

CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory - Hiring an Education Development & Outreach Officer

Overview

CIT [Blackrock Castle Observatory](#) (BCO), an award-winning science & visitor centre is seeking an imaginative and enthusiastic Education Development & Outreach Officer with a background in astronomy, physics or a related discipline to join the team and support the development and delivery of the BCO Education Programme.

Description

We are looking for someone who will work with the Education Team developing and delivering space themed materials for learners of all ages. The ideal candidate will have a keen interest in science communication, education and astronomy and a relevant scientific background. A key part of the role is to encourage schools and the public to get involved in and interact with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). The candidate will coordinate, organise and participate in a wide range of activities locally, nationally and internationally, working together with BCO Education & Management Teams, BCO Labs researchers and external partners. The Education Development & Outreach Officer role will require engagement with a variety of stakeholders (researchers, science communicators, policy makers, schools, media and the public) using a variety of initiatives. The role will also involve developing a plan for engagement and participating in funding bids to sustain the activity into the future.

The closing date for applications is Friday February 2, 2018,

Key Responsibilities

The Education Development & Outreach Officer will:

- Develop and deliver educational activities to both formal and informal groups for key outreach audiences (schools and the public) both at BCO and offsite
- Research for all BCO Education Programme events (speaker selection, theme development)
- Work with the Cork Institute of Technology Head of Research and BCO Centre Head, with members of the CIT Faculty of Engineering and with the Science Education Officer on BCO Education projects from pre-school to second level including Continuous Professional Development programmes for teachers
- Work with the Education Officer on teacher and student programme development linked to the new Junior Cycle Science specification
- Engage with BCO Labs Researchers to create engaging material (Eg presentations, materials, fun experiments, video, graphics etc) to support the delivery of the outreach activities.
- Measure, monitor and report on the impact of the outreach activities and adjust accordingly.
- Form partnerships with other outreach providers, collaborating locally, nationally and globally to leverage and support existing programmes.
- Support the Centre Manager, Education Officer and Finance Officer with reporting requirements
- Perform scientific demonstrations and engage audiences in the process.
- Run live astronomy shows in our mobile planetaria.
- Perform other duties as assigned which will arise from time to time.

Policy advice and dissemination

- Develop programmes in line with national education policy
- Present on the BCO Education and Public Engagement (EPE) Programme at workshops and meetings

- Represent BCO at events, meetings and networking.

Promotion/Development

- To identify opportunities for external relationships and collaboration
- To contribute to the development of the strong external links to business and industry.
- Pursue funding opportunities and collaborations so as to sustain and develop activities and reach new audiences.
- Stimulate debate on science and increase visibility of BCO
- Contribute to the promotion and marketing of BCO
- Contribute to ongoing training of the BCO network of Explainers & Explorers (Space Ambassadors)

Requirements

- A formal teaching qualification in either the primary or post-primary sector.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills both written and spoken; excellent ability to interact with people. Very strong customer service orientation.
- Significant and demonstrable experience in public engagement, STEM/astronomy communication or outreach; the ability to enthusiastically relay scientific information to a variety of audiences.
- Excellent research capability and experience in organising events; strong IT skills.
- Excellent report writing and organisational skills
- Ability to work with children and young people to run STEM based workshops.
- Flexibility with hours and locations; times and working place will vary
- Strong organisational and time/self-management skills on goal-oriented tasks
- A self-starter who is motivated and innovative, able to work on own initiative and excellent ability to work constructively as part of a diverse team. A pro-active, can-do attitude.
- Ability to work under pressure and multi task to deadlines with attention to detail
- A full clean drivers licence
- Fluent English (spoken and written) is essential.

Notes

The list of duties detailed above is not intended to be exclusive or restrictive and may be adjusted dependent on the project, area of research and/or outreach programme

Garda Vetting will be required for the successful applicant.

The Education Development & Outreach Officer role starts immediately.

The Education Development & Outreach Officer reports to the Centre Manager.

This is a full-time, 1 year fixed term post at €32,506.00 per annum.

CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory is an equal opportunities employer.

How to Apply

Please send a cover letter and a CV with the subject line **Education Development & Outreach Officer Application to clair.mcsweeney@bco.ie**

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