



FINANCE MANAGER (Accountant) (HIGHER EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

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 menu of educational programmes expand 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 twelve undergraduate degree programmes and a wide range of postgraduate programmes up to and including doctoral level. Academic staff members engage in professional academic research activities, and research 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 & SCOPE OF THE POSITION

Mary Immaculate College wishes to fill a specified purpose contract post for an Accountant (Finance Manager) for a minimum of seven months or the duration of statutory leave commencing in **May 2024**.

The successful applicant for the position of Finance Manager (Planning, Revenue & Business Support) will be required to support financial planning, have responsibility for accounting for College revenue streams and provide finance business support to business units as required. The appointee will report to a Senior Finance Manager and provide support and assistance to the Director of Finance and the Vice-President, Administration and Finance as required.

Essential Qualifications, Experience & Skills:

1. Full membership of a prescribed accountancy body supervised by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority
2. A minimum of 3 years post qualification accountancy/audit experience
3. Experience in year-end/financial close processes, including preparation of account reconciliations and audit working papers and audit engagement

4. Detailed knowledge and understanding of finance processes, and experience in the development of policies and standard operating procedures
5. Detailed knowledge and understanding of financial risk management, experience of internal control testing and risk assessment and the management and development of systems of financial internal control
6. Experience in the preparation of financial reports, budgets and financial proposals
7. Excellent IT skills including expertise in integrated financial management systems (e.g Agresso, SAP, Oracle, or similar), with experience of data analysis to support management reporting and decision making and advanced experience using Microsoft Office
8. Excellent analytical skills with the ability to devise and implement appropriate solutions to complex problems, including the capacity to make sound judgements on technical accounting issues, and an aptitude for process optimisation and improvement
9. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to adapt communication style and technique to a wide variety of College contexts;
10. Excellent organisational skills with the ability to work under pressure, adhere to strict deadlines and prioritise
11. Excellent supervisory management experience and people management skills with the ability to provide guidance and direction to others

In addition, it is desirable that candidates will also have:

1. Previous relevant experience in the higher education or broader public sector and a working knowledge of the higher education sector governance and regulatory framework
2. Experience or familiarity with the Agresso financial system and/or Student Records system

*Cuirfear fáilte roimh iarratais ó dhaoine go bhfuil dearcadh dearfach acu i leith na Gaeilge.
Applications are welcome from people who have a positive outlook to Irish.*

Please note that current government policy may have implications for the re-employment of applicants who are currently in receipt of a public sector pension.

3. JOB DESCRIPTION

Reporting Relationship

An appointee to the post of Finance Manager will be required to carry out the duties attached to the post, under the general direction of the Senior Finance Manager to whom they are responsible to for the performance of these duties in the first instance. The appointee will also provide support to the Director of Finance and the Vice-President, Administration & Finance.

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

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 – Finance Manager

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

- Provide comprehensive and confidential financial support to the Senior Finance Manager and Director of Finance
- Management and development of systems to ensure complete and accurate recognition of College income and expenditure
- Supervise Finance staff as required
- Ensure an accurate and complete record of all finance transactions, including preparation or review of bank and other account reconciliations
- Preparation of reconciliations and reports for external bodies
- Manage the collection processes for debt
- Develop and maintain policies and standard operating procedures for finance processes
- Manage and promote the use of intranet solutions including development and maintenance of the relevant section of a Finance SharePoint page
- Manage content of the relevant section of the Finance section of the MIC website
- Identify and/or support quality improvement projects within the Finance function
- Preparation of working papers for management accounts and annual financial statements for areas of responsibility, ensuring prepared in accordance with best practice and recognised standards
- Provide support for annual external C&AG audit and internal audit reviews
- Preparation of budgets and forecasts
- Provide finance business support to budget holders
- Maintenance of Finance Internal Control Framework in order to monitor and identify risk areas and manage a programme of internal control testing
- Liaise with external bodies and organisations, as appropriate, in regard to financial matters
- Deal with students and faculty, and clients of the College
- Assist in the drawing up of reports for funding and other agencies
- Promote and encourage staff development and training
- Any other project work as directed by line manager
- Continuously work as part of a team with Senior Finance Manager and/or Director of Finance and other Finance Department staff

Duties and Responsibilities – Finance Manager (Planning, Revenue & Business Support)

- Provide comprehensive and confidential financial support to the Senior Finance Manager (Planning & Revenue) and Director of Finance
- Management and development of systems/processes to ensure complete and accurate recognition of grant income and other sources of college income
- Support the College budget function, including collation of budgets & forecasts from all Finance areas
- Support the Senior Finance Manager to develop/source a Budget & Forecasting model
- Prepare HEA grant income and other income budgets and forecasts
- Support preparation of postgraduate programme budgets and support preparation of budgets for new undergraduate programmes
- Preparation of conference budgets
- Support development and maintenance of a Resource Allocation Model (RAM)
- Provide support for the International Office (IO) in preparation and review of annual operations budget, including financial management of all IO programmes
- Finance business support to Academic Faculties, Academic Support Services & Student Services
- Supervise staff as required
- Provide support and backfill to other Finance Managers as required
- Preparation of bank and other account reconciliations
- Preparation of state funded grant reports and reconciliations
- Manage the collection processes for revenue streams
- Manage VAT on income, in compliance with taxation rules
- Develop & maintain policies and standard operating procedures for revenue processes
- Development and maintenance of a Finance-Revenue SharePoint page and Finance-Revenue section within MIC website
- Identify and/or support quality improvement projects within the Finance-Planning & Revenue functions
- Preparation of working papers for management accounts and annual financial statements for areas of responsibility, ensuring prepared in accordance with best practice and recognised standards
- Manage external audit and internal audit reviews for areas of responsibility
- Ownership of Finance Internal Control Framework for areas of responsibility in order to monitor and identify risk areas and oversee a programme of internal control testing
- Liaise with external bodies and organisations, as appropriate, in regard to financial matters
- Deal with students and faculty, and clients of the College
- Prepare Reports/Statistics submissions to the College and other external bodies
- Promote and encourage staff development and training
- Continuously work as part of a team with Senior Finance Manager, Director of Finance and other Finance Department staff

The duties are broadly defined and the list of duties is not exhaustive. The performance of the entire range of duties is not necessarily confined to any one individual, as the work requires that the 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. The Director of Finance reserves the right to reassign Finance Managers on a permanent or temporary basis, as necessitated by operational 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, 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 Vice President Administration and Finance (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

Full time hours are 35 hours per week.

The normal hours of duty are Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5.00pm with a 1-hour lunch break and Friday 9am to 4.45pm with a 45-minute lunch break each day. 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 35 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 003/2023**, will commence on the first point of the salary scale.

This post is at Higher Executive Officer (HEO) grade. With effect from 1st October 2023, the annual salary scale for Higher Executive Officer (Grossed up) is:

€54,766, €56,365, €57,963, €59,560, €61,160, €62,759, €64,357, €66,666, LSI 1 €66,666, LSI 2 €68,969

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

The successful applicant will continue to be a member of the superannuation scheme in which they are registered

Annual Leave

The annual leave entitlement for this grade is **27** 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 Colleges 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 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.

Termination of Employment

At least one 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:

1. A relevant third level qualification at level 8 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

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 temporary appointments to the position of Finance Manager (Accountant) 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.

Medical Examination

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.

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 Manager (Accountant)** - no later than:

2p.m. on Wednesday 17th April 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.

March 2024