

Applications are invited from
suitably qualified candidates for
the following position

Executive Dean **Institute of Education**





Dublin City University

Dublin City University (DCU) is a leading innovative European University, proud to be one of the world's leading Young Universities. DCU's mission is to 'transform lives and societies' and focuses on addressing global challenges in collaboration with key national and international partners and stakeholders.

DCU has over 20,000 students in five faculties spread across three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra area of North Dublin. Thanks to its innovative approach to teaching and learning, the University offers a 'transformative student experience' that helps to develop highly sought-after graduates. DCU is currently No. 1 in Ireland for Graduate Employment Rate, and for graduate income (CSO).

DCU is a research-intensive University and is home to a number of SFI-funded Research Centres.

The University participates in a range of European and international research partnerships. DCU is also the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

As a 'People First' institution, DCU is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - a University that helps staff and students to thrive. The University is a leader in terms of its work to increase access to education, and is placed in the world's Top 10 for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Institute of Education

The Institute of Education is the newest faculty within the University and is based at DCU St Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra. It is Ireland's largest and most comprehensive centre for education and teacher preparation, spanning early childhood, primary, post-primary, further and higher education. The Institute serves as a hub for students and scholars across the entire educational continuum.

The Institute offers a rich portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate (taught and research) programmes, supported by a vibrant academic and research culture. It is home to nationally and internationally recognised centres of excellence in areas such as inclusive and special education, curriculum and pedagogy, literacy and assessment, and education policy.

Through its commitment to innovation, research, and policy engagement, the Institute plays a central role in shaping the future of education in Ireland and contributes meaningfully to international dialogue on education reform and practice.



Role Profile

Reporting to the Deputy President, the Executive Dean will develop and deliver an ambitious vision for the Institute of Education for the next five years, which will in turn influence the future direction of education both in Ireland and across Europe. The postholder will provide strategic and operational leadership in all areas of activity across the Institute including teaching and learning, research, operations, policy engagement and institutional collaborations.

In addition, the postholder will serve as a key member of the University Executive, contributing to university-wide strategic planning and decision-making. The Executive Dean role will operate as a key member of the University leadership team with responsibility for understanding all key aspects of University strategic and operational priorities and developing and implementing university strategy.

The successful candidate will be an exceptional academic leader with the insight and experience to influence national education discourse and to navigate complex, evolving educational landscapes.

They will also need to be able to navigate the operational requirements of the Faculty in a complex higher education environment which operates within a limited Irish Higher Education sector funding envelope.

This is a unique opportunity to lead a world-class Institute of Education that plays a central role in shaping the future of education. It is a pivotal leadership role for a values-driven academic committed to developing future generations of educators, informing policy, and cultivating an inclusive, high-performing scholarly community.

Key Responsibilities

1 Strategic Leadership and Planning

- Provide leadership, direction and guidance to the Heads of Schools in order to empower them to continue to deliver on the strategic priorities of the existing organisational strategy
- Lead the development and execution of a new and ambitious vision for the Institute of Education which will align with the University's strategic goals
- Lead and coordinate the Faculty Management Team and the Faculty Office, ensuring clear delegation, accountability, and alignment with institutional objectives
- Foster a shared vision for the Faculty that champions academic innovation, inclusivity, and institutional excellence
- Represent the Institute on a number of senior leadership forums, including but not limited to Senior Management Group, University Executive and Academic Council

2 Teaching, Learning and Academic Excellence

- Drive continuous innovation in teacher education and broader curriculum development
- Ensure the highest standards in programme delivery, curriculum development, and assessment across all levels

- Support interdisciplinary teaching and research informed teaching and learning
- Lead the development of new undergraduate and postgraduate programmes which enhance the Institute's programme portfolio and increase both domestic and international student numbers

