



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



- UNESCO Chair "Transforming the Lives
- of People with Disabilities, their Families
- and Communities, Through Physical Education,
- Sport, Recreation and Fitness"
-

UNESCO Chairholder, Institute of Technology Tralee, Co Kerry Ireland

1. Background

The Institute of Technology, Tralee is a higher education institution situated in the South West of Ireland. The Institute has been to the forefront of learning since its establishment and has gained a reputation as a centre of distinction for teaching, learning and research. The Institute offers a range of full-time and part-time programmes ranging from certificate through to honours degree and post-graduate Masters and Doctoral level. Enhancing the taught programmes at the Institute is a world class programme of research.

Based on two campuses, both with easy access to the town centre, the Institute has a well-deserved reputation for friendliness and success. With a community of over 3,500 students and 250 academic staff, consisting of a diverse mix of home, EU and overseas students, you are guaranteed a warm welcome at the Institute.

The Institute shares its campus with Kerry Technology Park and has fostered close links with companies based in the park. Our multi-million euro development Masterplan has already seen significant developments in learning, teaching, research and student sports facilities, providing quality facilities for our learners.

In May 2013 an agreement was signed between the United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Institute concerning the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on "Transforming the lives of people with disabilities through physical education, sport fitness and recreation" at the Institute. The agreement is valid for a period of 4 years following which it will be renewed based upon successful achievement of the objectives contained therein.

As part of the agreement with UNESCO, the Institute is required to appoint a Chairholder. The Chairholder would operate as part of a multi-disciplinary team and would support a number of key staff operating in the UNESCO Chair in the Institute. UNESCO are confident that the proposed structure around the Chair will facilitate to increase the international capacity and transparency of the Institute's Chair activities. In addition UNESCO are pleased with the strong institutional support the Institute is committing to the development of the UNESCO Chair.

2. Chairholder Post

At this juncture the Institute is keen to: determine interest from prospective Chairholders; outline key dimensions of the remit of the Chairholder; provide an overview of the structures supporting the Chair institutionally; explore the vision of prospective Chairholders vis-à-vis the Chair.

The post will be offered on a part time adjunct basis with the salary equating to 1.5 days per week or 17 weeks per year with an annual gross salary of €30,000 excluding travel expenses. The amount of time the Chairholder will spend in Tralee will be agreed with the Institute. Travel budgets will be agreed with the Head of Development on an annual basis in line with the Institute's travel and subsistence policy.

The Institute envisages that the tenure of the Chairholder position will be up to 3 years with the possibility of renewal. Based upon the circumstances of prospective Chairholders the tenure may be shorter or longer and the Institute is open to discussion on this.

The remit of the Chairholder is to offer expert guidance and assistance to the Institute in developing and advancing the Chair strategy and related activities undertaken by the Institute. It is expected that the Chairholder will facilitate the visibility of the Chair and its activities internationally, while simultaneously being a guiding influence of activities of the Chair on the ground. Attracting funding to support the Chair activities will also be a pivotal role of the Chairholder.

The remit of the Chair is specified in the Articles of the Agreement with UNESCO most especially:

The Agreement sets out the following Articles:

Article 1 The Institute shall, in cooperation with UNESCO, establish a UNESCO Chair on Transforming the Lives of People with Disabilities through Physical Education, Sport, Fitness and Recreation (hereinafter referred to as "the Chair") at the Institute of Technology Tralee.

Article 2 The purpose of the Chair shall be to promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation in the fields of inclusive physical education, adapted physical activity, sports and fitness for social inclusion of people with disabilities. It will facilitate collaboration between high-level, internationally recognized researchers and teaching staff of the Institute and other institutions in Ireland and elsewhere in Europe*, as well as in Africa, the Arab States region, and Latin America and the Caribbean *(note this includes US and Canada).

The specific objectives of this Chair are:

- Through the sharing of programmes and policies developed at the Institute and by partner institutions (including in developing countries and in post-conflict/disaster areas), as well as through education and training, to build capacities of professionals so they can better work with people with disabilities in the areas of physical education, sport, recreation and fitness;
- to develop a virtual space to provide a vehicle for unified collaboration world-wide;
- to engage in multi-sectorial transformational research to address the deficit of knowledge regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities;
- to mobilize the partnership to disseminate, advocate, operate, research and transform current practice in a unified and coordinated manner, with a view to encouraging the implementation of changes in legislation, policy and practice as regards the inclusion of people with disabilities in physical education, sport, fitness and recreation and;
- to cooperate with UNESCO on relevant programmes and activities.

