

**EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE (ERC)
VACANCY FOR RESEARCH FELLOW POST (METHODOLOGIES) (SPECIFIED PURPOSE)**

Background

The Educational Research Centre (ERC) was established as a Statutory Body in accordance with the Education Act (1998) in September 2015, but has been in existence since January 1966, and is located on Dublin City University's (DCU) St Patrick's College Campus in Drumcondra. Research is carried out at the request of the Department of Education and Skills or other agencies (e.g., NCCA or NCSE) and on the initiative of ERC staff. The ERC also provides an assessment service to the education system by, for example, developing and distributing standardised tests for use by schools. Further information, including the ERC's strategic plan (2019-2021), is available on the ERC's website at www.erc.ie.

Job specification

Applications are invited for a senior research position with expertise in educational research methodologies.

This position involves working collaboratively with the Chief Executive Officer, other Research Fellows and research staff, and the Centre's Senior Administrator as part of the senior research and management team.

Core responsibilities include:

- oversight of technical and methodological aspects of the Centre's work, in particular the analysis and scaling of large-scale national assessment data
- development of the Centre's strategic vision for enhancing methodologies/analysis
- supervision and mentoring of other staff members to build capacity in technical and analytic skills.

The appointment is made on a specified purpose basis (career break of existing post-holder) subject to successful completion of a 6-month probation period. Please note that non-return from career break will not automatically give rise to a permanent contract.

A panel may be formed from which future similar vacancies may be filled. The panel will remain in place for 12 months from the closing date for applications and may be extended for a further 6 months.

This is a technical post for which specific qualifications, skills and experience are required. The successful candidate should have all of the following:

- a minimum of five years of experience in scoring and scaling of large-scale cognitive assessments using both classical test and item response theory (IRT)
- a minimum of five years of experience in sample design and weighting of large-scale stratified clustered samples
- a doctorate in educational measurement or related discipline (e.g. psychology, statistics, assessment)
- proven capacity to mentor, teach and/or support others in quantitative data analysis
- proven capacity to generate research

- experience in documenting technical aspects of research (e.g. sampling, weighting, test development and scaling, procedural manuals)
- a high level of proficiency in writing customised code or macros in one or more statistical software programmes, including IBM SPSS Statistics
- willingness to travel (possibly occasionally outside Ireland) to attend project meetings
- the potential to articulate strategic priorities for the methodological aspects of the ERC's programme of work.

It would be an advantage for candidates to possess one or more of the following:

- analysis of large-scale/complex datasets
- experience in both computer-based and paper-based assessment design and data analysis
- experience working with a variety of educational outcomes (i.e. not solely achievement or attainment data)
- experience working with qualitative data and software applications (e.g. NVivo).

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

Salary Scale:

The appointment will be made on the Research Fellow Scale (**€66,523 – €98,109**) to the Public Sector at a point in line with current Government Pay Policy, with new entrants commencing at the first point of the scale.

Consideration will be given to making the appointment on the ERC's Research Associate Scale (**€48,186 – €70,415**) in the event that not all essential requirements are met.

Applications must include:

- cover letter that describes how the applicant's skills and experience meet the requirements for the post
- curriculum vitae
- names and contact details of two referees.

CLOSING DATE: 5.00 PM, FRIDAY 26 JULY, 2019.

It is anticipated that interviews will be held about two weeks after the closing date.

Shortlisting will apply.

to: vacancies@erc.ie , quoting 'Research Fellow Methodology Post' in the subject heading.

(Emailed applications should generate an automated response – if you do not receive a response shortly after you submit your application contact Patricia Gaffney at 01 8065 219.)

The ERC provides a flexible, dynamic and challenging working environment and is an equal opportunities employer.