



Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Fellow in Chemistry Education and Public Engagement (EPE)
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract – Full-time – 24 months.
Research Group / Department / School:	Chemistry Education Interest Group, School of Chemistry, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Main Chemistry Building, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Dr John O'Donoghue
Salary:	Appointment will be made on the Research Ireland Experienced Postdoctoral Researcher (Level 2B) Pay scale [€54,850 – €59,655 per annum] for Feb 2026, at a point no higher than point [1]
Hours of Work:	39 hours / Week
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), 9 th January 2026

Please note that Garda vetting will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

Post Summary

The School of Chemistry in Trinity College Dublin (TCD) operates several informal education and public engagement (EPE) programmes, linking with schools and the public. The role-holder will coordinate the Research Ireland funded Chemistry Toolbox project, using a guided inquiry approach for non-formal science investigation workshops in secondary schools. They will lead the development process with teachers and other stakeholders, as well as the implementation with early career researchers from TCD, ATU Sligo, UCC and Tyndall National Institute. The role-holder will be familiar with co-design development methods, guided inquiry learning, evaluation research and stakeholder engagement. The programme of work will require frequent off campus work at events and schools in locations around Ireland, sometimes outside of standard working hours on a Pro-Rata basis. This is a temporary Externally Funded Non-Grant-in-Aid specific purpose full time contract post, the indicative duration of which is 24 months.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

- Lead the co-creation and development of a guided inquiry-based workshop for Irish secondary schools in conjunction with the project leadership team and teachers.
- Train early career researchers in engaged teaching and science communication skills.
- Work with the relevant staff, project partners, stakeholders, early career researchers and teachers to facilitate and deliver the workshops on a national basis.
- Facilitate events which many involve; logistics, stakeholder management, volunteer recruitment, risk assessment, activity delivery and evaluation.
- Champion accessibility and inclusivity in all aspects of the project.
- Carry out qualitative and quantitative research into behavioural change and learning.
- Interpret research findings and prepare scientific and popular press publications.
- Disseminate research findings to a variety of audiences as appropriate.
- Identify and establish opportunities to engage the relevant stakeholders.
- Promote effective teamwork, attend all meetings as required, compile information for and accurately complete project reports.
- Take up additional duties as they may arise and be assigned by the leadership team.

Person Specification

Qualifications

PhD in a relevant discipline such as Science, Education or Science Education

Knowledge & Experience

Essential

- Relevant post-PhD research experience.
- Experience in the development and implementation of new activities, preferably through co-creation methods with a variety of stakeholders.
- Ability to be responsive and adaptive in line with the nature of the role. This includes the ability to work flexible hours and travel, as required.
- Research and/or teaching experience in guided inquiry methods.
- A full clean driving license is essential.

Desirable

- Knowledge of informal education evaluation and research methods.
- Knowledge of GDPR related processes.
- Experience in maintaining collaborations with internal and external stakeholders.
- Experience in workshop delivery, particularly those designed for school students and/or teachers would be a distinct advantage.
- Evidence of relevant research activity (publications, conference presentations, awards) and future scholarly output (working papers, research proposals etc).

Skills & Competencies

- Evidence of working independently and as part of the team.
- Excellent project management, analytical, report writing and data analysis skills.
- Excellent communication skills (oral, written, presentation) with an ability to enable effective knowledge and technology transfer.
- Articulate and objective with good relationship building skills.
- Initiative, motivation and ability to work without close supervision.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a cover letter outlining their suitability for this position (Max 1 A4 Page) and a full Curriculum Vitae (CV) with the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), by e-mail with the subject line “Chemistry EPE Position”, no later than 12pm on the 9th January 2026 to:-

Dr John O’Donoghue

Email Address: john.odonoghue@tcd.ie

Enquires for further details are welcome

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

GARDA CLEARANCE:

Police vetting will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants will be required to complete and return a Garda vetting form should they come under consideration for appointment. In some cases they may be requested to complete the form on the day of interview. This form will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána (Irish Police) for security checks on all Irish addresses at which they have resided. An Garda Síochána will make enquiries with the Police Service of Northern Ireland with respect to addresses in Northern Ireland. If an applicant is not successful in obtaining the post for whatever reason, this information will be destroyed. If an applicant, therefore, subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

While applicants must complete information in relation to all addresses at which they have resided, the vetting is only done on addresses on the island of Ireland.

If an applicant has resided / studied in countries outside of Ireland for a period of 6 months or more, it is mandatory for them to furnish a Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate from those countries stating that they have no convictions recorded against them while residing there. Applicants will need to provide a separate Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate for each country in which they have resided. The Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate must be dated after the date the applicant left the relevant country. Applicants should provide documentation in the English and/or Irish language. Translations must be provided by a registered translation company/institute in the Republic of Ireland; all costs will be borne by the applicant. Only original version documents will be accepted.

Applicants should be aware that any information obtained in the Garda Vetting process can be made available to the employing area.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to seek security clearances in a timely fashion as they can take some time. No applicant will be appointed without this information being provided and being in order.

The following websites may be of assistance in this regard:

www.disclosurescotland.co.uk

www.psni.police.uk

This website provides information on obtaining a national police clearance certificate for Australia

www.afp.gov.au

This website provides information on obtaining police clearance in New Zealand.

www.courts.govt.nz

For other countries not listed above applicants may find it helpful to contact the relevant embassies who could provide information on seeking Police Clearance. Original Police Clearance documentation should be forwarded to Human Resources where it will be copied and the original returned to the applicant by post. **Any cost incurred in this process will be borne by the Applicant.**

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 75th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2026). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation, which has been inspiring generations of thinkers for over 400 years.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 31st most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2024) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.

With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 75th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2026). Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world on 4 subjects and in the top 100 in 18 subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025). Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

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