



JOB DESCRIPTION

**Senior Occupational Therapist
DCU Ability Project
School of Nursing, Psychotherapy & Community Health
Fixed Term Contract December 2021 to Dec 2022**

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.

The DCU Ability project

The DCU Ability project supports adults with intellectual disabilities. We target participants who may have limited experience of work, and support them to take their first or subsequent steps towards employment. Since 2018, DCU Ability have supported 117 young adults with disabilities aged between 18 and 29 years by offering practical and learner-centred interventions to enable them to move towards their work and education goals. We offer three strands to our programme: a 16-week 'Works for Me' DCU campus course; an 8-week national online 'Introduction to Work' course; and a tailored 'Next Steps' support programme for previous course participants.

Role Profile

The Senior Occupational Therapist role will provide Occupational Therapy supports to enable participation in campus-based, remote learning, and community-based learning opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities. The role will work with participants, employers and support people to enable participants to participate in work experience, internships and employment opportunities. This project has been extended to December 2022 with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund. Further information can be found at <https://www.dcu.ie/ability>.

The role will be based in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health on the Glasnevin campus. The purpose of Occupational Therapy within the project is to assess and support learners to engage in the course activities, particularly activities that will move them closer to employment.

Students who typically join the project include those with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Support is tailored to meet the individual needs of the learner, with the overall objective of supporting them to progress towards employment.

The Senior Occupational Therapist will work with a Specialist Tutor and Careers Advisor. The post holder will be required to work as part of a small busy team and deal with a diverse and sensitive range of inquiries and at times work under pressure. The role will report directly to the Projects Leads.

Duties and Responsibilities

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

Occupational Therapy Process:

The Occupational Therapist will:

- Develop, implement and monitor a project plan with the project leads and team.
- Liaise with relevant individuals to coordinate the delivery of the action points.
- Coordinate and monitor the delivery of the action points in line with established timelines.
- Represent management at meetings where required.
- Manage a caseload of learners with disabilities attending DCU Ability.
- Carry out individual occupational assessments of each student participating in DCU Ability.
- Be responsible for undertaking a relevant and comprehensive assessment of occupational performance/participation and developing goals that are student-centred.
- Provide and evaluate interventions to meet the varied needs of individual learners.
- Apply the therapeutic use of occupation to positively influence health and well-being.

Communication:

The Occupational Therapist will:

- Actively engage in effective therapeutic/professional relationships with learners, colleagues and other agencies.
- Communicate in a clear and effective manner, adapting method of communication to suit individual/group needs.

Practice Responsibilities:

The Occupational Therapist will

- Maintain registration on the Occupational Therapists Register maintained by the Occupational Therapists Registration Board at CORU.
- Promote a safe working environment, sustainable practices, positive staff morale and a culture that values diversity.
- Maintain appropriate service user records, databases and statistics in accordance with programme requirements.

- Collect and evaluate data about the service user group and demonstrate the achievement of the objectives of the service.
- Adhere to the ethical, legal, and professional requirements that inform safe and ethical Occupational Therapy practice.
- Provide support, mentoring, and supervision for assigned staff/Occupational Therapy students.
- Perform such other duties appropriate to the office as may be assigned by the project leads.
- Roles may change in line with the project's requirements and developments. The successful candidate will be expected to show flexibility in line with any changes that may occur and
- carry out duties as assigned by the DCU Ability Project Leads.

Qualifications and Experience

Candidates must possess:

- A primary degree and/or a recognised validated qualification in Occupational Therapy at a similar level.
- Minimum of three years' satisfactory post qualification experience
- Satisfactory experience in intellectual disability occupational therapy practice
- knowledge of disabilities and their effects in education and employment
- Knowledge of relevant legislation and its implementation

This project was approved by Government with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund

