



Finance Executive Officer

Full-time, Permanent

GENERAL JOB SPECIFICATION Duties and Terms & Conditions of Employment

1. PREAMBLE

Mary Immaculate College is an autonomous, university-level, Catholic College of Education and the Liberal Arts. Founded in 1898, and linked academically with the University of Limerick, MIC is the oldest higher education institution in Limerick. Significant expansion in recent decades has seen the College's offerings expand across two modern campuses, one based in Limerick City and one in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The student community consists of more than 5,000 learners, participating in fifteen undergraduate degree programmes and several postgraduate programmes extending to PhD/Doctoral level. Academic staff engage in a wide range of academic research areas, and research underpins all teaching and learning at MIC.

MIC seeks to prepare its students for professional excellence and to nurture their capacity to lead flourishing lives.

2. CANDIDATE PROFILE AND SCOPE OF THE POSITION

Mary Immaculate College wishes to make an appointment to the post of Finance Executive Officer on a full-time, permanent basis. The appointment will be at Executive Officer grade and in the area of Student Finance.

Essential Qualifications, Experience & Skills:

- 1) A relevant third level qualification at level 6 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications **and** a minimum of 2 years' relevant experience, preferably in a large finance office or third level education administrative setting.

or

A minimum of 5 years' relevant experience, preferably in a large finance office or third level education administrative setting;

- 2) Excellent IT skills, in particular a high degree of proficiency in MS Excel;
- 3) Experience in the use of integrated financial management systems, preferably for a large organisation;
- 4) Strong communication (written and verbal) skills and excellent interpersonal skills;
- 5) Proven administrative and organisational skills with the ability to prioritise, manage and complete a variety of tasks on time;
- 6) A high level of numeracy, accuracy and attention to detail;

- 7) Excellent problem-solving capabilities with an aptitude for process optimisation and improvement;
- 8) A proven ability to work effectively and efficiently as part of a team and on own initiative.

It is desirable that candidates will also have:

- 9) Experience in the use of Agresso or Student Records Systems;
- 10) Supervisory management experience.

3. JOB DESCRIPTION

Reporting Relationship

The appointee is required to carry out the duties attached to the post, under the general direction of the Finance Manager, to whom they report to, and to whom they are responsible to for the performance of these duties in the first instance. The appointee will also have a reporting relationship to a Senior Finance Manager and Director of Finance.

The appointee will report through the Finance Manager, to the College President and/or to such other College Officers as the President may designate from time to time. They will liaise with the Deans of Arts and Education, Heads of Departments, Course Leaders, Heads of Professional Services functions, and other College personnel and relevant College bodies in carrying out the duties attaching to the post.

The reporting relationship is subject to review and may be altered from time to time, in line with service needs and developments in the College.

Duties and Responsibilities

The general duties of a Finance Executive Officer are as follows – a detailed job description will be provided for each role:

Duties and Responsibilities – Finance Executive Officer

- Responsible for the planning, co-ordination, implementation and performing data validation checks of finance processes within area of responsibility, including regular cross departmental communication ensuring all deadlines are met.
- Manage financial systems processes within area of responsibility, including daily, weekly, monthly and annual tasks to ensure correct functioning of financial systems processes.
- Preparation of regular reconciliations.
- Supervision of and delegation to clerical officer staff.
- Ensure GDPR compliance.
- Maintain up-to-date procedures, policies and cross-training for finance processes.
- Assist Finance Manager in maintaining the Finance Internal Control Framework (ICF).
- Liaise with auditors.
- Continuously work as part of a team within the finance department to identify and progress areas for improvement/development.
- Other tasks, including project work, as directed by the Finance Manager or Senior Finance Manager.

