**Programme Lead for developing a Multi-Campus Micro-Credentials (MC2) system in Irish Universities**

The Irish Universities Association (IUA) is the representative body of the university sector. We host important shared services in researcher mobility, widening participation, the enhancement of digital teaching and learning and support projects in the areas of research and internationalisation. We have recently secured funding for a major new project and now invite applications for the new full-time contract position of ***Programme Lead for developing a Multi-Campus Micro-Credentials (MC2) System in Irish Universities.***

This is a new, first-of-its-kind four-year programme, funded through the Higher Education Authority’s Human Capital Initiative, aimed at establishing an innovative system of quality assured and accredited micro-credentials across the seven IUA universities. MC2 will provide up- and re-skilling opportunities to those in employment and those seeking to enhance their employability, and to drive lifelong learning in Ireland.

Building on existing good practice within Ireland, at European level and internationally, the MC2 programmes includes a number of project components including:

* Developing a collective national framework for micro-credentials across the seven universities;
* Building engagement with enterprise for the development and roll-out of the micro-credentials programmes;
* Developing a co-ordinated ‘shop window’ portal to drive awareness for MC2;
* Marketing the MC2 courses and help learners to find and track the right flexible offerings of micro-learning.

Working closely with senior academic leaders across the university sector, the programme will increase university capacity to extract and adapt high-demand modules from existing programmes, and to develop short courses tailored to suit the needs of target enterprise and learners, through a range of digital, blended and face-to-face delivery modes.

The programme will play a central role in delivering on the universities’ strategic ambitions in this area, as well as on a range of key national and European policy objectives.

### **Key Responsibilities**

Reporting to the IUA Director for Learning, Teaching and Academic Affairs, the Programme Lead will work with the Steering Committee, Enterprise Advisory Group and broader project team at the IUA and across the university sector, to ensure that all project activities and phased work packages are successfully delivered in a timely and efficient manner.

Specifically, s/he will be expected to:

* lead the development of a **national framework for micro-credentials**, having identified relevant existing good practice nationally, as well as at European and international levels;
* develop a **structured process for meaningful and ongoing collaboration with enterprise;**
* lead the development of a **portal for learners** **to provide information and gateway access** to a curated menu of all micro-credentials across the seven universities;
* provide ongoing support for the rapid development of capacity to **roll-out micro-credentials across each of the seven universities**.

In order to achieve these successfully, s/he will need to:

* work closely with the Project Leads as well as senior academic, programme development, marketing and IT stakeholders in each university;
* liaise with key stakeholders in Quality and Qualifications Ireland, the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, the Higher Education Authority, Enterprise Ireland and other relevant state bodies;
* liaise with key employer and employer representative stakeholders, including Ibec, the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises Association (ISME), and the Small Firms Association, to ensure effective collaboration with and uptake by enterprise partners;
* manage the project budget and provide reports and evaluation documents to partners and funders.

### **Key Attributes**

This is a very exciting opportunity to be at the forefront of driving innovation in the delivery of high-quality, flexible teaching and learning across the 7 universities. The successful candidate will make a distinctive contribution to an area of strategic importance in the Irish university sector and its engagement with a very broad range of employers and labour market stakeholders. The most critical qualities for this role are:

* Exceptional leadership and programme / project management skills with a proven track record in managing large-scale projects in the higher education sector or equivalent. Experience of managing multi-institution projects would be desirable;
* Extensive experience in leading collaborative processes with employers and labour market stakeholders in meeting their skills needs;
* An understanding of the programme development landscape within Irish higher education and the opportunities afforded by innovation, flexible delivery and digitalisation;
* Proven experience in building positive relationships with a range of stakeholders within, between and external to institutions;
* Excellent communication skills, both written and oral, with a demonstrable ability to advocate and foster collaboration and engagement across a range of audiences;
* Appropriate academic and professional qualifications;

* Pro-active, a self-starter and a track record of achievement.

### **Contract details**

The position of Programme Lead, which will ordinarily be based at the IUA (in line with public health guidelines in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic) is offered on a 4-year specified purpose contract, and subject to a period of probation and meeting on-going performance requirements. The role will require domestic travel within Ireland on a regular basis and occasional international travel, when possible.

A competitive salary commensurate with experience will be offered. A secondment arrangement for existing public-sector employees may be possible, subject to concluding an appropriate agreement between the IUA and the candidate’s current employer.

### **Application details**

Please forward a detailed but concise CV and cover letter (max 500 words), demonstrating the competencies and experience listed above, by email by November 6th 2020 to: marguerita.lardner@iua.ie

Tel. 01 6764948

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