

Coláiste Phádraig
Droim Conrach

Baile Átha Cliath 9

**(Coláiste de chuid Ollscoil
Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath**



**St Patrick's
College Drumcondra**

Dublin 9

**(A College of Dublin City
University)**

Write to Read Doctoral Fellowship in Education

WRITE TO READ PROJECT

The Write to Read project is a home-grown, innovative and holistic approach to improving literacy outcomes for children. It aims to address consistent, inter-generational cycles of underachievement in literacy as experienced by children in disadvantaged schools and communities in Ireland. It takes a research-based approach to literacy development and aims to meet the literacy needs of children in ways that build their motivation, engagement, agency, creativity and higher-order thinking skills.

The Write to Read project grew out of the initial research by Dr. Eithne Kennedy in a DEIS Band I school which achieved impressive results in improving literacy attainment for children while building their motivation to read and write, both inside and outside school. Write to Read is now extending to a wider pilot area to include 9 schools in the Dublin area. It will also expand the original school-based intervention to include a whole community approach to literacy issues. By working with parents and the staff of community projects, this whole-community approach aims to create environments outside of the school where children are supported and encouraged to develop reading and writing as life-long habits.

The main project components include:

- **A research-based collaborative approach in schools:** Teachers and research team will adopt an investigative stance and will work together to discover research-based context-appropriate solutions. Collaboration between the classroom teachers and the special education team (SET) will be a critical feature.
- **Customised, on-site multi-faceted, continuing professional development** (CPD) to enhance literacy teaching and to help

educators to create an innovative evidence- based cognitively challenging balanced literacy framework for pupils which will build their higher-order thinking skills (synthesis, evaluation, inference, critical analysis, problem-solving) in reading, writing and oral language to enable children to develop as readers, writers and thinkers.

- **Development of physical and virtual professional learning communities** within each school and within and across each of the 3 project clusters. St Patrick's College will establish a digital hub for the project which will host a number of online media forums to support the dissemination and sharing of information.
- **Whole community approach to literacy** – innovative literacy work in schools will be complemented by a programme of literacy activities to be delivered by community projects working with the children and their families outside of school hours with particular attention to afterschool homework clubs, summer camps and activities to combat the 'summer slump' experienced by children in disadvantaged communities but not by their more affluent peers.
- **Rigorous monitoring of children's literacy needs** and gains through the collection of qualitative and quantitative data to inform the customised CPD and to develop a framework for wider roll out.
- **Significant investment** in improving the quality and quantity of literacy resources in schools.

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE

Established in 1875, St Patrick's College is one of the major Colleges of Education in Ireland. The College offers a range of Education and Humanities programmes, including B.Ed., B.A., Graduate Diploma, M.Ed., M.A., PhD and a Doctorate in Education. Since 1993, the College has been a College of Dublin City University and the University accredits all courses. The number of Staff and Students has increased substantially in recent years. At present, the number of students is over 2,400 and the number of full time academic staff is approximately 120. In addition to the main buildings, the campus also houses student residences, the Educational Research Centre, the Drumcondra Education Centre for teachers and a crèche. A major new building programme, which will substantially enhance

the teaching and other facilities in the college, is under way at present.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Education Department has, at present, a full-time staff of over forty, some seconded/contract positions and a considerable number of part-time staff. As well as providing programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, the Department has an active national and international research profile and makes a significant contribution to policy development and critique in the sector.

The work of the Education Department includes the following:

Bachelor of Education Degree

The present work of the Education Department is primarily concerned with the education of primary school teachers through the teaching of a three year pre-service Bachelor of Education degree. This degree includes substantial periods of Teaching Practice. Approximately 1200 students are registered for this degree in the current academic year.

Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching)

The College provides an eighteen month (three semester) course in teacher education for graduates. Cohorts can vary in size from 60 to 180. .

M.Ed.

A two year, part-time Masters in Education is taught from within the Education Department. A number of specialist strands are offered on a rotational basis and, as well as taught modules, students complete a substantial written dissertation.

Ed.D

In 2005, the College inaugurated a new taught doctoral programme over four years, with two years of course work (six modules), and two years devoted to supervised work on a written dissertation (50,000 words). Two cohorts of students are currently enrolled on this doctoral programme.