The initial assignment of the post-holder will entail the discharge of the list of duties and responsibilities for the Student Finance. However, this is subject to reassignment to another Executive Officer role within Finance as service needs dictate:

Duties and Responsibilities – Student Finance

- Responsible for the planning, co-ordination, implementation and performing data validation checks of all student finance processes, including regular cross departmental communication ensuring all deadlines are met.
- Manage Student Record Systems processes, including daily, weekly, monthly and annual tasks to ensure correct functioning of Student Record Systems processes.
- Preparation of student finance supporting documentation for publication on the MIC website and intranet.
- Preparation of regular reconciliations across the student finance function.
- Supervision of and delegation to clerical officer staff.
- Oversight of the Student Finance Department email accounts.
- Regular debt collection in line with MIC governing policy.
- Ensuring student accounts are accurate, including review of receipt allocation, refund processing, invoice and credit note creation, sponsorship allocation and reconciliation of same.
- The creating & sending of bulk email & text messages to students.
- Fee status assessment for HEA Free Fees Initiative (FFI) & non-EU nationals.
- Attendance at MIC information/open days and contribution to student orientation & new academic year prospectus & student handbook (shared).
- Ensure GDPR compliance.
- Maintain up-to-date procedures, policies and cross-training for all student finance processes.
- Assist Finance Manager in maintaining the Finance Internal Control Framework (ICF) for Student Finance.
- Liaise with auditors.
- Continuously work as part of a team within the finance department to identify and progress areas for improvement/development.
- Other tasks, including project work, as directed by the Finance Manager (Student Finance Operations) or Senior Finance Manager (Planning and Revenue).

The list of duties and responsibilities as detailed is not exhaustive. The performance of the entire range of duties is not necessarily confined to any one individual, as the work requires that staff function in a flexible manner, and work together as a team. The College retains the right to assign new duties and/or to re-assign staff to other areas of the College, in response to service needs.

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

General

All persons employed will sign an appropriate contract, which will contain terms and conditions of the employment. A job description is given to all applicants for employment and this will form part of the contract documentation.

Place of Work

The appointee's place of work will be Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. The College reserves the right to require the appointee to work from any other location. It is a requirement of the College that the appointee must reside within a reasonable distance of the College.

MIC operates a blended working policy, which offers scope for the post holder to combine office attendance with remote working, subject to the provisions of the policy.

Exclusivity of Service and Outside Work

The person appointed will be required to devote their full-time attention and abilities to their duties during their working hours in the College and to act in the best interest of the College at all times. Therefore, for as long as the successful applicant is working in the College, they may not, without the prior written consent of the Vice President Administration and Finance (VPAF), be actively engaged or concerned in any way, either directly or indirectly, in any other business or undertaking where this is or is likely to be in conflict with the College's interests or the performance of the duties that the person has been employed for.

The appointee will not, during their tenure of office, undertake paid outside work unless they have received the permission of the VPAF of Mary Immaculate College to undertake such work on the terms and conditions as agreed for the particular undertaking in question. In every case, it is the duty of the appointee to seek in writing the prior permission of the VPAF. It is also the duty, in every case, of the appointee to inform the person or body for whom the work is being undertaken, that the work is being conducted in a private capacity and that the College cannot in any circumstances be responsible for such work.

Probationary Period

The appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of the standard 6-month probationary period. The probationary period may be extended at the discretion of the College but will not in any case exceed 11 months. Absences during the period of probation will extend the probationary period. Performance and conduct during the probationary period will be monitored through a process of assessment meetings. Termination of the appointment during the probationary period, for any reason or no reason, will be at the discretion of the College. The disciplinary procedure will not apply to a dismissal during probation where the probationary employee has been employed by MIC for less than 12 months.

Hours of Attendance

The full-time working hours are 35 hours per week.

The normal hours of duty are Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 05:00 pm, with a 1-hour unpaid lunch break each day and Friday, 9.00 am to 4.45 pm with a 45-minute unpaid lunch break. However, the duties attaching to the position are such that the post holder may be required to work evenings/weekends on occasion to accommodate service needs. Subject to College policy, the post holder may avail of "Time-Off-In-Lieu (TOIL)" or overtime where working hours exceed the contract hours per week.

The College reserves the right to adjust starting and finishing times or days of duty to meet service needs.

Salary

The Salary scale for this position has been approved by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Higher Education Authority in line with Government Policy on Public Sector remuneration. The rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy. The appointment will be made on the salary scale at a point in line with current Government Pay Policy. New entrants to the Civil or Public Sector, as defined in Circular 18/2010, will commence on the first point of the salary scale.

