



ADAPT Education and Public Engagement Projects

**Lead
ADAPT**

3 Year Fixed Term Contract

Dublin City University

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 ADAPT Centre

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, Cork Institute of Technology, 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/education, media technologies, virtual and augmented reality, and spoken interaction, as well as driving global standards in content technologies.

ADAPT Centre has an ambitious vision for embedding education and engagement of the Irish public into ADAPT's research activities, and for a STEM-informed workforce that can leverage technology to exploit the opportunities and address the challenges that will arise in the future fusion of digital and real world environments. The ADAPT Education and Public Engagement (EPE) programme will be a key pillar of ADAPT's role in 'future-proofing Ireland'. It aims to enable involvement in technology research by designing and delivering two-way public engagement formats that will result in genuine dialogue and involvement between ADAPT researchers and citizens.

Thus the involvement of the Irish public in ADAPT's research into Digital Media Technology and Artificial intelligence will involve active participation which will lead to (i) the public having a greater understanding of the basic scientific concepts behind digital engagement and acquire skills necessary to engage fully in our digital world (ii) the opportunity to explore and interact with technologies that enable engagement in our digital world (iii) the co-creation or opportunity to contribute to research on the future of safe, user-mediated digital engagement.

The Education and Public Engagement Project Lead will help ensure the effective co-development and delivery of these initiatives, providing organisational and administrative support, engaging relevant communities, sourcing funding, and driving evaluation of outcomes and impact.

Details of our main initiatives are available on our website www.adaptcentre.ie

Role Profile

The Education and Public Engagement Project Lead role will be based at Dublin City University, but the successful candidate should expect to work frequently at our partner institutions. Occasional visits to schools and coordination of public events outside of standard working hours will also be required.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the position include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Play a key role in the strategic development and implementation of the ADAPT EPE Programme and annual operational plans.
- Lead evaluation of outcomes and impact of LEARN and INTERACT pillars and their constituent elements.
- Advise ADAPT EPE Strand Leads on the co-development and delivery of the EPE programme.
- Devise and lead initiatives to ensure a strong participation of ADAPT researchers across ADAPT's 8 academic partner institutions in the co-development and delivery of the EPE programme.
- Develop and implement EPE project plans in conjunction with ADAPT members, industry partners and stakeholders, to deliver EPE projects within each programme in accordance with the ADAPT Vision and Mission and goals.
- Deputise for the EPE Manager at ADAPT Management Committee meetings, SFI EPE Manager meetings, and other relevant meetings and events.
- Project Management of education programmes, including Ireland's largest Science Olympiad (All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad- AILO) and other public-facing programmes, designed to empower the Irish public to engage fully in our rapidly-evolving digital landscape.

- Lead the nationwide AILO workshop programme including designing and developing the workshop materials, training the ADAPT tutors team and working closely with stakeholder groups.
- Enable researchers to create content for different audiences (students, teachers, public) to design and develop online and offline public engagement events by providing expert advice and input.
- Build strong relationships with external stakeholders, including the Department of Education and Skills, schools, teachers' representative organisations, and community groups, to ensure relevance of the ADAPT EPE programme to target audiences.
- Work with the ADAPT Postdoctoral Researcher in EPE and ADAPT researchers to identify Engaged research projects with high potential to build into education and public engagement initiatives or as engaging demonstrations for public events.
- Liaise with the ADAPT Research Development Team to identify and pursue opportunities to secure funding for new EPE initiatives and ensure sustainability of existing EPE initiatives via competitive funding calls, philanthropy, sponsorship or partnerships.
- Provide organisational and administrative support on tracking and reporting of EPE metrics and impact.
- Act as secretary to the ADAPT EPE Committee and the ADAPT EPE Advisory Board.
- With the Head of Education and Public Engagement, work closely with Science Foundation Ireland and with other SFI Centres to appropriately leverage SFI-centred or multi-group EPE activities for maximum impact.
- Coordinate a programme of training to ensure that ADAPT researchers are equipped adequately to develop and deliver EPE interventions.
- Work closely with the ADAPT Marketing and Communications Manager to ensure EPE initiatives and their outcomes are promoted strongly to the public and other relevant stakeholders, and to identify opportunities to influence relevant public policy.
- This role will involve on-going people management of multiple stakeholders, including tutors and interns.

Qualifications and Experience:

Essential Criteria

Candidates must have a Primary Degree or equivalent (NFQ Level 7) in an appropriate area plus 3 years' relevant experience.

Desirable Criteria

The desirable post-holder will hold a postgraduate degree and have substantial relevant work experience in an education, public engagement or stakeholder engagement role in a technology environment. Knowledge of the digital content technology area is highly desirable. The post-holder must be able to demonstrate an ability to forge and maintain excellent working relationships with diverse stakeholders.

In addition, the successful candidate will have:

- Knowledge of and practice in STEM public engagement initiatives.
- Demonstrable ability to forge and maintain excellent working relationships with diverse stakeholders.
- Excellent social, organisational and multitasking skills.
- Proven ability to prioritise workload and work to exacting deadlines.

- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English (essential), and strong communication and social skills, both written and verbal.
- Experience in grant proposal writing and knowledge of Engaged Research methodologies is a distinct advantage.
- Applicants ideally will have a postgraduate qualification in science communication, science education, or a related discipline.
- Knowledge of computational linguistics is a distinct advantage.
- Experience in an academic research environment, particularly related to education or public engagement in research, is highly desirable.