There are 15 other Articles in the agreement pertaining to operational issues that are surplus to the requirements of this document in the interest of succinctness they are not included here.

The Partnership: The partnership is fluid and organic. It is envisaged that it will grow depending upon specific project needs and collaborations. At application stage the partnership was submitted as follows:

Executing institution: Institute of Technology Tralee & the Cara Centre (ITT)

Partners were listed as follows: The International Council for Sports Science and Physical Education & the Chair of the Education Committee of the International Paralympic Committee; The Centre for Inclusive Sport Studies –CEDI in the Technical University of Madrid; EUFAPA, European Federation of Adapted Physical Activity & Palacký University Olomouc; Special Olympics Europe/ Eurasia; Háskóli Íslands (University of Iceland); English Federation of Disability Sport / Inclusive Fitness Initiative; IHRSA ‘International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association’ ; European Observatoire of Sports Employment; Chernobyl Children International; International Needs; Mauritius Institute of Education; Hope Alaska; University of Victoria Canada & Canadian Sport for Life; University of Hacettepe Turkey; University of Jordan; Hashemite University Jordan; Ministry of Education and Sport Cape Verde, University of Alabama –Birmingham US; Federal State University Brockport NY, USA. Ken Black the Inclusion Club, Federal University Juiz De Fora, Brasil; ICREPS and Sport and Citizenship.

The Chair will be expected to grow the partnership and mobilise same with regard to relevant activities.

3. Structures supporting the Chair institutionally

The Chair is fully supported by the Institutes Governing Body & Executive committees. Researchers and academic staff across the Institute have embraced the UNESCO Chair and its potential wholeheartedly. The Health and Leisure Department within the School Of Health and Social Science is home to the Chair but the interdisciplinary nature of the Chair remit transcends many departments in the Institute facilitating an innovative interdepartmental cross disciplinarian research agenda. In order to fully realise the potential of the Chair to “Transform the lives of People with Disabilities their Families and Communities through PE, Sport, Recreation and Fitness” successful collaboration nationally and internationally will be essential. The existing and proposed structures supporting the Chair institutionally include:

- a) The Institute UNESCO Chair Development Group (Head of Development, External Services Manager, Head of Department, Chair Project Manager and ITT Foundation Fundraising Manager) support the Chair development.
- b) The UNESCO Chair project manager works in a full-time capacity based in the Institute working on advancing the activity and operation of the Chair as a research centre, and assuring the alignment of programme development with the Chair remit within the Institute. The project manager liaises with UNESCO on the Chair activities and maintains updates with the partnership.
- c) The internal Education, Training and Research group supporting the Chair.
- d) The Chairholder
- e) An advisory board of people external to the Institute will be put in place to support the activities of the Institute’s UNESCO Chair.
- f) A Postdoctoral Researcher and a Research assistant will support the research activities of the Chair.
- g) Further research posts as may emerge through competitive tendering processes and other funding avenues.

4. Candidate Requirements:

The UNESCO Chairholder is required to support the Institute in meeting the requirements set out in Article 2 above. In addition, in fields, pertaining to the Chair activities, the Chairholder will evidence international experience and recognition in the areas outlined below and will:

- Have the skills required to operate as a bridge builder between academic institutions, federations, governments, policy players, industry and civic society.
- Possess excellent interpersonal communication and presentation skills.
- Be a fluent English speaker & writer. Additional language proficiency from countries across the geographical remit of the chair is desirable.
- Have a minimum of 10 years previous experience in transformative and action research including inclusive programme implementation.
- Have a strong international record in peer reviewed publications or and/or policy documentation.
- Past experience in guiding the development of practical resources or initiatives with impact outcomes.
- Have a strong record in accessing funding through research grants, philanthropic donations, and corporate sponsorship.
- Have the capacity to further develop the scope, capacity and visibility of the Chair Internationally.
- Have a proven track record in attracting and organising International Conferences and Events.

5. Application Process

At this point the Institute invites prospective Chairholders submit a CV and to outline their vision for the Chair and the Chairholder position. This can be presented by means of a briefing document outlining how the candidate meets the requirements as laid out above and how they envisage they can facilitate the Chair in achieving its goals. This document should be submitted through our e-recruitment system at www.ittralee.ie by **12.00 noon GMT on Monday 18th August 2014**. We expect to hold interviews during the week commencing September 1st 2014.

For further information and queries please feel free to contact: Catherine Carty, UNESCO Chair Project Manager at Catherine.carty@ittralee.ie Telephone queries can be organised via email.

For queries on our e-recruitment system contact: + 353 66 7145613.

6. General:

The information given in this document is of a general information nature only and should not be taken as contractual.

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