

## Job Description

### **A study of embedding an intercultural approach to youth work in higher education to inform teaching and learning and best practice in youth work in the Dublin 15 area**

#### **Purpose:**

This is a full-time research project (MA) which will involve conducting a qualitative study of the needs of the youth services in the Dublin 15 area in relation to developing interculturalism and examining how this can inform the embedding of interculturalism on the Community and Youth Development programme at the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB)

#### **Main tasks:**

- Conduct a literature review of the legislative and policy framework around interculturalism and youth work and relevant theoretical concepts underpinning the intercultural approach such as equality, human rights, anti-discrimination and anti-racism.
- Conduct a review of the current embedding of interculturalism on the Community and Youth Development programme at ITB.
- Design a focus group and interview schedule for the two groups of participants, namely ITB students on the Community and Youth Development programme who have completed a youth work placement and youth workers in the local Dublin 15 area.
- Conduct qualitative focus groups to elicit the views of students on the Community and Youth Development programme who have completed a youth work placement on interculturalism, their experience of an intercultural education at ITB and how it prepared them for a youth work setting.
- Conduct qualitative interviews with youth workers in the local Dublin 15 area to elicit their views on the competences and skills necessary in order to adopt an intercultural approach.
- Analyse the data collected from the focus groups and interviews in the context of the current legislation and policy framework and the conceptual framework outlined in the literature review
- The research student will be required to be present at the Postgraduate Research Centre in the LINC at ITB full-time Monday to Friday.
- Information for non-EU candidates are available on the ITB website <https://www.itb.ie/StudentCategories/international.html>

## **Required Skills and Aptitudes**

- Qualitative research skills
- Analytical and critical evaluation skills
- Very good communication skills in English, in particular, report writing and presentation skills
- Good attention to detail
- Strong organisational skills
- Experience of or interest in youth work and the area of interculturalism/cultural diversity
- Ability to manage a complex workload and work to tight deadlines
- Excellent interpersonal skills

## **Desirable experience**

- BA/BSc with 1<sup>st</sup> class honours in Social and Community Development/Community and Youth Development or equivalent
- Strong research skills
- Ability to work both independently and with others
- Ability to demonstrate project management skills and a track record of delivering on objectives
- Ability to demonstrate strong analytical and writing skills

## **Location**

The LINC Centre, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Road North, Dublin 15.

## **Commencement**

This project will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017

## **Terms**

The funding available is for a maximum of 2 years and will cover fees up to €4,500, materials up to €2,000 and a student stipend grant of €10,000 per annum.

## **Application**

A letter of application along with a full CV and the names of two referees should be emailed to [shane.walsh@itb.ie](mailto:shane.walsh@itb.ie) or posted to:

Mr Shane Walsh, Administrator, The LINC, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown,  
Blanchardstown Road North, Dublin 15 by 12 noon, Friday 2nd June 2017

Informal project queries should be directed to Dr Bríd Ní Chonail at [brid.nichonail@itb.ie](mailto:brid.nichonail@itb.ie)

Other enquiries should be emailed to Shane Walsh at the following address [shane.walsh@itb.ie](mailto:shane.walsh@itb.ie)

## **Project Description**

Irish society has become increasingly more culturally diverse, particularly over the last two decades. The Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) is located in Dublin 15, home to one of the highest proportion of migrants nationwide. Students on the Community and Youth Development programme take modules on culture and carry out a 13-week fieldwork placement in a youth work setting during the course of their studies. The value of intercultural education to all students in equipping them to participate in an increasingly diverse Irish, European and global society has been acknowledged (NCCA 2006) at all levels of education including youth work (NYCI 2011). The overall aim of the proposed project is to investigate what the needs of the youth services in the Dublin 15 area are in relation to developing interculturalism and how this can inform the embedding of interculturalism on the Community and Youth Development programme at ITB. A qualitative method is proposed for this practice-led research. Data will be gathered from two sources: focus groups comprised of Community and Youth Development students in ITB and individual interviews conducted with youth workers from the Dublin 15 area. In terms of outcomes, the research proposes to gain insights into the current embedding of interculturalism in the Community and Youth Development programme. It also looks to identify what youth workers in the Dublin 15 area see as the competences and skills necessary in order to adopt an intercultural approach. The findings can then serve to inform teaching and learning, in addition to fieldwork preparation for the students on the Community and Youth Development programme and other programmes at ITB. The findings can also inform best practice around the embedding of an intercultural approach in youth work at a local and national level.