



STUDENT PLACEMENT OFFICER Permanent, Full Time Post

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 fourteen 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 & SCOPE OF THE POSITION

MIC wishes to appoint a suitable candidate to the position of Student Placement Officer situated within the Faculty of Arts, on a fulltime, permanent contract. The Placement Office at Mary Immaculate College is responsible for the management and administration of off campus placements for Faculty of Arts students, including the third year off-campus programme component of the Bachelor of Arts degree.

The successful candidate will carry out all necessary duties to support the effective operation of placement programmes within the Faculty of Arts. The post holder will have excellent administrative, interpersonal and organisational skills with the ability to navigate all placement processes associated with the various year and programme cohorts. The role has a strong external focus. The candidate will have a high degree of professionalism and motivation and a proven ability to communicate and engage with key stakeholders, both internally and externally.

Essential Qualifications, Skills & Experience;

1. (a) A relevant qualification at level 6 or higher on the National Qualifications Framework **and** a minimum of 2 years' relevant administrative experience
Or
(b) A minimum of 5 years' relevant administrative experience
2. Excellent relevant IT and data management skills with a high degree of proficiency in Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Teams;
3. Excellent interpersonal skills along with advanced verbal, written, and communication skills;
4. Proven administrative and organisational skills with the ability to manage, prioritise, and complete a variety of tasks under pressure and within deadlines;
5. Excellent problem-solving capabilities together with a proven ability to work effectively and efficiently on own initiative;
6. Proven ability to work collaboratively and supportively with a wide variety of stakeholders, both internal and external with a demonstrable capacity for dealing with highly confidential information in a very discreet manner;
7. The ability to work effectively within an established team environment.

It is desirable that candidates also have:

8. An understanding of work-based learning at third level and/or personal experience of placement
9. A competence in Gaeilge

*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

The appointee is required to carry out the duties attached to the post, under the general direction of the Placement Office Manager, to whom the appointee reports, and to whom the appointee is responsible for the performance of these duties in the first instance. The appointee will also have a reporting relationship to the Dean of Arts and will liaise with Heads of Departments, Course Leaders and other College personnel and with relevant College bodies in carrying out the duties attached 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

- Provision of pre-placement advice and guidance to students through one-to-one placement consultations at pre-placement stage.
- Support the Placement Programme Manager in the delivery of a pre-placement preparatory programme, outlining placement options and procedures and provision of training on effective applications, interview and employability skills.
- Responsible for processing placement provider requests, facilitating the selection of students and managing the process for both on and off-campus interviews.
- Identify new placement opportunities and networking to expand placement connections both at home and overseas.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records at all stages of the placement process using the Placement Office's databases.
- Identify students who require Garda Vetting for placement and liaise with the relevant offices in ensuring the vetting process is completed prior to embarking upon placement.
- Process and interpret study abroad grade transcripts and end of placement evaluations and reports in preparation for annual OCP exam board.
- Assist with the allocation of Faculty Placement Tutors to all students out on placement and processing of interim assessment forms.
- Update placement website and placement resources on Moodle.
- Assist with representing and marketing the programme at events such as open days etc.
- Procurement and maintenance of office requisites.
- Assist with the creation, dissemination and processing of placement surveys/questionnaires.
- Provision of guidance and support to students and employers throughout the placement process.
- Proactively highlight and resolve issues in relation to the placement experience.
- Co-ordinate returned Student Placement Ambassadors and encouraging linkages between returned placement students and those at the pre-placement stage.
- Support project work led by the Placement Office Manager e.g. new IT systems/databases, online resources, quality improvement.
- Act as Placement Office Data Champion with responsibility for records retention management, GDPR and data compliance.
- Assist with development of placement marketing materials and publications – handbooks, website.
- Assist with development and updating of Placement Office SOPs.

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 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.

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 commutable distance of the College.

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 employed by the College, there 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 employee's duties.

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

This acting 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 acting 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 unpaid lunch break and Friday 9am to 4.45pm with a 45-minute unpaid lunch break each day. 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 18/2010, will commence on the first point of the salary scale.

This appointment will be at Executive Officer (EO) grade.

With effect from 1st October 2023, the annual salary scale for Executive Officer (Grossed up) is:

€35,330; €37,538; €39,635; €41,514; €43,331; €45,141; €46,913; €48,704; €50,447; €52,263; €53,482; €55,220 (LSI 1), and €56,967 (LSI 2)

With effect from 1st October 2023, the annual salary scale for Executive Officer (New Entrants Grossed up) is:

€32,393; €34,562; €35,330; €37,538; €39,635; €41,514; €43,331; €45,141; €46,913; €48,704; €50,447; €52,263; €53,482; €55,220 (LSI 1), and €56,967 (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 Pay path 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 person appointed will continue to be a member of the Superannuation scheme they are currently registered in.

Annual Leave

The annual leave entitlement for this grade is **25** working days per leave year. Current employees of MIC who hold a higher annual leave entitlement will retain the higher entitlement on appointment subject to a maximum of 30 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 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, 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 one calendar months written notice is required to resign this acting appointment.

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) A relevant qualification at level 6 or higher on the National Qualifications Framework **and** a minimum of 2 years' relevant administrative experience
Or
(b) A minimum of 5 years' relevant administrative experience
2. Excellent interpersonal skills along with advanced verbal, written, and communication skills;
3. Proven administrative and organisational skills with the ability to manage, prioritise, and complete a variety of tasks under pressure and within deadlines;
4. Proven ability to work collaboratively and supportively with a wide variety of stakeholders, both internal and external with a demonstrable capacity for dealing with highly confidential information in a very discreet manner;
5. An understanding of work-based learning at third level and/or personal experience of placement;

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 **Student Placement 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 Screening

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 \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](#)

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 **Student Placement Officer** - no later than:

2p.m. on Thursday, 7th December 2023

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.

November 2023