### Post Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Post Title:</strong></th>
<th>Research Assistant – Academy of the Near Future Engagement Researcher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post Status:</strong></td>
<td>Specific Purpose Contract</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Group / Department / School:</strong></td>
<td>CONNECT Centre, School of Computer Science &amp; Statistics, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>CONNECT Centre, School of Computer Science &amp; Statistics, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin</td>
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<td><strong>Reports to:</strong></td>
<td>Prof. Ann Devitt Principal Investigator</td>
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<td><strong>Salary:</strong></td>
<td>Appointment will be made with salary up to €42033 based on experience on the SFI scale.</td>
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<td><strong>Hours of Work:</strong></td>
<td>39 hours per week</td>
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<td><strong>Closing Date:</strong></td>
<td>Before 1200 hrs (noon) Irish Summer Time, 25th August 2023</td>
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Academy of the Near Future is a flag-ship collaboration between CONNECT, the world leading Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Future Networks and Communications in Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City Council and Smart Docklands.

Academy of the Near Future is a smart cities education research project focused on evaluating the delivery and impact of science learning around smart cities and emerging technologies.
This role has been created in collaboration between the Cellnex Foundation and TCD to build upon and expand the foundational programme developed by TCD and DCC. This collaboration will incorporate the design of additional programme content and activities, in the area of communications network infrastructure and associated technologies.

**Post Summary**

This role is within the Academy of the Near Future. The successful candidate will conduct Design-Based Research to deliver and evaluate ANF learning programmes within primary and post-primary schools, in order to support and promote the STEM education field.

The role will be a Trinity College Dublin appointment reporting directly to the Principal Investigator (Prof. Ann Devitt) in the CONNECT Research Centre at TCD. The successful candidate will also liaise on day-to-day activities with the Academy of the Near Future Engagement Programme Manager. While working as part of the project team, the successful candidate will have responsibility for delivery of the project goals and reporting on the project to the CONNECT Centre.

The programme takes a mixed-methods Design-Based Research (DBR) approach. Design-based research is a participatory approach that draws together researchers, practitioners and learners to improve educational practices in iterative cycles of needs analysis, design, implementation and evaluation.

This role also involves supporting a diverse range of collaborative research projects with partner companies to support the delivery of the next phase of the Smart Docklands/Smart Dublin collaborative research programmes. The ideal candidate will have previous experience in relevant research areas, in coordinating and leading interactive workshops (preferably to a youth audience), as well as working with multiple stakeholder groups. Knowledge of Smart City technologies and current and emerging issues & opportunities relating to these technologies is important. The successful candidate should relish proposing and creating new opportunities while showing agility to ensure successful delivery of existing projects.

**Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post**

- Lead the facilitation of a programme of workshops and events with children and young people, in-person and remotely, including hands-on technical modules using sensor technologies
- Travel to venues around the country for programme activities
- Work collaboratively with the Academy of the Near Future programme team, industry partner Cellnex and student advisory board to understand the desired outcomes of the
programme and use design thinking methodologies to design and deliver an experience that achieves those outcomes.

- Assist in the development of learning resources required for the successful delivery of the project goals.
- Design and implementation of engaged research tools in STEM education
- Support post-event follow up, and the creation and delivery of high-quality outputs in a timely fashion.
- Build relationships with partners with the potential to support the programme.
- Assist with the organization of events and information sessions regarding Smart Docklands, DCC, Smart Dublin and CONNECT smart city activities
- Attend relevant meetings, learning events and conferences.
- Attend other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Principal Investigator.

Person Specification

Qualifications (Essential):
- Third level qualification

Qualifications (Desirable):
- Qualification in education, STEM, science communication, and/or public engagement
- Driving licence

Knowledge & Experience (Essential)
- Experience with teaching, facilitation, or research in areas related to STEM education with children or young people
- A keen interest in innovation, design and how technology is shaping the future of our cities

Knowledge & Experience (Desirable)
- Robust understanding of engaged research and experience of quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
- Experience in designing learning experiences or workshop design

Skills & Competencies
- Ability to work and build strong relationships at all levels
- Must be able to work independently, deliver quality in a fast-paced environment, and collaborate effectively
Personal attributes

- Enjoy a dynamic and multi-faceted environment, with friendly and collaborative colleagues.
- Enjoy working with young people
- Be interested in making a difference on a local and global scale.
- Passion for user-centred design

Applicants will be required to complete and return a Garda Vetting form should they come under consideration for appointment.

Funding Information

The post is co-funded by the CONNECT research centre and the Cellnex Foundation. CONNECT is funded under the Science Foundation Ireland research centres programme, and is co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund.

Further Information for Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>URL Link to Area</th>
<th><a href="http://www.tcd.ie">www.tcd.ie</a></th>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.CONNECTcentre.ie">www.CONNECTcentre.ie</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="https://smartdublin.ie/smart-districts/smart-docklands/">https://smartdublin.ie/smart-districts/smart-docklands/</a></td>
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| URL Link to Human Resources      | https://www.tcd.ie/hr/                      |
Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a cover letter (1 x A4 page) and full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to:

Grace D’Arcy
grdarcy@tcd.ie

BEFORE 1200 hrs (noon) Irish Summer Time on 24th July 2023