



**An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,  
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta**  
Department of Further and Higher Education,  
Research, Innovation and Science

## SFI Public Service Fellowship 2023

<b>1. Name of Governmental Department or Agency</b>
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
<b>2. Title of the Project</b>
<b>DFHERIS2</b> Assessing the impact of the tertiary system on innovation in the workplace
<b>3. Description of the Project</b>
<p>Ireland, along with other Small Advanced Economies, is moving to strengthen investment in knowledge, skills and innovation capabilities to support competitiveness and increase productivity while providing for mobility of labour across the economy. Firstly towards emerging growth areas including net zero and secondly by leveraging the digital transition to support geographic distribution of labour and innovation.</p> <p>Futureproofing economic and environmental sustainability is also a key factor in safeguarding Ireland's long term position. The establishment of DFHERIS provides opportunity to leverage the full remit of the tertiary system across education, skills and research to deliver greater connectivity with enterprise, supporting and driving a collaborative culture of integrated learning and ongoing innovation at a national level.</p> <p>The Action Plan for Apprenticeship recognises that bringing enterprise and the education and training sector together creates an incubation ground for innovation and progressive development, improving outcomes for employers, apprentices and education and training institutions. Future FET embraces the role of FET improving SME productivity and enhancing skills development. Impact 2030 seeks to strengthen links between enterprise and the higher education research system to further drive innovation and research commercialisation.</p> <p>This study will seek to explore the impact of the tertiary system (FET, HE, Skills and Research) on innovation in enterprise.</p>
<b>4. Project Scope</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake desk based and consultative review to identify engagement points between the tertiary system and enterprise – through work-based learning, learning for those in employment and graduate recruitment across NFQ levels 5-10. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Apprenticeship (L5-10)</li> <li>○ FET – PLC (L5/6), targeted skills programmes</li> <li>○ Higher Education undergraduate (L7-8)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Higher Education postgraduate (L9-10)</li> <li>○ Skillnet Ireland</li> <li>● Conduct survey of employers and those engaged in skills development on impacts of engagement with the tertiary system in delivering innovation in the workplace.</li> <li>● Propose a framework for assessment of the impact of the tertiary system on innovation in enterprise</li> <li>● Deliver an Assessment of the impact of the elements of the tertiary system on innovation in the workplace</li> </ul>
<b>5. Skills/Expertise Required</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expertise in the area of data analysis or statistics would be required, with an awareness and understanding of some economic analysis methods desirable</li> <li>● Strong interpersonal, oral communication and written skills in order to liaise with stakeholders.</li> <li>● Candidate must be comfortable with identifying suitable secondary data sets, extracting relevant information.</li> <li>● Effective communication, including strong report writing skills include the reporting and presentation of results to key stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>6. Expected Outputs of Project</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A detailed written report including findings from all stages of the project:-             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Analysis of engagement points between the tertiary system and enterprise</li> <li>b. Report on the survey of employers and relevant stakeholders</li> <li>c. Assessment of the impact of the elements of the tertiary system on innovation in the workplace</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) A presentation of findings, including recommendations for policy action as appropriate</li> </ol>
<b>7. Working Arrangements</b>
<p>The placement would be in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), 52 St Stephen's Green or Marlborough St, Dublin 2. Flexible and remote working arrangements will be accommodated, however the researcher will be required to engage significantly with stakeholders, many of whom would be in Dublin, therefore being Dublin based would be an advantage.</p>
<b>8. Expected Timeline</b>
<p>This project should take 6 -12 months of full-time work. Part-time working is also a possibility.</p>
<b>9. Contact Details</b>
<p>DFHERIS Evidence for Policy unit</p>