

Call for a Female Technologist In Residence at The Digital Hub

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2. Overview – Context

The Digital Hub is offering an exciting and unique residency opportunity to a professional innovative female¹ technologist. The residency will be for **3 to 6 months commencing in September 2024**. The technologist will be based at The Digital Hub which is located in the Liberties (Dublin 8). This residency has been identified as a response to existing research² evidencing the gender gap in STEM, and in line with The Digital Hub's EDI Policy³.

The residency provides an experienced technologist with a unique opportunity to work within an innovative environment and to engage with a community of innovators and entrepreneurs as well as with the vibrant local community of Dublin 8.

The aim of the residency is to enable the technologist to develop their experience of direct engagement with end users within The Digital Hub ecosystem through a collaborative process of engagement with technology and creative start-ups, academia, and The Digital Hub's existing project collaborators and partners.

Closing date for Expressions of Interest is Friday 30th August 2024.

3. Where is the Residency hosted?

On The Digital Hub Campus which is located in the Liberties in Dublin 8.

Flexibility will be provided for some of the work to be conducted remotely.

4. What is The Digital Hub?

Located at the heart of the historic Liberties area of Dublin city centre, The Digital Hub provides high-quality workspace and support to small businesses in the technology and creative sectors, social enterprises, artists, and craftspeople.

At present, 55 businesses and organisations are based on The Digital Hub campus, collectively employing over 600 people.

A total of 51,656 sq ft of multi-use office, studio, collaborative, and flexible workspace is currently occupied while a further 7,500 sq ft is also used by businesses and academia for meetings, events, and classes and by Ireland's major theatre companies for rehearsals and performances.

The Digital Hub's primary responsibility is to create an environment that fosters creative digital enterprise with particular emphasis on companies addressing major challenges in areas such as health, wellbeing, and climate change.

¹ The Digital Hub acknowledges the intersectional nature of identity, including, but not limited to the protected characteristics set out Irish equality legislation: <https://www.ihrec.ie/your-rights/equality-laws-ireland/>

² The Gender Gap in STEM: Still Gaping in 2023 – MIT Blog
<https://professionalprograms.mit.edu/blog/leadership/the-gender-gap-in-stem/>

³ The Digital Hub – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
<https://thedigitalhub.com/publications/equality-diversity-inclusion-policy/>

Current member companies include indigenous enterprises such as Akara Robotics, Bizimply, Good Travel Software, Kavaleer, Neuromod and patientMpower. Major global businesses, such as Lonely Planet, are also based on the campus alongside over 40 artists, craftspeople and arts organisations including the Dublin International Film Festival, field:arts, Flux and Pallas Projects.

Since The Digital Hub's inception in 2003, over 400 companies have progressed through its campus, generating thousands of skilled jobs. Well-established alumni include Amazon, Black Shamrock, Distilled Media Group, Etsy, Havok, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Slack, Software AG, Silicon Republic, and Stripe.

The Digital Hub is also a supportive partner of its neighbours and the surrounding local community, leading a series of initiatives and projects for people of all ages, abilities, and interests.

These wide-ranging programmes are generally delivered in partnership with other organisations and seek to develop 21st century skills in young and old, demonstrating the potential of digital innovations to transform the lives of citizens and allowing the public to engage playfully and critically with new technologies while improving their digital literacy.

The Digital Hub is, for example, one of three lead partners in the Smart D8 initiative which aims to improve and sustain the health and wellbeing of Dublin 8 citizens. This programme brings public and private academic institutions together to develop a range of demonstrator projects that have the potential for national and international application.

The Digital Hub also works in partnership with curator and creative producer, Aisling Murray, and with the support of Science Foundation Ireland, to host Beta, a new international arts and technology festival for Ireland, which was held for the first time in November 2023.

The #D8 Together Video Challenge is organised alongside CB Media while we continue to work closely with community groups and organisations such as the Robert Emmet Community Development Project and Pocket Forests.

Helping to increase economic activity in The Liberties is a crucial part of its role. A partnership with We Love Markets, for example, brings thousands of people into the area every month for an event focused on local crafts and circularity.

In addition to overseeing and running the campus' activities, The Digital Hub is also responsible for the careful management of an extensive property portfolio, which includes many buildings representative of Dublin 8's industrial history.

The Digital Hub Development Agency is the Irish state agency that manages The Digital Hub. The Agency was established by the Irish Government under the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and plays a key part in supporting the implementation of the National Digital Strategy.

5. Scope and Nature of the Residency

The nature of the residency will evolve from the successful applicant's proposal, and The Digital Hub takes an open and flexible approach in this regard.

The residency will enable the technologist to develop their experience of direct engagement with end users by engaging companies and individuals in initiatives which will showcase the use of innovative digital technology in solving real world challenges.

The technologist-in-residence will include a focus on collaborative, community-oriented programming, working with local residents of all ages, school children, community groups and organisations.

The residency can have a research-based element. The technologist can use the process of research to create the experience of the residency, or to create solutions and alternative approaches to issues arising from The Digital Hub's digital innovation community generally.

6. Residency Expectations & Deliverables

- The technologist will be expected to engage The Digital Hub ecosystem and to develop impactful initiatives which will showcase the use of innovative digital technology to solve real world problems.
- The technologist is expected to actively engage with the facilities, resources, or communities available within The Digital Hub, using the opportunities and networks that it offers.
- The technologist should plan to host a number of events or workshops over the course of the residency, with the primary target audience being Dublin 8 residents, but open of course to a wider audience.
- While there is no set amount of time required from the technologist, a regular presence on the campus is expected across the full term of the residency.
- The technologist will be expected prepare an introductory presentation about their work.
- The technologist will be expected to work in close collaboration with The Digital Hub team and to maintain regular contact with the DHDA Programmes and Partnership Manager.
- The technologist will be expected to document their journey, for use in reports and presentations.
- The technologist will be expected to report to The Digital Hub at the end of the process, to critically evaluate the success of the residency.

