



ASSISTANT LECTURER/LECTURER IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY WITH EXPERTISE IN RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

(1 Year Fixed Term, Part-Time Post – 0.5FTE)

JOB SPECIFICATION

1. PREAMBLE

Mary Immaculate College (MIC) 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 proliferate across two impressive campuses, one based in the heart of Limerick City and one in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The diverse student community is made up of more than 5,000 learners, participating in nine undergraduate degree programmes and a multiplicity of postgraduate opportunities extending to doctoral level. Academic staff are engaged in a wide range of research interests which underpins all teaching and learning at the College.

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 appoint an Assistant Lecturer/Lecturer in Educational Psychology with expertise in Research Methodology on a one year fixed term, part-time basis, for the academic year 2020/2021. This role will commence in **Autumn 2020**.

The Department of Educational Psychology, Inclusion and Special Education, Faculty of Education is seeking applications from dynamic, motivated, experienced psychologists. The successful candidate will play a key role in the delivery of the Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology (DECPsy) programme.

The DECPsy programme is a three-year, full-time professional training course. The programme, which is accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland, is designed to prepare trainees for practice as educational psychologists in a range of settings.

Commitment to high-quality teaching and learning in a student-centred environment is important. Enthusiasm for a multi-disciplinary environment is essential as the appointee will be required to liaise with staff across the Faculty. The person appointed must exhibit evidence of strong commitment to excellence in teaching, research and continued scholarly activity.

Essential Qualifications & Skills (i.e. those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. Applications that have not clearly demonstrated that candidates possess the essential requirements will not be shortlisted):

In order to be considered for this post, applicants must have:

1. Doctorate/PhD in Psychology, which is recognised by the Psychological Society of Ireland, the British Psychological Society or equivalent **or** evidence of significant progress towards a doctorate
2. Experience in teaching and research supervision in psychology
3. Experience in the use of a range of statistical packages and research tools and platforms such as SPSS, NVivo and Qualtrics
4. Experience in the teaching of quantitative, qualitative **or** mixed methods research methods (with a preference for quantitative)
5. Research experience and a demonstrated ability to publish research in internationally recognised journals
6. Knowledge of contemporary developments in the field of Research Methods and Psychology

In additional it is desirable that applicants will have:

- Experience in the coordination of research at doctoral level
- Inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge inmhianaithe – competence in Irish.

Candidates must clearly indicate in their applications how they meet each of the above criteria. Candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of essential and may be shortlisted on the basis of desirable criteria

3. JOB DESCRIPTION

Reporting Relationship

The appointee is required to carry out the duties attached to the post, under the general direction of the Head, Department of Educational Psychology, Inclusive and Special Education to whom he/she reports, and to whom he/she is responsible to for the performance of these duties in the first instance. The appointee will report through the Head of Department to the Dean of Education and to the College President and/or such other College Officers as the President may designate from time to time.

He/she will liaise with the Heads of Departments and those in leadership/management positions within the Faculty of Education, the Dean of Education, and other College personnel and with relevant College bodies in carrying out the duties attaching to the post. In the case of there being a crossover in terms of the duties and responsibilities of other post holders within the College, the College President will adjudicate on same.

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

Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinating, organising and monitoring the research project process for the Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology
- Programme/module design, lecturing, tutorial work, and examining in Educational and Child Psychology for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes

- Development of innovative teaching and learning strategies
- Working in a multidisciplinary environment and leading in the review and support of ethical clearance for undergraduate and postgraduate research
- Supervising research projects at undergraduate, master's and doctoral level
- Engaging in all the administrative duties/processes of the programme/department including participation in meetings of the team, department, Faculty of Education, and other groupings
- Attendance and participation in all meetings of Examination Boards
- Consultation with students and the broader learning community
- Co-ordinating programmes within the Faculty of Education.

The duties may also include lecturing on the undergraduate (B.Ed., B.Ed. in Education and Psychology and the BA in ECCE), postgraduate programmes in Education (including the PME, diploma, MEd and Structured PhD programmes), participating in the delivery of part-time and out-of-semester programmes, as well as other programmes to which the Faculty of Education may provide a service. The person appointed will contribute to course design and policy formation at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The list of the duties pertaining to this post 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 primary place of work will be Mary Immaculate College, Limerick while there may be an occasional requirement to deliver programmes on our Thurles campus. 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 commutable distance of the College.

