Job Description

Comp ID:	038813
Job Title:	Research Fellow in Cantonese Teaching & Learning
Research Group/ School/Department:	Trinity Centre for Asian Studies / School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Location:	Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, Room 2012, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland
Job Category and Level:	Appointment will be made on the IUA Post-Doctoral Researcher Salary Scale (Level PD1 or as commensurate with experience)
Hours of Work:	Full-time (1.0 FTE)

The Purpose of the Role

Reporting to the director of the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, this Research Fellow post supports a major strategic initiative to expand Cantonese teaching and learning at Trinity College Dublin. The role aligns with Trinity's commitment to presenting Chinese civilisation as linguistically diverse rather than monolithic and responds to long-standing student and public demand for formal Cantonese instruction.

The Research Fellow will assist in developing research-led, sustainable, and culturally informed Cantonese language teaching at Trinity. They will contribute to curriculum design, pedagogy, resource development, classroom research, and outreach activities, working closely with the Principal Investigator and colleagues in the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies.

Context

Trinity College Dublin is expanding its engagement with Chinese linguistic diversity, building on existing strengths in Mandarin, Hokkien, Tibetan, Tujia and other underrepresented Sinitic and

minority languages. Within this landscape, Cantonese is recognised as one of the world's most widely spoken Sinitic languages, with a rich cultural tradition and deep global diaspora connections.

Trinity has received repeated requests for Cantonese courses, and a pre-COVID pilot course demonstrated strong student and public demand. Developing Cantonese teaching is therefore a natural next step in building a multilingual, research-led Chinese Studies programme.

As Research Fellow in Cantonese Teaching & Learning, you will play a central role in this development. You will conduct learner-focused research, design and trial pedagogical materials, and help shape a sustainable Cantonese curriculum. Working closely with colleagues in the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, you will ensure that new Cantonese teaching reflects and reinforces the Centre's broader mission to represent the diversity of Chinese linguistic and cultural traditions.

In addition to these core responsibilities, you will have opportunities to contribute to wider interdisciplinary work and public outreach on Hong Kong and the Cantonese-speaking world, for example, in relation to changing political conditions, cultural production and diaspora communities. Through this, you can help position Trinity as a place where contemporary developments in Hong Kong and the Cantonese speaking world are examined with independence, critical rigour and historical depth.

Main Responsibilities

This is a list of the tasks, duties and responsibilities for the role is not intended to be exclusive and may be adjusted dependent on the area of research.

- Contribute to the design and delivery of research on Cantonese teaching and learning, including needs analysis, evaluation of pedagogical approaches, and assessment of learner progress.
- Support the development of a research-informed Cantonese curriculum, including syllabi, assessment frameworks, lesson plans, multimedia teaching materials, and instructor guidelines.
- Assist with building Cantonese language learning resources that reflect the linguistic, cultural, and sociolinguistic features stressed in the proposal (e.g., multilingualism, diaspora contexts).
- Conduct literature reviews on Cantonese linguistics, second language acquisition, and comparative Sinitic pedagogy.
- Collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative data (surveys, interviews, classroom observation, learner corpora).

- Support outreach and community engagement activities related to Cantonese, including public tasters, cultural events, or collaborations with Irish Cantonese-speaking communities (if relevant).
- Prepare reports, briefing documents, and dissemination materials for internal and external stakeholders, including donor-related updates if required.
- Assist in coordinating meetings, workshops, and project activities, including communications with TCAS and School staff.
- Present research progress to the PI, project team, and potentially at academic or public events.
- Contribute to publications and conference presentations where appropriate.
- Undertake additional research and administrative duties required by the PI.

Person Requirements

The role-holder will require the following knowledge, skills and attributes for successful performance in the role

Qualifications

- A PhD in a relevant field such as Chinese Studies, Cantonese Studies, Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Language Education, or a closely related discipline (required).

Knowledge and Expertise

- **Native or near-native Cantonese proficiency (required).**

- Strong English-language academic communication skills.

- Knowledge of Cantonese linguistics (phonology, grammar, vocabulary, regional variation, sociolinguistics).

- Understanding of second-language pedagogy and/or experience teaching Chinese languages.

- Familiarity with the cultural, historical, and societal contexts of Hong Kong and Cantonese-speaking regions (as relevant to the proposal's emphasis on multilingual identity in Hong Kong)

- Experience working in a research environment; ability to work independently and collaboratively.

- Strong organisational, reporting, and communication skills.

- Experience with qualitative and/or quantitative research methods.

- Competence with digital or multimedia tools for language learning (Moodle, media editing, annotation tools) is desirable.

- Experience in curriculum development or community language teaching is desirable.

Key Accountabilities

- Conduct assigned tasks to the highest ethical and research standards.

- Support dissemination of research findings to academic and non-academic audiences.

- Provide guidance to research students or support staff involved in the project.

- Take responsibility for administrative tasks such as maintaining research data, drafting reports, and preparing teaching materials.

- Perform a range of research activities (data collection, analysis, documentation, interpretation) independently and as part of a team.

- Present research updates internally and externally.

- Contribute to the publication of findings where possible.

- Coordinate with the PI to plan next steps for the development of Cantonese teaching at Trinity.

Trinity Competencies

In Trinity there are 6 Core Competencies that are applicable to all roles across a range of professional, administrative and support jobs, unlike specialist or technical skills which may be job specific. They provide a common language for describing performance and the abilities/attributes displayed by individuals. They focus on 'how' tasks are achieved, not 'what' is achieved.

Below is a summary definition of the 6 Core Competencies.

	Competency	Summary Definition
1	Agile Leader	Sees the big picture and harnesses opportunities to achieve the University's goals. Creates clear direction for the future and how to get there.
2	Unlocks Potential	Energised, capable and confident to take ownership and responsibility for their development and goals. Motivates, supports and develops people to perform to the best of their ability.

3	**Service Ethos**	Finds ways to increase stakeholder and customer satisfaction. Builds relationships, is proactive and delivery focused in order to anticipate, meet & exceed expectations.
4	**Builds Trusted Relationships**	Communicates in a clear and respectful manner building trust and commitment for mutually beneficial outcomes.
5	**Decision-making**	Confidently makes timely decisions based on knowledge, evidence and sound judgement.
6	**Achieves Results**	Delivers results by setting direction, planning, executing and evaluating impact.