**Role: Public Engagement Officer: Data and Space Scienc**e

Reporting directly to, and working closely with Prof. Caitriona Jackman and Dr. Sophie Murray, the post holder will lead on public engagement and outreach initiatives from their location at the DIAS Dunsink Observatory.

Dunsink is undergoing a period of redevelopment, where we wish to inspire a sense of ownership in the general public in the state-of-the-art research we undertake on site, and to empower young people to go on to study STEM subjects at third level. Recent additions to Dunsink’s portfolio of outreach tools is Ireland’s first space-themed escape room [[Dunsink.dias.ie/escaperoom/](https://www.dunsink.dias.ie/escaperoom/)] which is a fully immersive, interactive experience with scope to attract a whole new demographic on site, broadening participation particularly with a local community that is currently significantly underserved in STEM education. The post holder would act as a game master for the escape room, and develop workshops linked to the science behind the puzzles. Additionally, our Space Weather and Planetary Science research links to public projects such as the Magnetometer Network of Ireland [magie.ie]. The post holder would work on the creation of new research-inspired content for this project.

Furthermore, in collaboration with national partners we plan to run “data dives” or hackathons following the model of data science for social good, utilising the skills of academic researchers & external data science experts, to work with local charities to maximise the effective use of their data to solve social problems. The post holder would play a key role in the team organising these events.

Finally, we propose to develop new impactful STEAM co-creation outreach schemes which will revolutionise the site at Dunsink and expose new audiences to DIAS research and inspire wonder around space & astronomy. The post holder will be central to these efforts.

The appointment will be on a fixed term basis for 13 months, and is funded by a Science Foundation Ireland grant held by Prof. Jackman. Flexible working arrangements will be considered. Salary €39,131 p.a. The appointee will be subject to the general Irish public sector regulations as regards annual leave, sick leave and pension entitlements.

The successful candidate requires:

* A primary degree
* Excellent planning and project management skills
* Excellent written and verbal communication skills
* Strong interpersonal skills
* Good IT skills, with website management skills desirable
* The ability to work independently

Previous experience in either research or public engagement is highly desirable. The post will involve working some evenings and weekends (for public events at Dunsink).

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