Develop a School Placement module (non-accredited) and publish guidelines of good practice in assisting students with disabilities on teaching placements.

Duties and Responsibilities

Please refer to the job description for a list of duties and responsibilities associated with this role.

Qualifications and Experience

Essential:

- A primary degree in education, social science or a related area
- Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong organisational and administrative skills.

Desirable:

- Postgraduate qualification in social research, education evaluation, or related discipline
- Fieldwork experience with and in schools.
- Excellent qualitative and quantitative data analysis skills and proficiency in statistical analysis (using Qualtrics, SPSS, or equivalent packages).
- Ability to work in a team

Mandatory Training

The post holder 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.

This post is subject to Garda vetting.

Salary Scale:

Research Assistant Salary Scale - €26,609 - €35,922.

Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and in line with current Government pay policy

Closing date: 7th July 2021

For more information on DCU and benefits, please visit [Why work at DCU?](#)

Informal Enquiries in relation to this role should be directed to:

Anne O'Connor, Head of Disability Service and Learning Support, Student Support and Development, Dublin City University.

Email: anne.oconnor@dcu.ie

Application Procedure:

Application forms are available from the DCU Current Vacancies website at <https://www.dcu.ie/hr/vacancies-current-vacancies-external-applicants> (external applicants)

Applications should be submitted by e-mail with your completed application form to anne.oconnor@dcu.ie

**Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject line:
Job Ref #RF1525 Research Assistant – SS&D**

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](#)