



## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER – RESEARCH AND GRADUATE SCHOOL (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 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 fourteen 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 the position of Research Data Officer on a permanent, full time basis within the MIC Research Office & Graduate School. This is a key administrative post with particular responsibilities for data and information management and presentation.

The MIC Research Office & Graduate School supports staff and postgraduate research in line with best practice internationally. It has academic, administrative and financial support structures and procedures for the development of individual and group research, and it is dedicated to incentivising excellence and achievement in research. It provides leadership and coordination that enables faculty and postgraduate researchers to conceptualise, conduct and publish research. Services provided incorporate all standard Research Office and Graduate School functions. Indicative services include provision of research advice, bid and technical writing, sourcing of funding, assistance with applications for external awards and funding, reports to external funders, distribution of pump-priming and seed funds, preparation of research CVs,

financial expenditure monitoring and reporting, managing work plan targets, research training, management of research ethics applications, management of a research repository, institutional reporting, managing a Research Information System (MIRIS), data assembly and reporting to HEA / Forfás / DES and other external bodies and organisations. The person appointed to this post will assist with managing all data and information pertaining to and resulting from the services offered by the Research Office & Graduate School, and organise databases and other data handling systems for the effective use and presentation of these data. This will involve the creation and ongoing management of electronic files, folders, databanks, catalogues, lists and archives within the frameworks of the GDPR Data Protection Act (2018), the MIC Data Compliance Office and the data protocols and policies of MIC, as well as acting as Research Office & Graduate School Data Champion. S/he will also populate the Research Office & Graduate School Intranet and the MIC website with relevant and appropriate content.

The appointee must have a positive, goal-oriented and enthusiastic approach to the range of tasks associated with this post. The appointee must have the ability to interact constructively, efficiently and effectively with staff and external clients of the College in a discreet and confidential manner.

**Essential Qualifications, Experience & Skills:**

1) (a) A third level qualification in a relevant field at level 6 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications and a minimum of 2 years' relevant administrative experience

**or**

(b) A minimum of 5 years relevant experience in a cognate setting in higher education administration;

- 2) Strong skills and experience in using IT systems for data, information and financial management, presentation and visualisation, including a high proficiency in the MS Office suite;
- 3) Knowledge and experience in financial, budgetary and logistical administration, with good levels of numeracy, accuracy and attention to detail;
- 4) Experience of working flexibly within a team environment, with capacity to work on own initiative where required;
- 5) Proven organisational skills to manage, prioritise and complete tasks within deadlines;
- 6) Excellent communication expertise, numeric capacity and report writing ability;
- 7) Aptitude to solve problems in a positive and proactive manner;
- 8) The ability to work effectively as part of a team within an established team environment with a wide variety of stakeholders, both internal and external

**It is also desirable, but not essential, that candidates will have:**

- A Masters Qualification

*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 of the post under the general direction of the Research Office Manager, to whom he/she/they report, and to whom he/she/they is responsible for the performance of these duties in the first instance.

The appointee will report through the Research Office Manager to the Vice President Research and/or to other such College Officers as the President may designate from time to time. He/she/they will liaise with 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**

The person appointed to this role will have the following responsibilities:

- Assist with managing all data and information pertaining to and resulting from the services offered by the Research & Graduate School
- Act as Research & Graduate School Data Champion with responsibility for records retention management, GDPR and data compliance
- Support and encourage Open Research / Open Science and MIRR entries among academic staff and PGRs
- Edit and update the RGS Intranet; Oversee RGS Social Media, including Twitter channel
- Update data files, including financial grants files, PLOA records, training events
- Support the Research Office Manager with pre-award funding applications and post-award processing
- Perform the function of secretary to the Research Committee and secretary to the institutional Research Ethics Body (minute taking and documentation collation for meetings, organizing meetings), and update the Research & Graduate School Local Risk Register
- Draft term reports for *An Chomhairle Acadúil*; draft the President's Report to *An tUdúras Rialaithe* and draft other reports as required the Vice President Research
- Organize research methods training for academic staff and PGRs
- Regularly update all Research & Graduate School SOPs; manage version control and formatting fillable PDF records and forms for all Research Office & Graduate School documentation

- Undertake such other functions as are necessary for the success of the Research & Graduate School

The duties and responsibilities are broadly defined and are not exhaustive. The performance of the entire range of duties is not necessarily confined to any one individual, as the work requires that all 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 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.

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) 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 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 this 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 pm with a 1-hour lunch break each day and Friday 9am to 4.45pm with a 45-minute 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 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.

The grade for this post is Executive Officer. With effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2022, the annual salary scale for the grade of Executive Officer (Grossed up) is:

€33,902; €36,067; €38,122; €39,965 €41,746; €43,521; €45,258; €47,014; €48,722; €50,481; €51,659; €53,337 (LSI 1), and €55,024 (LSI 2)

With effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2022, the annual salary scale for the grade of Executive Officer (New Entrants Grossed up) is:

€31,022; €33,149; €33,902; €36,067; €38,122; €39,965; €41,746; €43,521; €45,258; €47,014; €48,722; €50,481; €51,659; €53,337 (LSI 1), and €55,024 (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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 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, 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 two calendar months written notice is required to resign this employment.

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) A third level qualification in a relevant field at level 6 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications and a minimum of 2 years' relevant administrative experience

**or**

- (b) A minimum of 5 years relevant experience in a cognate setting in higher education administration;
- Strong skills and experience in using IT systems for data, information and financial management, presentation and visualisation, including a high proficiency in the MS Office suite;
- Knowledge and experience in financial, budgetary and logistical administration, with good levels of numeracy, accuracy and attention to detail;
- A Masters Qualification (Desirable)

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 permanent and temporary appointments to the position of **Executive Officer – Research and Graduate School** 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**

All 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 accessed on the Mary Immaculate College website [www.mic.ul.ie/about-mic/vacancies](http://www.mic.ul.ie/about-mic/vacancies) Applications must be submitted by e-mail to [recruitment@mic.ul.ie](mailto:recruitment@mic.ul.ie) with the subject title **Executive Officer – Research and Graduate School** no later than:

**2p.m. on Monday 20th March 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](mailto: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.

*February 2023*