



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Assistant – Academy of the Near Future Engagement Coordinator
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract to 31st December 2025
Research Group / Department / School:	CONNECT Centre, School of Computer Science & Statistics, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	CONNECT Centre, School of Computer Science & Statistics, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Reports to:	Prof. Dan Kilper Principal Investigator
Salary:	Appointment will be made with salary up to €42032 based on experience on the SFI scale.
Hours of Work:	39 hours per week
Closing Date:	Until the position is filled

Academy of the Near Future (ANF) 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.

Post Summary

This role is within the Academy of the Near Future. The successful candidate will deliver and evaluate ANF learning programmes within primary and post-primary schools with a focus in the

Docklands area, 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. Dan Kilper) 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 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 workshop series and events with young people, with a focus on schools in the Docklands area.
- Travel to venues around Dublin and elsewhere in Ireland for programme activities.
- Work collaboratively with the Academy of the Near Future programme team, 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 programme design, content & evaluation processes.
- Build relationships with partner teachers and schools for the programmes.
- Document education activities with photos and videos.

- Assist with the organisation 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 valid in Ireland

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)

- Experience with coding, Micro Bits or Minecraft Education
- 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

Under the Smart Dublin umbrella, Smart Districts are “strategically selected locations where innovation projects are fast-tracked”. A number of established Smart Districts have been developed through research partnerships with SFI-funded Research Centres. Smart Docklands 3 has been initiated by DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL to support the trialing of new technology projects and delivering technology education initiatives.

CONNECT is Ireland’s Future Networks and Communications Research Centre whose mission is to research, develop and innovate new communications solutions to address many of the challenges facing society.

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie www.CONNECTcentre.ie https://smartdublin.ie/smart-districts/smart-docklands/
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Application Procedure

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

Grace D'Arcy

grace@smartdocklands.ie

