Post Title: Research Assistant in Digital Inclusion
Post Duration: 17 months
Salary Scale: Appointment will be made on the IUA Research Assistant Pay Scale at point 6-12 (commensurate with experience); €33,131- €38,105

Location: Trinity College Dublin
Reports to: Principal Investigator Dr. Esther Murphy
Closing Date: 5pm Wednesday 19th of July
Apply: Please email your application (cover letter & CV) to digi-id@tcd.ie. Please see below for details on how to apply.

Why ADAPT?

● **Contribute** to the ADAPT research agenda that pioneers and combines research in AI driven technologies: Natural Language Processing, Video/Text/Image/Speech processing, digital engagement & HCI, semantic modeling, personalisation, privacy & data governance.
● **Work** with our interdisciplinary team of leading experts from the complementary fields of, Social Sciences, Communications, Commerce/Fintech, Ethics, Law, Health, Environment and Sustainability.
● **Leverage our success.** ADAPT’s researchers have signed 43 collaborative research projects, 52 licence agreements and oversee 16 active commercialisation funds and 52 commercialisation awards. ADAPT has won 40 competitive EU research projects and obtained €18.5 million in non-exchequer non-commercial funding. Additionally, six spinout companies have been formed. ADAPT’s researchers have produced over 1,500 journal and conference publications and nearly 100 PhD students have been trained.

As an ADAPT researcher you will have access to a network of 85 global experts and over 250 staff as well as a wide multi-disciplinary ecosystem across 8 leading Irish universities. We can influence and inform your work, share our networks, and collaborate with you to increase your impact, and accelerate your career opportunities. Specifically, we offer:

● Exposure and free access within a multi-disciplinary ecosystem across 8 leading Irish universities
● Opportunity to build your profile at international conferences and global events
● Fast-track your career through formalised training & development, expert one-on-one supervision and exposure to top AI specialists
**Research project/Challenge**

Digi-ID PLUS is a Pan European multidisciplinary research and innovation programme, with partnership with global tech company Microsoft, health and education NGOs and government bodies, led by Principal Investigator Dr. Esther Murphy (School of Engineering) focused on the challenge of digital inclusion and low usage of digital technologies amongst people with intellectual disabilities (ID) and autism.

Our mission is to empower people with ID and autism to manage their health and social inclusion needs digitally, ensuring they are not left behind in the digital age. At the heart of Digi-ID Plus, is a co-design methodology and inclusive employment strategy. We have established paid citizen advisory panels to ensure accessibility, consulting and validating all key programme design and content decisions together. We support panel members co-design, user testing activities and present our research and innovation findings at international, EU and national conferences.

To date we have engaged in co-creation and co-design activities with over 500 citizens with ID and their support circles to co-design our European Digital Skills ‘Inclusion in the Digital World’ Award winning accessible digital skills platform DigiAcademy; our accessible digital skills education video platform. Joining our mission to address the challenge of digital inclusion is an opportunity to contribute and learn with citizens with accessibility how best to design and deliver high quality solutions to ensure they can participate in our digital world. As a growing area of research and innovation multiple opportunities to explore career pathways in UI and UX design, accessible design, adaptive learning for innovative new feature design as part of next phase research and innovation plans.

**Funding Information**

This project is funded by EIT Health, who are a network of health innovators backed by the European Union. Their aim is to enable European citizens to live longer, healthier lives by promoting innovation. As Europeans tackle the challenges of increasing chronic diseases and multi-morbidity, they seek to realise technology's potential to move beyond conventional approaches to treatment, prevention and healthy lifestyles. To succeed, Europe needs thought leaders, innovators and efficient ways to bring innovative healthcare solutions to market. EIT Health addresses these needs. They connect all relevant healthcare players across European borders – making sure to include all sides of the “knowledge triangle” of business, research and technology and, education, so that innovation can happen at the intersection of research, education and business for the benefit of citizens.

**About the role**

- Have a high-valuable impact to the project through the co-design of accessible education on a range of mainstream technology topics aligned results from first phase work findings

- Join an established team of experts in the fields of accessibility, engineering, intellectual disability, speech and language therapy to contribute to coordinating user testing sessions with established networks and within the Citizen Advisory Panel scheduled monthly meetings

- Assist with organisation and facilitation of co-design and user testing activities
- Assist with analysis of descriptive quantitative and qualitative data.
- Core role in the co-development of video tutorial education content with DigiAcademy teachers with P.I guidance and supervision
- Core role in liaising with engineering team to facilitate sharing user testing feedback for development of new accessible features
- Assist in co design of user interface prototypes
- Assist in organising and co-ordinating programme dissemination activities and contribute to academic peer review publications and community events
- Enhance your reputation through publishing in top-quality journals and conferences in collaboration with team members
- ADAPT’s Research Development Team will help you develop your ideas into projects and establish a strong funding track record, in particular in the area of AI public engagement activities.
- Participate alongside leading experts in exciting project activities and events to further citizen science research in AI and adaptive learning and digital inclusion
- You will have the opportunity to nationally and internationally present and represent the ground-breaking research carried out by you and the research team
- You will develop as a researcher through access to a wide training & development opportunity
- You will build a strong network through opportunities to liaise with internal and external stakeholders including industry and academic partners/collaborators.
- Involvement with all aspects of the project lifecycle and follow all project planning procedures as specified by the Principal Investigator to ensure the smooth running and proper scheduling of the project, and the building and maintaining of linkages with key stakeholders.

