



Project Lead MicroCreds.ie

Developing a Multi-Campus Micro-Credentials system in Irish Universities

The Irish Universities Association (IUA) is the representative body of the top performing universities in Ireland. We host and manage a major new project to develop a Multi-Campus Micro-Credentials system. This, first-of-its-kind four-year programme, funded through the Higher Education Authority's Human Capital Initiative, is establishing an innovative system of quality assured and accredited micro-credentials across seven of our member universities.

We now wish to recruit a ***Project Lead for the Microcredentials Programme.***

What is the Microcredentials Project?

The Multi-Campus Microcredentials Programme 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. It is a €13m project funded by the HEA under the Human Capital Initiative.

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

- Developing a collective national framework for micro-credentials across the seven participating universities;
- Building engagement with enterprise for the development and roll-out of the microcredentials programmes;
- Developing a co-ordinated 'shop window' portal to drive awareness for microcredentials;
- Marketing the Microcredentials courses to enable learners to find the right flexible offerings of micro-learning.

Working closely with senior academic leaders across the university sector, the programme is working to develop 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 project commenced in 2021 and is due for completion in mid-2025.

The Role

Reporting to the IUA Director for Learning, Teaching and Academic Affairs, the Project 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:

- lead the development of a **national framework for micro-credentials**;
- 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 microcredentials 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, Dept. of Further, Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science, 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 is offered on a 2.5 year specified purpose contract to mid-2025, 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.

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.

The IUA operates a flexible working model and this role can be partially fulfilled through remote working. However, the role will require some in-office working, especially in the early stages, with routine face-to-face engagement with key stakeholders as required on university campuses and elsewhere.

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 23:59 November 17th 2022 to marguerita.lardner@iua.ie

Tel. 01 6764948

The IUA is an equal opportunities employer