Interdisciplinary PhD Scholarships on the Theme of AI & Society

Have you recently completed, or expect very soon to complete, a masters in English, or Media and Communications, or Science Communication? Are you interested in carrying out interdisciplinary research on Artistic and Public Understandings of AI during the next four years, commencing in September 2023?

The School of English and School of Media and Communications is offering a fully funded, four year fees waiver + stipend (19,000 per annum for four years) scholarship in the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences at Dublin City University. The student will be registered in the School of **English**. The project will be supervised by [Dr. Paula Murphy](#) and [Dr. Declan Fahy](#). This is one of four interdisciplinary PhD Scholarships being offered in the Faculty from 2023. Note that candidates may apply for **one** of these thematic scholarships only.

TITLE: AI: Artistic Representations and Public Understandings

DESCRIPTION:
Public concern over the ramifications of artificial intelligence on society have found clear expression in prominent works of popular culture. As examples, the film Ex Machina (Garland, 2014), Ian McEwan's novel Machines like Me (2019) and the novel by Nobel Prize-winner Kazuo Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun (2021) express deep cultural anxieties over this new technology. In addition, the possibility of AI being in itself a creative entity, an author, has come under scrutiny.

The doctoral student in this project would study representations of artificial intelligence in popular culture, to find out how prominent cultural portrayals depict the social, cultural and ethical ramifications of AI in order to help us understand the collective ambivalence over the evolution of this emergent and evolving technology. The student would also examine how these representations help construct perceptions about artificial intelligence for the public, policymakers, and scientists as part of a dynamic process through which literary works and popular films, not only engage and entertain, but also make policy-related arguments, propose ethical dilemmas, shape news coverage, impact scientific thought, and become topics of wider public discussion.

This project will be interdisciplinary in nature, potentially combining analyses of artistic representations of artificial intelligence, including literature and film, embedded within an understanding of social attitudes to artificial intelligence, reflected in journalistic reporting and debate.

Candidate profile
The ideal candidate must have recently completed or expect very soon a masters or equivalent degree in English, Media and Communications, Science Communication, or a closely related area. The candidate is expected to have first class or upper second-class honours bachelor's (or equivalent) degree. In addition, the applicant should:

- Have a strong interest in **technology and society**
- Have a strong background in **the humanities**
- Have excellent skills in **researching and writing**
- Have excellent knowledge of written and spoken English (See [DCU's requirements](#) for English language skills; applicants must ensure that they meet these requirements **before submitting an application**.
- Meet DCU's entry requirements in general (see general entry requirements [here](#))

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Deadline:

The strict deadline for application is: April 24th, 5 pm Irish Time. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview around the middle of May.

What to submit:

Candidates should email their applications in a **single pdf file** to paula.murphy@dcu.ie and declan.fahy@dcu.ie with "AI: Artistic Representations and Public Understandings" in the subject line. This application must include:

1. A brief cover letter outlining your motivation for applying
2. A complete version of this form

Note: Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible.

Process:

Applications will be reviewed by the supervisory panel and short-listed. Short-listed candidates will be called for interview (online). If successful at the interview stage, candidates will then be invited to make a formal application to DCU via the Student Application Portal. Applicants are expected to read the information available here on the general process for PhD applications to DCU. Please note that the offer of a scholarships is not a formal offer of a place for PhD studies at DCU. The latter is made only after successful application via the Student Application Portal and verification of eligibility.

For queries contact: paula.murphy@dcu.ie and declan.fahy@dcu.ie