Preferred qualifications:

*Degree in Computer Science or Graphic Design, Creative Digital Media or Similar, Psychology, Disability Studies, Special/Inclusive Education or Social sciences with focus on (Digital) Accessibility/ Universal Design for Learning*

- Experience in Accessibility and (Digital) Inclusion a significant advantage
- Strong Qualitative and Quantitative Research skills desirable
- Ability to work effectively independently and as part of a team – tolerant, cordial and willing to help others, shares work and information; establish rapport with others.
Excellent organisational and task management skills together with the ability to work on a number of tasks simultaneously.

Have the ability to prioritize tasks and meet deadlines; be capable of working on own initiative and work under time constraints.

Strong IT skills including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, familiarity with video, infographics and other on-line presentation methods

Benefits
- Competitive salary
- Flexible working arrangements
- Computer and peripherals of your choice
- A fast-paced environment with impactful work
- Pension
- Day Nursery
- Travel Pass Scheme
- Bike to Work Scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Sports Facilities
- 22 days of Annual Leave
- Paid Sick Leave
- Training & Development
- Staff Discounts

Application Process
Interested candidates can send their application directly to digi-id@tcd.ie. Applications must include:

- Cover Letter
  - A personal letter of motivation, indicating why you wish to work on this digital inclusion and accessibility project at ADAPT, and why you expect that you will be able to complete the research successfully;
  - Must be Arial Font size 12 and no more than ¾ page.
- CV
  - Detailed curriculum vitae, including – if applicable – relevant publications;
  - The name and email contacts of two academic referees

Informal enquiries about the role can also be sent to digi-id@tcd.ie.
Diversity

ADAPT is committed to achieving better diversity and gender representation at all levels of the organisation, across leadership, academic, operations, research staff and studentship levels. ADAPT is committed to the continued development of employment policies, procedures and practices that promote gender equality. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join ADAPT.

About the ADAPT Centre

ADAPT is the world-leading SFI research centre for AI Driven Digital Content Technology, coordinated by Trinity College Dublin and based within Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Maynooth University, Munster Technological University, Athlone Institute of Technology, and the National University of Ireland Galway. ADAPT's research vision is to pioneer new forms of proactive, scalable, and integrated AI-driven Digital Content Technology that empower individuals and society to engage in digital experiences with control, inclusion, and accountability with the long term goal of a balanced digital society by 2030. ADAPT is pioneering new Human Centric AI techniques and technologies including personalisation, natural language processing, data analytics, intelligent machine translation human-computer interaction, as well as setting the standards for data governance, privacy and ethics for digital content.

Our Research Vision

Governments and civil society are starting to recognise the need for urgent and concerted action to address the societal impact of the accelerating pace of digital content technologies and the AI techniques that underpin them. ADAPT provides an ambitious, ground-breaking, integrated research programme that assembles three interlocking Strands that together are capable of addressing this challenge. Each of these complementary and reinforcing research Strands takes one of the different perspectives on the provision of personalised, immersive, multimodal digital engagement, i.e. the individual’s experience and control of the engagement, the algorithms underlying digital content processing, and the balanced governance by enterprise and societal stakeholders.

Digitally Enhanced Engagement Strand

From the individual perspective, research within this Strand will deliver proactive agency techniques that sense, understand and proactively serve the needs of individual users to deliver relevant, contextualised and immersive multimodal experiences which also offer them meaningful control over the machine agency delivering those experiences.

Digital Content Transformation Strand

From the algorithmic perspective, new machine learning techniques will both enable more users to engage meaningfully with the increasing volumes of content globally in a more measurably effective manner, while ensuring the widest linguistic and cultural inclusion. It will enhance effective, robust integrated machine learning algorithms needed to provide multimodal content experiences with new levels of accuracy, multilingualism and explainability.
Transparent Digital Governance Strand
From the enterprise and societal perspective, new structured knowledge frameworks and associated practices for AI data governance will be required to balance the needs and values of individuals, organisations and society when it comes to rich digital experiences. This requires the advancement of research in the areas of data ethics, data quality, data protection, data value, data integration, and multi-stakeholder governance models.