



Job Description

Research Centre	ADAPT SFI Centre for Digital Media Technology
Post Title	Research Fellow in Science Communication/Science Engagement
Level on Framework	Level 2.
Post Duration	Fixed Term Contract up to 28 Months, 2.5 days per week (0.5 FTE)

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.

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to Researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path. The role may include teaching duties to assist with module delivery.

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.

Project Overview and Role Profile

The ADAPT Centre and the SignON project, sponsored by the European Commission H2020 Project in the ADAPT Centre at Dublin City University, is seeking a Research Fellow in Science Communication up to 28 month fixed-term contract to support the co-creation aspect of a large interdisciplinary research project.

SignON (<https://signon-project.eu/>) - Sign Language Translation Mobile Application and Open Communications Framework - will cross the language barrier between Deaf sign language users, hard of hearing and hearing people. SignON will tear down this information barrier that currently exists.

SignON aims to reduce this gap through a user-centred and community-driven research and development approach. Potential end users are involved right from the start and our methodology is based on a constant exchange of information and ideas between this community and the technical experts.

We tightly collaborate with European deaf and hard of hearing communities to co-design and co-develop the SignON service and application, assess the quality and validate the acceptance.

Using this co-creation strategy, we closely collaborate with European Deaf and hard of hearing communities to co-design and co-develop the SignON service and application; while continually assessing the quality and validating the acceptance of both.

The co-creation cycle focuses on ongoing engagement with volunteers from the Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing user communities, with these engagements taking the form of co-creation events, including workshops, round tables, (online surveys) and interviews. This engagement then informs the formation of user requirements which reflect the features that are desirable to these communities. These requirements are taken into account by the technical team when developing the SignON service

and application. To complete the co-creation cycle, these user communities, in turn, regularly test the quality of the SignON service.

The role will include taking a leadership role in the co-creation process in the SignON Project. In particular, the successful candidate will work at the interface between the Deaf community and scientists in the area of science communication.

Opportunity

This project presents the successful individual with the opportunity to work in an exciting, fast moving and innovative environment, playing a leading role in a research project. The motivation of the team is to grow this research-led initiative into effective commercialisation of the research work products

Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to the SignON Project Principal Investigator, the post holder will undertake the following duties

- Organise events relating to the co-creation process, specifically with the purpose of obtaining feedback from the Deaf community and communicating findings to the technical team, and communicating technical information from the project team to the Deaf community.
- Develop a conceptual framework based on best practice and contemporary theoretical frameworks for the co-creation process.
- Disseminate findings from the research both for an academic community through conferences and peer-reviewed journals, but also to the general public through social media and other outlets.
- Participate in internal/external networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future research collaboration.

The above list of job duties is not exclusive or exhaustive and the successful candidate will be required to undertake such tasks as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post.

Qualifications and Experience

Minimum Criteria

The successful candidate will have a PhD in related discipline, and 4 Years' experience working as a postdoctoral researcher or similar

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

- An excellent track record in science communication and/or science engagement
- Demonstrable track record of creative and innovative approaches to disseminating scientific information or research findings to a lay audience.
- Experience of working in large projects with multiple stakeholders
- Experience of working with disadvantaged populations
- Exceptional organisational skills
- Excellent interactive skills
- Experience of quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis, and presentation of

findings

- Ability to communicate effectively both written and verbally (or through Sign Language)
- An understanding of, or experience working with, the deaf community
- Knowledge of Irish Sign Language or another sign language
- A publication record of international peer-reviewed publication and presentation

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.

Candidates will be assessed on the following competencies:

Discipline knowledge and Research skills – Demonstrates the ability to design and implement part of a programme of research (for example by using critical thinking and the application of relevant research methodologies)

Understanding the Research Environment – Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the research environment both nationally and internationally, and the ability to contribute substantially to grant applications

Communicating Research – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research effectively to the research community and wider society (for example by publishing their research in high quality peer reviewed journals) and the ability to teach and tutor students)

Managing & Leadership skills - Successfully manages research projects including the management and supervision of postgraduates and/or junior research staff