



Applications are invited from suitably qualified staff for the following position:

<b>Research Centre</b>	Office of the Chief Operations Officer
<b>Post title</b>	Research Assistant Sustainability
<b>Post duration</b>	10 Months Fixed Term Contract

### **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.

### **Background & Role**

The Office of the Chief Operations Officer at Dublin City University invites applications for a Research Assistant position as part of an SFI funded project aimed at reducing the negative environmental impacts of laboratories due to their single-use lab plastics, by replacing them with

bioplastic alternatives. The project focuses on a circular economy model where the bioplastic lab consumables can be composted or recycled, thereby reducing the current tonnes of fossil fuel based plastic lab consumables that currently go to incineration. This project will also seek to understand the single use plastic consumption habits in teaching and research labs and design and implement interventions to reduce consumption, thereby reducing single-use waste, and changing the current 'business-as-usual' model to future proofed sustainable models.

This project is seeking the recruitment of a Research Assistant for 10 months March 2022-December 2022, with a specific focus on **communications, engagement and policy**, and working with a multi-disciplinary team from across the university.

### **Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

Responsibilities to include:

- Stakeholder identification and engagement with the lab based plastics ecosystem including manufacturers/suppliers, users including academic that design and supervise laboratory based sessions, laboratory technician and lab users;
- Map current policies and procedures and identify key decision points when and where potential changes could be implemented;
- Mapping the lifecycle of current single use plastics and the alternative(s), this will include carbon foot printing and some lifecycle analysis;
- In collaboration with other team members, undertake baseline assessment on consumption habits;
- Support the design and implementation of interventions along with a monitoring and reporting of impacts;
- Support the communications efforts of the project via monitoring of website and social media platforms;
- Working with the extended team, create media campaigns including articles, tweets etc for publication on website, social media channels, local and national newspapers and referred publications.
- Coordination of the My Green Labs initiative within the associated project laboratories, engaging and supporting these labs to gain My Green Lab certification;
- Identify and develop new policies/procedures/practices that will support the transition from current lab practices drawing on international best practice where feasible.

### **Minimum Criteria**

Applicants should have a Masters in a subject area related to climate change and the challenges of sustainability. In addition, they must have strong communication skills. The position will require strong engagement with a diverse team and an ability to take complicated science and communicate this to all levels.

In addition, it is desirable the candidate has

- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English
- Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- A proven ability to prioritize workload and work to strict deadlines
- An ability to work in as part of a multidisciplinary team and to take responsibility to contribute to the overall success of the team

**Essential Training**

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