**RESEARCH FELLOW**

Applications are invited for a senior position in the Educational Research Centre on the DCU Drumcondra campus (formerly St Patrick’s College).

**The Centre**

The Educational Research Centre (ERC) is a statutory body responsible for conducting research, assessment and evaluation in education. The ERC was initially established on the campus of St. Patrick’s College, Dublin in 1966 and was subsequently established as an independent statutory agency under the aegis of the Department of Education and Skills in September 2015, by means of the *Educational Research Centre (Establishment) Order 2015, S.I. 392 of 2015.* This Statutory Instrument sets out the functions of the Centre and outlines the roles of members of the Centre’s board and its staff.

The objects of the ERC are to:

* conduct independent research on all aspects of education and at all levels of the education system including research that will inform policy making and the improvement of educational standards
* provide an assessment support service to schools and centres for education (including the development and provision of standardised tests and other assessment instruments).

The Establishment Order also outlines the functions and activities of the Centre including the following:

* carrying out national and international assessments of student attainment and achievement
* evaluating education programmes
* initiating research consistent with the objects of the Centre
* building capacity for research and assessment in education.

## Much of the Centre’s research is done on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills (DES). The Centre also undertakes research for other agencies (e.g., the National Council for Special Education or NCSE). Elements of the research programme are initiated by the Centre itself.

## Standardised tests are made available to schools through the Centre’s Test Department which is located in separate premises on Richmond Road close to the St Patricks campus.

**The Role**

This is a new position and involves working with the Chief Executive Officer, other Research Fellows and the Centre’s Senior Administrator as part of a senior management team.

The person appointed will be party to discussions with the DES about at least some aspects of the Centre’s programme of work for any given year and will be expected to be alert to emerging needs for research in areas and on topics that are relevant to policy and practice in the Irish education system.

Specific responsibilities are likely to include:

* leadership of one of the Centre’s large-scale research and development projects
* initiating new projects
* ensuring that the work of the Centre is disseminated in an appropriate manner
* supervision and mentoring of other staff members including providing support for staff to generate new research
* cooperating with officials of the DES and representatives of other agencies
* representing the Centre on bodies (committees, working groups etc.)
* providing consultancy.

**The Candidate**

The successful candidate will have

* a doctorate in education or related discipline
* experience of at least one of the following, and knowledge of the others: (a) large-scale surveys (b) programme evaluation and (c) test development/computer-based assessment
* an understanding of the complexities of the relationship between research and policy
* knowledge of the international literature on educational research and assessment
* a record of achievement in conducting commissioned research and development projects
* a capacity to generate research
* proven competence in team leadership
* a knowledge of Irish education
* familiarity with governance and corporate matters
* excellent communication skills, especially writing
* a record of publication in the area of educational research
* expertise in advanced statistical methods (e.g., multi-level modelling and scaling).

Essential personal qualities for this role include commitment, patience, empathy, the ability to manage challenging demands and competing priorities and an open-minded approach to problem solving.

Appointment will be made on the appropriate point of the Research Fellow scale (€65,864 to €97,137), in line with current Government pay policy.

Applications to include a cover letter with a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees **by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 13 June 2018**

to vacancies@erc.ie or by post to : Vacancies, Educational Research Centre, Drumcondra, St Patrick’s Campus, Dublin 9, D09 AN 2.

**Candidates should note that interviews will be held as soon as possible.**

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