Due to current public health restrictions the appointee may be required to work from home for some or all of the time until such time as the College campus reopens.

Exclusivity of Service and Outside Work

The person appointed will be required to devote his/her full-time attention and abilities to his/her duties during his/her 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, he/she may not, without the prior written consent of the College, 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.

Apart from the occasional giving of lectures elsewhere, the writing of books and occasional literary materials, the appointee will not, during his/her tenure of office, undertake paid outside work unless he/she has received the permission of Vice President Academic Affairs (VPAA) 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 VPAA. 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

All appointments are subject to satisfactory completion of a 9 month probationary period. The probationary period may be extended at the discretion of the College but will not in any case exceed 11 months. For appointments which are less than 9 months, probation will apply to the full period of employment. 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 employment during the probationary period will be at the discretion of the College. An abridged version of the disciplinary procedure will apply to employees on probation who have been employed by the College for less than 12 months.

Hours of Attendance

The appointee will be required to work 39 hours per fortnight and is expected to be habitually present and available to staff and students alike. The appointee may be required to work occasional evenings and weekends.

Academic staff members are required to supply students with an MIC e-mail address at which they can be contacted. They must also provide the College Authorities with a telephone number at which he/she may be contacted during non-semester times. However, under no circumstances will contact telephone numbers be given to students by College Authorities.

Salary

The salary scales for this position have been approved by the Department of Education & Skills in line with Government Policy on Public Sector remuneration. The annual salary for the post may be increased or decreased in line with Government Policy on Public Sector remuneration. In keeping with all other branches of the Civil and Public Service, individual bargaining for salary increases is not allowed. 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.

With effect from 1st September, 2019, the annual salary scale for Assistant Lecturer is:

€44,452; €47,288; €49,276; €52,427; €55,667; €61,033; €68,000; €70,946; €73,884; €76,837; €79,769 (11 points) New Entrant

€49,275; €52,427; €55,667; €61,033; €68,000; €70,946; €73,884; €76,837; €79,769 (9 points)

With effect from 1st September, 2019, the annual salary scale for Lecturer is:

€53,099; €62,533; €65,879; €68,182; €71,449; €74,722; €77,979; €81,236; €84,492 (9 points)

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.

Staff who are not eligible for membership of the Colleges' of Education Pension Scheme or the Single Public Service Pension Scheme may avail of a PRSA (Personal Retirement Savings Account). A designated PRSA provider has been nominated by the College and staff who are not eligible for membership of the aforementioned schemes should contact the Finance Office for further information on PRSA.

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

Annual Leave

In addition to Public Holidays, a minimum of 20 working days will be allowed per annum. 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

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 Colleges absence management procedures.

Termination of Employment

At least **three** 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 his/her control when the employment is terminated.

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 him/herself 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 & Skills 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 policies are outlined on the College's Staff Portal for College employees. All employees are required to familiarise themselves with the contents of Policies and Procedures, on the College's Staff Portal.

5. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Method of Selection for Recommendation

Shortlisting

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

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

Competence in Irish

Competence in Irish will be assessed using the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG). An additional ten percent (10%) will be added to the interview score for candidates who have achieved Bonnleibhéal 2 (A2) **or** higher in TEG. The TEG assessment must have been completed in the three years immediately preceding the date of interview.

This is an optional assessment and it is not obligatory for applicants to have competence in Gaeilge for this post.

Applicants should note that the scheduling of TEG assessments is entirely outside the control of the College. Where an applicant has not already completed the TEG and no TEG assessment is scheduled before applicants present for interview, then it will not be possible for the College to award any additional marks for competence in Gaeilge.

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 for the position of Assistant Lecturer/Lecturer in Educational Psychology with expertise in Research Methodology will be filled during the life of the panel (12 months).

Medical Examination

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

Garda Vetting

All successful applicants will 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.

Making of Applications

Applications must be submitted in typed format. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Applications will be acknowledged within 2 working days of submission. 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 within 2 working days of submitting your application please contact the HR Office by emailing hr@mic.ul.ie.

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 **Assistant Lecturer/Lecturer in Educational Psychology with expertise in Research Methodology** no later than:

2pm on Thursday, 23rd July 2020

Late applications **cannot** be accepted.

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

Canvassing will disqualify. 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 his/her favour will lead to disqualification from the competition. Any representations made on behalf of a candidate, without his/her 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 2020