

Mater Dei Institute of Education
A College of Dublin City University

Poetry Consultant

(Part-time, Fixed Term eight month contract post)

Mater Dei Institute, a College of Education in the Liberal Arts tradition, a foundation of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin and a College of Dublin City University, is seeking to recruit a Poetry Consultant located within the Institute's Irish Centre for Poetry Studies. This is an eight month part-time post, funded by the Mater Dei Educational and Research Trust. The successful applicant will, as a poet, encourage creative writing in Mater Dei and the wider community, giving a particular emphasis to the use of poetry in the promotion of literacy; and to further this, will also develop a range of online resources for use by educators.



Since its creation in 2007, The Irish Centre for Poetry Studies at Mater Dei has succeeded in its foundational aims, which were to secure a reputation for excellence and provide a base for poetry-related scholarship. Its journal POST is about to publish its third issue, a fourth is close to readiness, and it has already established itself as a unique site where poetry receives an interdisciplinary analysis, seeing the art as a form of cultural transmission that connects all of human experience. The Journal has been very well-received, and has attracted positive comment both nationally and internationally.

The Centre has also successfully developed the *MA in Poetry Studies* at Mater Dei, a programme that has succeeded in attracting at least 15 students (both part-time and full-time) in every year that it has run, a notably strong performance compared to other MA programmes in the Humanities currently on offer in Ireland with a literary focus.

Work is also evolving on the creation of a Poetry Studies International Network, which would further confirm the Centre's standing as an agenda-setting hub for creative learning. The Centre is unique in Ireland and the UK, and is re-defining the study of poetry as an interdisciplinary phenomenon beyond the narrowly literary, admitting a broad community of scholars and students from a wide range of educative and cultural backgrounds.

CONTEXT TO THE CURRENT INITIATIVE

In response to the Governmental demand that higher education institutions in Ireland should become more active in the fostering of literacy, the Irish Centre for Poetry Studies at Mater Dei wishes to promote the writing of poetry as a means of encouraging reading and writing skills across the Irish and international population, while also facilitating the intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of students through creative activity.

The Irish Centre for Poetry Studies wants to build relationships with schools and educators, complementing the Institute's work in education by using poetry as means of both exploring belief, but also of negotiating openly with a plurality of other cultures, attitudes and systems of belief, a necessary discourse that informs Mater Dei's strategic planning.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POST

The successful applicant will:

- conduct poetry writing workshops at Mater Dei for educators and learners from both the Institute and local community, enabling them to explore the possibilities of culture and identity through confident self-expression, thus augmenting work already being done by Mater Dei. These sessions will be provided from February- August 2012.
- conduct workshops for teachers, student teachers and others which facilitate the creative and expressive voicing of poetry. These sessions will be provided from February- August 2012.
- based in part on the work of the above sessions, make a series of short videos for the Irish Centre for Poetry Studies/MDI website and YouTube that would encourage people to write poetry, therefore contributing towards our efforts at fostering literacy in the wider community through e-learning. These videos would also be directed at teachers of a range of subjects (including English and Religious Education) looking to improve literacy through creative processes like poetry writing. These should be ready for publication on the MDI website in August 2012
- work at building a section of the Irish Centre for Poetry Studies website that is dedicated to using poetry as a tool for encouraging literacy in learners of all ages. This project should form part of an Institute-wide drive to improve literacy. Deadline: August 2012.
- provide support for various other activities of the Irish Centre for Poetry Studies, and assist in promotional activity on its behalf, assuring that Mater Dei becomes recognized nationally and internationally as dynamically committed to the promotion of creative literacy. This will be engaged with throughout the period of the contract.

APPLICANT PROFILE

(Details of the following must be clearly included in your application)

Applications are invited from candidates who meet the following minimum criteria:

- have experience of teaching poetry workshops to a range of communities and abilities,
- have a range of high-quality publications,
- exhibit an energetic and imaginative approach to educating through poetry,
- can demonstrate an ability to generate a culture of imagination and promote creative learning,
- have some experience of working with economically-disadvantaged groups,
- exhibit excellent communication skills and an aptitude for a collegial style of working,
- have relevant experience of working with digital media.

Commencement Date

January 16th 2012 or shortly thereafter.

Salary and Conditions

This is a part-time post offered on the basis of a minimum 0.4FTE (14 hours per week). The post is offered on the basis of an eight month fixed term contract. Salary level will €8,000 for the duration of the contract (paid monthly). Applicants should note that the first 3 months of employment is probationary.

APPLICATION

Closing date for Application: Tuesday December 20th (5 pm).

Application must be made by downloading and completing the Institute's **Application Form (Project and Curriculum Posts)**. This form and **Information for Applicants (Project and Curriculum Posts)**, which should read in full prior to completing and submitting an application, are available on the *Current Vacancies* section of the Institute's website www.materdei.ie

Applications should be submitted in hardcopy to:

Employment Applications
Office of the Director
Mater Dei Institute of Education
Clonliffe Road
Dublin 3
Ireland

Short-listing: Applicants will be short listed for interview on the basis of the information that they have provided in their application and its relevance to the minimum post requirements as set out above.

Interview: Short-listed applicants will be called for interview. The interview process includes an invitation to make a short (7 minute) verbal presentation to the Interview Board on the how the applicant would envisage the work of the Poetry Consultant. (This presentation may be supported by a Powerpoint presentation but this is optional).

Further Information: It is recommended that, prior to application, prospective applicants should have an informal conversation with the Head of the ICPS concerning this job description. Contact details:

Dr. Michael Hinds
Tel: 01 8086527
Email: michael.hinds@materdei.dcu.ie