This post is at Executive Officer grade. With effect from 1st June 2024, the annual salary scale for Executive Officer (Non-New Entrants Grossed up) is:

€36,820; €39,050; €41,167; €43,066; €44,900; €46,729; €48,518; €50,327; €52,097; €53,974; €55,233; €57,027(LSI 1); €58,831 (LSI 2).

With effect from 1st June 2024, the annual salary scale for Executive Officer (New Entrants Grossed up) is:

€33,853; €36,044; €36,820; €39,050; €41,167; €43,066; €44,900; €46,729; €48,518; €50,327; €52,097; €53,974; €55,233; €57,027 (LSI 1), €58,831 (LSI 2).

Increments are awarded in line with national pay agreements.

Salary will be paid on a monthly basis on the 25th of each month, or the previous Friday if 25th falls on a weekend, using the Paypath facility. Payment of salaries and wages are subject to statutory deductions, i.e. Income Tax (PAYE), Superannuation Contributions, Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) and Universal Social Charge (USC).

Superannuation

New entrants appointed will be required to participate in the Single Public Service Pension Scheme and pay Superannuation contributions at the appropriate rates in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act, 2012. Details of this scheme can be obtained from the College's website.

All other eligible appointees are automatically included in the Colleges of Education Pension Scheme on taking up appointment. In compliance with the Colleges of Education Pension Scheme, deductions amounting to 6.5% are made from salary. Details of the regulations concerning the Colleges of Education Pension Scheme may be obtained from the College's Human Resources Office.

The appointee will be required to pay Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) under the provisions of the Public Service and Pensions Act 2017.

Appointees who commenced employment in the public service between 1st April 2004 and 31st December 2012 and have not had a break in employment of greater than 6 months will have no mandatory retirement age. All other appointees will have a mandatory retirement age of 70.

Pension Abatement

If an appointee has previously been employed in the Civil or Public Service and that appointee is entitled to or in receipt of a pension from the Civil or Public Service or where a Civil/Public Service pension comes into

payment during the appointee's re-employment that pension will be subject to abatement in accordance with Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012.

Please note: In applying for this position, the applicant is acknowledging that they understand that the abatement provisions, where relevant, will apply. It is not envisaged that the College will support an application for an abatement waiver in respect of appointments to this position.

Annual Leave

The annual leave entitlement for this grade is 25 working days per leave year. Annual leave should be taken when students are off campus and the taking of leave must have the prior approval of the relevant Line Manager.

Public Holidays are granted in accordance with the provisions of the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997.

Sick Leave

There is a discretionary sick pay scheme, details of which are available from the Human Resources Office. Employees who have a minimum 3 months' continuous employment with the College may be granted sick pay subject to the terms of the Public Service Sick Leave Scheme. Sick pay is contingent on full cooperation and compliance with the College's absence management procedures.

Confidentiality

In the course of working in Mary Immaculate College, the person appointed may have access to or hear information concerning staff and/or students and/or the functioning and the business of the College. Such information acquired in the course of employment with the College, including any aspect of the College's responsibilities or operations, is considered to be confidential information. On no account must information concerning students, staff or other College business be divulged or discussed except in the performance of normal duties and, unless authorised to do so, this information shall not be communicated to a third party. In addition, records must never be left in a manner that unauthorised persons can obtain access to them and must be kept in safe custody when no longer required.

Health & Safety

Mary Immaculate College attaches the highest regard to the safety, health and welfare of its employees. It is the duty of each employee to take reasonable care to protect the health and safety of themselves and of other people in the workplace. Each employee must comply with all health and safety policies and procedures in operation in Mary Immaculate College and familiarise themselves with the Safety Statement.

Employees are obliged to wear any PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) that they may be provided with and no person shall intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse any appliance, protective clothing or other equipment provided in the workplace for health and safety purposes. Employees are statutorily/legally obliged to ensure that any accidents/incidents which may occur are reported promptly to the Health and Safety Officer on the MIC Accident/Incident Report Form.

College Policies, Rules and Regulations

The College is a Public Sector employer and is bound by National Agreements. It is also bound by regulations, circulars and directives issued on behalf of Government by the Department of Finance, the Department of Education, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Higher Education Authority.

