



Director of Academic Administration (Assistant Principal Officer)

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION 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 ten 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 appoint a suitable candidate to the position of **Director of Academic Administration** on a permanent, full time basis. This senior appointment will be made at Assistant Principal Officer Grade.

The Director will support the Vice President Academic Affairs by assuming overall responsibility for management of the Student Academic Administration function and coordination of the divisions within it. This work will involve a high degree of experience and competence in systems management (including online and electronic systems), the capacity to successfully deliver continuous quality assurance and the ability to conduct risk assessment and management. Together with the ability to undertake responsibility for the establishment and regular testing of internal controls relevant to the complex set of operational areas falling within the ambit of Student Academic Administration, the Director will be able to demonstrate a sure sense of leadership and experience of driving change effectively and sustainably. The Director will also play a leading role in delivering on the College's key strategic priorities in terms of academic administration including the introduction of a new student records system.

The post-holder will be a person of the highest integrity, professionalism and probity and will be a self-starter, able to exercise initiative and assume responsibility for critical institutional priorities.

In order to be considered for this position candidates must have:

1. A third level qualification at level 8 or higher on the National Qualifications Framework in a relevant discipline;
2. A minimum of 5 years relevant managerial experience, preferably in the higher education sector;
3. A thorough knowledge of, or experience in student administration in the higher education sector;
4. Excellent team management and leadership experience, with evidence of a high level of ability to successfully manage and coordinate the work of various projects to agreed outcomes;
5. Proven ability to work collaboratively and supportively with a wide variety of stakeholders, both internal and external to the enterprise, and at a multiplicity of seniority levels;
6. Demonstrable experience of managing effective and sustainable change;
7. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills; including content generation, report-writing, document presentation and process visualisation skills, with experience in using industry standard productivity tools;
8. Excellent administrative skills with the ability to prioritise, manage and complete a variety of tasks at times of high pressure with an ability to work effectively on own initiative and to established deadlines;
9. Experience of fostering a culture of continuous quality assurance, including creation of robust protocols and Standard Operating Procedures, and thorough familiarity with quality review processes applicable to higher education;
10. Very strong understanding of database structures including a high degree of experience in online and electronic systems management and knowledge relevant to working with enterprise software systems and data analysis skills;
11. Detailed understanding of running and developing business processes in a regulated environment with the particular ability to create practical measures in response to compliance imperatives, to manage due diligence processes, to conduct risk identification and mitigation routinely, and to deploy and regularly test effective and verifiable internal control systems;
12. A strong student focus and experience with the objective of delivering high quality services;
13. Extensive experience of budget creation and management.

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.

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

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 Vice President Academic Administration, to whom s/he reports and to whom s/he is responsible for the performance of these duties in the first instance.

The appointee will report through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the College President and/or to such other College Officers as the President may designate from time to time. S/he will liaise with the Deans of Arts and Education, Heads of School and Department, Course Leaders, Head of Professional Services functions, other College personnel and 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

The duties of the Director of Academic Administration will include

- Championing and effecting a high quality, student-centric culture of service provision;
- Initiating and/or co-developing and implementing required change management processes towards enhanced and fit-for-purpose technical operations and systems, as well as protocols and SOPs that enable continuous quality assurance;
- Local risk management (development / co-development of a fit-for-purpose risk register, establishment, tracking and monitoring of mitigating actions and internal controls (including ongoing testing of the effectiveness of the latter);
- Development, at the guidance and direction of the VPAA, an Annual Operating Plan for academic administration at MIC (Limerick and Thurles);
- Developing appropriate performance indicators for academic administration and ensuring systems in place (or developed) produce requisite data for measuring impact and are channelled correctly for the purposes of reporting and for supporting strategic and operational decisions tied to academic administration;
- Monitoring staff function in each of the three offices;
- Creating safety nets of staff expertise in mission critical areas such as exams which are currently occupied by just one or two FTE's;
- Monitoring reporting relationships;
- Receiving reports from Directors of all four divisions and having 'broken line' reporting potentially with line managers in Faculty of Arts and Education offices;
- Monitoring and managing the space and physical conditions of staff who occupy these offices;
- Ensuring ICT equipment is appropriate and training is provided to existing and new staff in relevant soft-ware packages;
- Managing transitions when staff leave and new staff are recruited;
- Interfacing with Student Services staff at the University of Limerick on relevant issues ;
- Ensuring student interface with Student Services at MIC continues to conform to best practice and meets the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan and the College Mission Statement.

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 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

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.

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.

The appointee will not, during his/her tenure of office, undertake paid outside work unless he/she has received the permission of the 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

The appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of the standard 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. 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 appointment 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 employees of the College for less than 12 months.

Hours of Attendance

Full time hours are 37 hours per week.

The normal hours of duty are Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5.15pm 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. No overtime will be paid for additional hours worked.

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 Education & Skills 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 the post of **Director of Academic Administration** is Assistant Principal Officer. With effect from 1st September 2019, the annual salary scale for the grade of Assistant Principal Officer is:

€67,658; €70,105; €72,536; €74,976; €77,411; €78,816; €81,274 (LSI); €83,740 (LSI)

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 Service 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.

Annual Leave

The annual leave entitlement for this grade is 30 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 & 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.

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.

5. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Method of Selection for Recommendation

The number of applications received for a position generally exceeds that required to fill the position and 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 only a limited number of candidates will be called to interview. In this respect, the College will provide for the employment of a short listing process to select a group for interview who, based on an examination of the application forms appear to be most suitable for the position. An expert board will examine each application form against pre-determined criteria based on the requirements of the position. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that there are some candidates, who based on their application, appear to be better qualified and/or have more relevant experience. It is therefore in the candidate's own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of qualifications/ experience on the application and 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.

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 post of Director of Academic Administration 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 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.

Application forms for this post may be accessed on the Mary Immaculate College website www.mic.ul.ie/about-mic/vacancies.

Please fully complete the application form and send it to recruitment@mic.ul.ie with the subject title – **Director of Academic Administration (Assistant Principal Officer)** - no later than:

2p.m. on Wednesday 18th December 2019.

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 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.

November 2019