7. Who is offering the residency and why?

The residency is offered by The Digital Hub. The selected technologist will be engaged by The Digital Hub on a contract for services basis. The technologist will be responsible for managing their own tax.

The Digital Hub's mission is to develop a diverse, inclusive, and creative digital technology quarter in Dublin 8. In line with this, The Digital Hub has developed a residency programme to engage the ecosystem of innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and members of the general public.

8. What the objectives of the Residency Programme?

The Digital Hub objectives in offering of this residency are:

- To provide time, space, and resources for a technologist to develop their practise and skills.
- To explore possibilities arising at the intersection of innovation and real-world needs.
- To engage The Digital Hub ecosystem of innovators and drive market validation of new technologies and content.
- To offer collaborative and networking opportunities for a technologist interested in the application of technology and innovation.
- To bring local community onto The Digital Hub Campus, from school students to older residents, and provide them with the opportunity to experience digital technology with a professional practitioner.
- To promote a diverse, inclusive technological ecosystem, and in particular, to seek to address gender inequality within the STEM profession.
- To evaluate uptake and impact of these programmes through surveys and regular meetings between The Digital Hub and local stakeholders and community groups.

9. Residency Offer, Support and Fees

The residency offers a unique opportunity for a technologist to work within an innovative startups environment and to engage with a community of engineers, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

The resident technologist will receive:

- Office/studio space on The Digital Hub campus.
- Access to The Digital Hub facilities including 24/7 and on-site parking.
- A fee of €10,000.
- A budget of up to €5,000 to support project related costs.
- Access to a cutting-edge community in the field of innovation and technologies as well as to the vibrant Dublin 8 community.
- Access to networking opportunities with innovators and entrepreneurs.
- The support of the DHDA staff to broker introductions with innovative startups and the Dublin 8 ecosystem.

Feedback is important to The Digital Hub and the technologist will participate in regular meetings with The Digital Hub team to evaluate the residency and how well it meets the objectives of all. The technologist will collaborate with The Digital Hub in the promotion and public dissemination of the residence, e.g. through video of performances, media etc.

The Digital Hub Development Agency supports access and equality. Our policies are set out in the public domain at: <https://thedigitalhub.com/publications/>.

10. Applications Process

This is a two-stage process.

Stage One requires a written application (details below) which should be submitted on or before **Friday 30th August 2024 at 5pm**.

The successful applicant will be chosen by a panel comprising representatives from The Digital Hub and external experts.

11. Queries and Site visits

Please email any queries in relation to the residency to Dr. Stephen Brennan before **23rd August 2024**.

Email: info@thedigitalhub.com

12. Applications

Please submit the following before **Friday 30th August 2024 at 5pm**:

Letter of application (no more than 2 * A4 pages) including and outlining:

- Name
- Address
- Phone
- Email
- Website
- Tell us about yourself.
Include details, where appropriate, on your experience.
- Why you are interested in this opportunity.
- Your experience of working with communities of interest and/or place
- Your proposal for this technologist-in-residence programme, what do you intend to achieve, how are you going to achieve it.
- Outline your project plan, what will happen when.

Supporting material to demonstrate your work from a community project, e.g. imagery, short video, written material

Applications should be submitted by email as a pdf to info@thedigitalhub.com

The Digital Hub will confirm receipt of your application by e-mail.

13. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be given priority based on the following:

- Quality of the proposal in response to the residency brief.
- Strength of the proposed process and outline programme.
- Demonstration of a track record that is relevant to the residency opportunity.
- The level of engagement proposed and demonstration that the technologist will fully exploit the opportunity and contribute to the dynamic of The Digital Hub.

Following receipt of applications, a shortlist will be compiled for interview. Interviews will be held at The Digital Hub in September 2024.

14. Eligibility

A female technologist practitioner with direct experience collaborating to deliver impactful solutions to real world challenges.

A track record of achievement in technology and/ or science.

A field of expertise in line with the focus of The Digital Hub.

Experience in working on projects with non-technologists/ scientists.

Resident in Ireland/Europe.

The technologist must be available to commence and undertake the residency from September 2024.

15. General Conditions

Late submissions will not be accepted.

All materials submitted should be clearly labelled with the applicant's name and contact details.

The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection.

Technologists may be asked to supply the names and contact details of referees as part of the selection process.

The Digital Hub reserves the right not to award commissions and, in this instance, reserves the right to pursue other selection processes.

Submissions will not be returned.

16. Terms and Conditions

The Digital Hub will not insure equipment belonging to the technologist or their associates.

The technologist must undertake an induction covering The Digital Hub procedures, events management requirements and adhere The Digital Hub Health & Safety guidelines.

The technologist will be responsible for the security of their personal property on The Digital Hub campus.

Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection: Selected technologists will be required to follow national policy with regard to actions involving interaction with children, young people and, vulnerable adults and where applicable undergo training in this area, as per national requirements.

The appointed technologist will have to supply an up-to-date tax clearance certificate prior to signing of contract and for the duration of the commission.

Applicants should note that fees awarded are VAT inclusive, (whether VAT liability lies with the technologist).

Non-resident technologists from EU and non-EU countries must be aware of any tax or VAT implications arising from the residency and ensure that any costs arising from this are included in their budget.