BA (Humanities)

Staff from the Education Department teach Human Development as a subject within the BA (Humanities) degree. There are currently about 320 students enrolled in Human Development. A significant number of these are mature, second-chance students.

MA (Humanities)

A taught Masters in Human Development is offered over two years. Like the M.Ed, this programme is offered part time (two evenings a week) and involves course work and a written dissertation.

BSc. Psychology

Beginning in 2010, this is a four year, Level 8 programme which has been designed to meet the accreditation requirement of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI). The College has specific responsibility for modules in Child Development, Developmental Psychology and Educational Psychology.

Research Degrees

The Education Department supervises research degrees at Masters and PhD levels.

Award-Bearing Taught In-career Courses

The College has established an Award-Bearing Structure of In-Career Education. This allows modules to be taken for audit or credit towards a University validated Certificate, Diploma or Master of Education degree.

Induction

The National Pilot Project on Teacher Induction represents a collaboration between the Department of Education and Science, teacher unions, Education Departments and the Colleges of Education. The Primary Strand of this project is located in St Patrick's College.

Educational Disadvantage Centre

The Educational Disadvantage Centre was established in the College in 2001. Located within the College's Faculty of Education, the Centre aims to contribute to best practice in national and international policy regarding the

implications of social and economic disadvantage on education.

Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights Education

The Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights Education focuses on global and local citizenship education. It develops and teaches courses on Development, Intercultural, Human Rights and Citizenship Education at under-graduate and post-graduate levels. It has a programme of research and of resource creation and provides a resource and advice centre for students on teaching for global citizenship.

Language and Literacy Unit

The Language and Literacy Unit is part of the Education Department at St Patrick's College. A key element of the work of the unit is building collaborative partnerships with schools, communities and other organisations to promote effective and innovative practice in language and literacy. It provides customised on-site professional development for teachers and school communities to support them as they engage in this work. It also conducts research and evaluation of literacy projects contributing to the building of the evidence base on effective literacy practice in the Irish context and to the development of literacy policy in Ireland. Developing and fostering partnerships with literacy educators both nationally and internationally is also an important feature of the work of the unit.

Requirements

This fellowship is open to qualified applicants with a degree in primary education. Applicants should have an honours degree (Hons.2.1 or higher) and/or a Master's degree. A specialised interest in literacy and evidence of leadership in that area is a requirement. Preference will be given to candidates with a minimum of five years teaching experience. The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills, a proven ability to work collaboratively and an interest in the professional development of teachers.

Conditions of the Fellowship

The successful candidate will be required to register for a research degree at St Patrick's College (PhD) and will be supervised by Dr Eithne Kennedy. Her/his doctoral research will be based on an aspect of the Write to Read Project. The fellow will provide on-site professional development to school staff as part of the project and will participate in all aspects of the project, including its wider research remit. Opportunities will be provided for the candidate to be mentored in teaching at third level.

The fellow will enjoy a range of supports within the College, including advanced course work in the Doctoral programme (EdD) as well as having the opportunity to interact with research students and staff members. In addition the library and computer facilities will be available.

Fellowship Stipend

The payment to the successful candidate will take the form of a scholarship worth between €25,000 and €30,000, depending on experience and qualifications, for a maximum of three years. Section 193 scholarship exemption is available, where applicable; stipend to be paid quarterly in arrears. In addition, a system of fees remission for postgraduate work, will be in operation. Fellows will not be employees of the College during the tenure of the fellowship.

The successful applicants will meet with the eligibility requirements of Research/Doctoral students at St Patrick's College, and will be required to complete the standard application process for Research degree students.

Application

To apply for the Write to Read Doctoral Fellowship, applicants should send a CV, outlining their teaching experience, academic qualifications, and experience in the areas of literacy and professional development. This should be accompanied by a statement (1,000 words) indicating their perspective on the teaching of literacy in primary schools and why they want to pursue doctoral research in this area. Applications should be sent to:

Human Resources Department
St Patrick's College
Drumcondra
Dublin 9.

Closing date for receipt of Curriculum Vitae and a personal statement is
1200, noon on Friday 9th September

Applicants may be interviewed as part of the selection process. Interviews are likely to occur the week of 19th September with a view to beginning the fellowship mid October.

St Patrick's College is an Equal Opportunities Employer

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