3 Research and Policy Engagement

- Enable the delivery of appropriately directed quality research, which contributes to the University's research goals and increases research outputs in line with the University's Research Strategy
- Support the continuous development and growth of research centres aligned to the faculty and promote the innovation and creation of new centres which support research strategic objectives
- Further enhance and embed the research ethos and activity within the faculty
- Lead the Institute's contribution to evidence-based education policy through research and knowledge exchange
- Ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to monitor and report on research activity and outputs, e.g. through delegation to the Associate Dean of Research and reporting on research metrics

4 External Engagement

- Advance the Institute’s international strategy by building global partnerships, enhancing student and staff mobility, and elevating the profile of the Institute through strategic representation and collaboration
- In conjunction with Communications, Marketing and Events develop and promote external and communications strategy
- Promote engagement with national and international education stakeholders, including schools, government, and NGOs

5 People and Culture

- Foster a collegial, inclusive, and high-performing work and study environment for staff and students within the faculty
- Lead the development of both academic and professional staff members through structured talent development and succession planning initiatives
- Promote equality, diversity, inclusion, and wellbeing among all staff and students

6 Operational and Financial Management

- Ensure the continued financial sustainability of the Institute through the effective management of all faculty resources (including human, financial, facilities and technology)
- Ensure the effective management of budgeting, income diversification (including research and external partnerships), horizon scanning and long-term resource planning
- Oversee the Institute’s operations, resource allocation, and compliance with University policies
- Ensure compliance with academic regulations, , and health and safety standards in alignment with university policies and national frameworks
- Support and enhance a quality assurance culture across all aspects of the Faculty and assist in supporting this culture across the University
- Effectively manage key working relationships with key stakeholders within the professional service Departments such as Finance, DCU People and Communications, Marketing and Events



Desirable Attributes

- A strategic leader who has a demonstrated track record of aligning faculty and institutional values and objectives
- A strong track record of delivering results through evidence-based decision-making
- An ability to manage strategic and operational priorities in parallel and an appreciation that at times this will require a 'hands dirty' approach
- Demonstrable ability to make difficult and potentially unpopular decisions
- Demonstrated success in fostering collaboration, collegiality, and inclusive team cultures
- Proven track record of effectively managing competing priorities at a senior level

Essential Qualifications and Experience

- A Doctoral Degree in education or a closely aligned discipline
- A distinguished academic and research profile, ideally at professorial level
- Proven experience in academic leadership at faculty or institutional level
- A clear track record of strategic planning, operational oversight, and team leadership
- Deep knowledge of the Irish and international education sectors and the policy environment

Essential Training

The postholder will be required to undertake the following essential compliance training:

- Orientation
- Health & Safety
- Data Protection (GDPR)
- Cyber Security Awareness Training
- Performance Review & Development (PRD) Training
- AI Literacy Training

Other training may need to be undertaken when required.

Terms and Conditions

The terms and conditions of the post are negotiable and an attractive salary, commensurate with experience and expertise, will be offered. The post will be filled on a five year contract basis. In addition, a professorial appointment may be possible for a suitable applicant.



Closing date **Friday 8 August 2025**

Informal Enquiries in relation to this role should be directed to:

Professor Anne Sinnott,
Deputy President,
deputypresident@dcu.ie

Please do not send applications to this email address, instead apply as described below.

For more information on DCU and our benefits, please visit:
[Why work at DCU?](#)

Application Procedure

Please submit your application through the online system at www.dcu.ie/people/jobs, in order to be considered for the role to which you are applying for, you must upload:

1) Curriculum Vitae

2) Cover Letter

3) Completed application form

(blank forms can be downloaded from the bottom of the Vacancy)

Please note, if all items are not uploaded, the application will be deemed incomplete, and will not be processed.



Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer.

In line with the Employment Equality Acts 1998 – 2015, the University is committed to equality of treatment for all those who engage with its recruitment, selection and appointment processes.

The University's Athena SWAN Silver Award signifies the University's commitment to promoting gender equality and addressing any gender pay gaps. Information on a range of university policies aimed at creating a supportive and flexible work environment are available in the [DCU Policy Starter Packs](#)

