



Maths Development Team: LESSON STUDY ASSOCIATE POSITIONS

to promote and support local Lesson Study networks of teachers of Mathematics

AUTUMN 2017 RECRUITMENT

Job Description and General Notes

The Maths Development Team (MDT)¹ is a Department of Education and Skills CPD support service offering professional development support to post-primary teachers of mathematics. It is based in Drumcondra Education Centre.

Drumcondra Education Centre is now recruiting Associates to provide local, regional and national Lesson Study professional development and support for teachers of mathematics for 2017/18.

The following notes will be of assistance to applicants:

1. Introduction

In 2017/18, personnel and resources will be made available to facilitate half-day school visits and other programmes of development. Additional support will be provided by teams of locally-based Lesson Study Associates under the management of the National Coordinator and local Regional Development Officer. Evening sessions to promote and support local Lesson Study networks of mathematics teachers will be provided in education centres and schools.

Lesson Study aims to foster a culture of continuing professional development among teachers as part of schools' ongoing programme development, encouraging reflective practice, enquiry-based practice and lifelong learning.

2. Eligibility

All applicants for the role of Lesson Study Associate must be qualified, a serving teacher/deputy principal/principal, fully registered with the Teaching Council and must currently hold a full-time post in a recognised post-primary school, or have maintained their registration with the Teaching Council if retired.

3. Job Description

¹ From September 2017 is intended that the MDT will be incorporated into the Professional Support Service for Teachers (PDST) as part of the development of a dedicated STEM Support Team.

An Associate is engaged to work in a part-time capacity with a support service. Associates may work for a maximum of **20 days** or 40 interaction units (all programmes/regions combined) which are eligible for substitute cover. Any payment for hours worked up to 3.5 hours per day is considered as one unit.

An Associate will be required to work as part of a multi-disciplinary professional team and will report directly to the National Director or her nominee.

Lesson Study Associates, in collaboration with Regional Development Officers, will facilitate Lesson Study sessions to promote and support local networks of teachers in a range of areas identified by teachers.

A significant focus of those recruited will be to facilitate and promote local Lesson Study networks of teachers to lead their own CPD in a systemic way into the future.

This will involve:

- working with teachers and demonstrating exemplars of effective Lesson Study in learning, teaching and assessment strategies, approaches and methodologies. This will include the following:
 - school-based collaborative continuing professional development in adopting whole-school, group and individual such as:
 - Planning, implementing, debriefing and keeping records of each session
 - Develop important students learning goals – desired forms of students learning, thinking and engagement with mathematics
 - Facilitate teachers in designing a lesson proposal advising on merits of different types of class activities, exercises and so forth
 - Guide teachers on how to observe and gather evidence of student learning for the lesson to be taught
 - Plan the teaching and observation of the lesson
 - Organise debriefing after the lesson and facilitate the discussion and analysis of the lesson
 - Document the work to contribute to a pedagogical knowledge base for other teachers.
 - Provide advice, support and facilitate teachers' professional development using a range of delivery modes (evening workshops, online/phone/email support, as required)
 - participate in regional and other meetings and in team professional development opportunities
 - undertake other responsibilities as may be required from time to time in accordance with emerging needs and priorities

Notwithstanding the notes above, the main role of Lesson Study Associates will be the provision of Lesson Study to whole-staff and teacher groups.

4. Range of knowledge, experience and skills required:

Ideally, the successful candidate will have a range of expertise in the following:

- in-depth knowledge and experience of teaching mathematics at post-primary level (including Junior and Senior Cycle Higher Level Mathematics)
- experience and expertise in the use of Maths active learning methodologies which foster

student engagement with the curriculum and the development of literacy skills, including digital literacy and numeracy skills

- experience of providing curriculum and instructional leadership
- the use of ICT in learning and teaching and supporting change
- knowledge and experience of school development planning and change management
- ability to support whole-school improvement
- excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- excellent organisational, management and ICT skills
- an enterprising approach to tasks
- knowledge and awareness of current developments in curriculum and assessment in post-primary schools.

Flexibility to meet the needs of the organisation, including a willingness to engage in travel and/or evening work as necessary, is essential.

Experience of teaching/working through the medium of Irish and fluency in the language will be an advantage for all posts and is a requirement for some.

Successful candidates will be required to have their own means of transport and to possess and retain a full driving licence.

Public service travel and subsistence rates will apply and will be calculated from an associate's local designated Education Centre, or home, as appropriate.

5. Competition

Appointment to the role will be effective for the 2017/2018 school year, or as determined by the National Coordinator. Persons appointed will be required for release from their school for a maximum of 20 full days per school year. Substitution is provided.

6. Selection Procedure

Applications should be made by submission of a completed electronic application form to grainneh@ecdumcondra.ie

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 5pm.

Late applications will not be considered.

A selection committee will be established to carry out all aspects of the selection process. Shortlisting may apply.

Successful candidates will be **interviewed on Saturday May 20th via Skype** and a time slot for this will be allocated to you in due course. It is the responsibility of each candidate to make themselves available for interview, as it may not be possible to provide an alternative date for interview.

A panel may be formed from which future vacancies at Associate level may be filled.

7. Release from Present Post

It is a matter for successful candidates to secure the agreement of their school authorities for release to work as a Lesson Study Associate for up to 20 days per year during the school year.