

Vice-President for Learning Innovation

Description of Post

Dublin City University is to establish the position of Vice-President for Learning Innovation (VPLI). This position presents an exciting opportunity for a senior academic with extensive experience and a well-developed reputation of innovation in university teaching and learning to make a significant contribution to the future development of DCU.

As the VPLI is a senior position in the University the holder of this office will normally have achieved the rank of Professor or Associate Professor.

Changing demographics and constrained public funding present major challenges for the future development of university education. Conversely, new technologies and pedagogical approaches offer opportunities for strategic and innovative responses. The VPLI will be responsible for the formulation of the University's teaching and learning strategy, will champion learning innovation within and on behalf of the University, and provide a focus for the academic community involved in delivering our learning mission. There will be a need for imaginative and innovative change - in the structure, design and delivery of our programmes and in the composition and nature of our student body. DCU's Faculty structure will provide a framework for addressing these issues, but will require co-ordinated strategic leadership from the VPLI.

The VPLI will lead the ongoing expansion and refinement of the learning innovation support infrastructure at DCU, will represent the University on relevant external bodies, and will act as the contact point with other relevant external agencies, coordinating institutional submissions under various funding schemes.

He/she shall report directly to the President.

Term of office will be five years.

An attractive salary, commensurate with experience will be offered for the post.

Application forms should preferably be completed and returned by 10 January 2003. However applications will be accepted after this date up to completion of the short listing process which is expected to be achieved by late January 2003.

Anyone wishing to discuss the post informally may do so by contacting either the President (Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski) or Deputy President (Professor Albert Pratt) by phone at 01-700 5666.

1. The VPLI's Remit

The VPLI will be expected to:

- maintain the University's teaching and learning strategy, and provide leadership in its implementation;
- have a cross-University role, supporting and strengthening the links with the University's sister colleges including St.Patrick's College and Mater Dei;
- liaise with the Registrar in the development of DCU's structures for academic management, and our portfolio of taught programmes; specifically including initiatives to expand access for disadvantaged groups, and in the provision of flexible, lifelong, learning opportunities;
- liaise with the Registrar and the Director of Communications and Marketing in the external promotion of learning at DCU through all available media;
- liaise with the Vice President for Research to foster effective interactions between the University's Research and Learning activities; specifically including support for scholarly research into the practice of university teaching and learning;
- liaise with the Registrar and Director of Quality Promotion to ensure proper quality assurance mechanisms are in place for all teaching and learning activities;
- develop a mutually supportive environment for Deans of Faculty, Directors of Centres, and other relevant University officers;
- expand the national and international impact of learning innovation at DCU;
- expand and develop relevant inter-institutional links, both national and international, in line with University policy;
- develop strong links with individual academic and support staff engaged in learning innovation at DCU, particularly the recipients of University Teaching and Learning Fellowships.

2. Main Duties

- To lead the formulation of the university's strategic directions in learning innovation, including the effective exploitation of new technologies, pedagogies and modes of student participation.
- To manage the Office for Learning Innovation.
- To represent learning innovation in decision making by being *inter alia* :
 - (a) an *ex officio* member of Academic Council and Academic Council Standing Committee.
 - (b) an *ex officio* member of Executive.
- To chair the Learning Strategy Committee.
- To manage university funded schemes to support learning innovation.
- To oversee the register of DCU learning innovation expertise for DCU's records and for external promotion purposes.
- To liaise with Deans of Faculty and the Director of Human Resources in the formulation of appropriate staff development initiatives.
- To liaise with the HEA and other external bodies in relation to learning innovation issues as appropriate, including the promotion of DCU's learning innovation expertise and cases for funding.
- To liaise with Deans of Faculty and other officers to assist, advise and inform staff in strengthening and supporting their teaching and learning processes and practices.
- To develop and oversee the implementation of systems to measure, support and develop the quality of student learning at discipline level.
- To inform staff of relevant external funding opportunities and provide assistance and advice on proposal preparation.
- To interface with the Finance Office on financial management relevant to the University's teaching and learning activities.
- To undertake other duties as assigned by the President.