FORAS TAIGHDE AR OIDEACHAS EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE

COLÁISTE PHÁDRAIG · BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 9 ST. PATRICK’S COLLEGE · DUBLIN 9

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**Educational Research Centre**

**vacancies exist for Temporary Research Assistant Posts**

Applicants should have an honours degree (1 or 2:1) in a relevant discipline (e.g., psychology, statistics, education, social science). Advantages will include a post-graduate degree, experience of research, (especially research involving the administration of large-scale data collection, including liaising with schools, and the statistical analysis of large-scale survey data) and/or knowledge of the development of standardised tests.

**Salary Scale: €32,478 – €44,933**

It is anticipated that interviews will be held in early August 2017.

Applications to include a cover letter with a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, **by 12.00 pm on Friday July 28, 2017.**

to: *vacancies@erc.ie*

or by post to: Vacancies, Educational Research Centre, Drumcondra,

St Patrick’s Campus, Dublin 9, D09 AN 2F.

 **A panel will be formed from which future similar vacancies may be filled.**

*(Emailed application will generate an automated response – if you do not receive a response shortly after you submit your application please contact Patricia at 01 837 37 89)*

**Job Specification**

**Research Assistant Posts - Temporary Contract (2 years)**

The Educational Research Centre has been in existence since January 1966 and is located on DCU’s St Patrick’s College campus. It carries out research at all levels of the education system, from preschool to adult. Research is carried out at the request of the Department of Education and Skills or at the request of other agencies (e.g.: NCCA or NCSE) and on the initiative of Centre staff. It also provides an assessment service to the education system by, for example, developing and distributing standardised tests for use by schools. In September 2015, the Centre was established as a Statutory Body in accordance with the Education (1998) Act. Further information is available on the Centre’s website at [www.erc.ie](http://www.erc.ie)

**The Posts**

Successful candidates will be assigned to one or more research or test development projects in the Centre’s work programme. One successful candidate will work mostly on test development.

**Required:**

* An honours degree (1 or 2:1) in a relevant discipline such as psychology, statistics, education, social science
* Excellent statistical analysis skills (including proficiency in SPSS or similar)
* Good writing ability
* Good interpersonal and communication skills, especially the ability to liaise with schools and other educational institutions and/or bodies
* Good planning and organisational skills
* Good personal effectiveness, flexibility and problem-solving
* The ability to work independently and as part of a team

*and at least three of the following:*

* A post-graduate degree
* Experience of database management
* Experience of working in a research environment
* Knowledge of educational issues
* Irish language proficiency
* Knowledge of the construction and standardisation of psychometric tests and, ideally, experience of working in this area.

A current full clean driver’s license and access to a car for occasional work-related purposes are desirable.

**Main Duties**

All successful candidates will be expected to:

* Assist with general administrative work related to projects (e.g. liaison with schools and other agencies/bodies)
* Prepare or adapt instruments (e.g., assessments, questionnaires) to be used in projects
* Assist in the management of large databases
* Attend meetings (occasionally abroad) and liaise with external agencies in relation to assigned projects
* Conduct literature searches and reviews
* Conduct statistical analysis (e.g., using SPSS, HLM, MPLUS) under supervision
* Assist in report writing
* Undertake any other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

If assigned to test development work, the person appointed will also be expected to

* Work with subject specialists in the preparation and review of items for inclusion in standardised achievement tests
* Assist in test standardisations with representative samples of students.

**Salary Scale: €32,478 – €44,933**

Appointment will be made on the Research Assistant Scale at a point in line with current Government Pay Policy.

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The closing date for receipt of application is **12.00 pm on Friday July 28, 2017.**

**The Educational Research Centre is an Equal Opportunities Employer**

Candidates should note that it is anticipated that interviews will be held in early August 2017.