Employees are at all times subject to the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Staff, College policies, rules and regulations. These policies include but are not confined to Disciplinary & Grievance Policies, Dignity at Work, Examination Rules & Regulations, Policy on Responsible Computing and Use of Information Technology Facilities. All employees are required to familiarise themselves with the contents of Policies and Procedures, available on the College's Staff Portal.

Termination of Employment

At least 2 calendar months' written notice is required to resign this post.

On the termination of employment but before departing from the College, staff members are required to return to the College all books, reports, memoranda, correspondence, papers, records, reports, files including data held on electronic files, computer disks, electronically recorded discs, and any other documentation, and all other property, including office keys, belonging to the College or relating to its business or affairs which are in the possession of a staff member or under their control when the employment is terminated.

5. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Method of Selection for Recommendation

Shortlisting

An expert group will convene to conduct shortlisting of applicants, measured against pre-determined criteria.

The criteria that will be used to shortlist candidates for this appointment are:

- A relevant third level qualification at level 6 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications and a minimum of 2 years' relevant experience, preferably in a large finance office or third level education administrative setting.

or

A minimum of 5 years' relevant experience, preferably in a large finance office or third level education administrative setting;

- Excellent IT skills, in particular a high degree of proficiency in MS Excel;
- Experience in the use of integrated financial management systems, preferably for a large organisation;
- Excellent problem-solving capabilities with an aptitude for process optimisation and improvement;

Normally, the number of applications received for a position exceeds that required to fill the position. While a candidate may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the position are such that it would not be practical to interview everyone, the College may decide that a limited number will be called to interview. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable to undertake the job, rather that there are some candidates, based on their application, appear to be better qualified and/or have more relevant experience. It is incumbent, therefore upon the applicant, to ensure that all relevant information is included in their application and that they clearly identify how they meet the specified candidate criteria.

The selection process may include an aptitude assessment of one or more of the essential competencies for the post.

Interview

A recommendation for appointment will be made by an Interview Board. The appointment will be based on this recommendation, except where considerations of health or an unsuitable record in previous employment warrants a departure. A panel will be formed from which appointments to the position of **Finance Executive Officer** may be filled during the life of the panel (12 months).

Candidates must produce satisfactory documentary evidence of all training and experience claimed by them, if required.

Pre-Employment Health Assessment

For the purpose of satisfying requirements as to health, successful candidates, before being appointed, may be required to participate in pre-employment health screening.

Garda Vetting

Successful applicants may be required to participate in Garda vetting. Specific instruction on this process will be given at the appropriate time. Applicants who do not comply with the College's requirements in this regard will be excluded from consideration for appointment. Applicants who have resided outside Ireland for a cumulative period of 36 months or more over the age of 18 years must furnish a Foreign Police Clearance (FPC) from the country or countries of residence. Please note that any costs incurred in this process will be borne by the applicant.

Applicants Outside European Economic Area (EEA)

Mary Immaculate College welcomes applications from candidates outside the EEA, however such applicants should familiarise themselves with relevant Government policy before making an application. Further information from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is available here: [Economic migration policy - DETE \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](https://www.enterprise.gov.ie/en/economic-migration-policy)

Making of Applications

Applications must be submitted on an official application form in typed format. Handwritten or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Application forms for this post may be downloaded from the Mary Immaculate College website - www.mic.ul.ie/about-mic/vacancies Applications must be submitted by e-mail to recruitment@mic.ul.ie with the subject title **Finance Executive Officer** - no later than:

2pm on Thursday, 1st August 2024

The Human Resources Office will acknowledge receipt of your application by sending an email to the email address provided. Please be sure to check Spam and Junk folders as it may be redirected here by your account preferences. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your application form within 2 working days, please contact hr@mic.ul.ie.

Late applications will not be accepted.

The College will not be responsible for any expenses, including travelling expenses, which candidates may incur in connection with their candidature.

Any attempt by a candidate either personally or through any other person, on their behalf, to canvass or otherwise influence the outcome of the selection/interview process in their favour will lead to disqualification from the competition. Any representations made on behalf of a candidate, without their knowledge will be ignored.

Mary Immaculate College is an equal opportunities employer. Mary Immaculate College holds an Athena SWAN Bronze Institution award in recognition of our commitment to advancing equality and opportunity for all in higher education.

July 2024