



## Higher Education Lead

### **Empowering Adults. Strengthening Communities. Changing Lives.**

An Cosán is currently seeking a dynamic Higher Education Lead to join our Adult Community Education Team. Reporting to the Adult Community Education Manager, the Higher Education Lead is responsible for developing and delivering An Cosán's Higher Education Programme within a transformative learning context. The role includes responsibility for leading and managing the Higher Education Teaching and Learning Team and working closely with other members of the ACE Team in developing programmes and in the provision of student/learner support.

<b>Role Title:</b>	Higher Education Lead
<b>Reporting To:</b>	Adult Community Education Manager
<b>Contract:</b>	1 Year (Maternity Leave Cover)
<b>Probation</b>	6 months
<b>Location:</b>	Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin (3 days minimum on-site)
<b>Salary:</b>	€50K commensurate with experience.
<b>Application Deadline :</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026

### **About An Cosán**

An Cosán is Ireland's largest community education organisation. We seek to bring about social equality and an end to poverty through community-based adult education, the provision of early years education and supports, wrap around support services, and empowering social enterprise development.

An Cosán's Adult Community Education Team combines a holistic ethos of adult and community education with technologically enhanced teaching methods to offer quality lifelong learning opportunities to adult learners in underserved communities across Ireland.

### **Purpose of the Role**

Through linked provision with South East Technological University (SETU), An Cosán delivers professional development BA degree programmes, using a blended delivery model grounded in a holistic, adult community education philosophy. These programmes include Leadership and Community Development, Applied Addiction Studies, and Personal and Professional Development (Levels 6 and 7 on the NFQ).

The Higher Education Lead will shape and oversee these programmes, ensuring every learner experiences a high-quality, inclusive, and empowering educational journey. This is a key leadership role requiring creativity, collaboration, and a strong commitment to educational equality.

### Key Responsibilities

- Manage and lead the Teaching and Learning team to deliver all modules to a high standard academically, and in line with community development principles of inclusion, diversity and equality.
- Project manage delivery of the agreed plan with SETU under the HEA Performance Funding to:
  - Grow and strengthen this Linked Provision Higher Education offering to meet the needs of our targeted learners, and
  - Establish and maintain relevant Linked Provision controls/quality assurance and feedback systems.
- Schedule the Higher Education Academic Calendar to include assessment, verification, programme evaluation and review.
- Play an integral role as a core member of the ACE team in quality assurance, delivery of ACE programmes and projects, learner support and the recruitment of learners.
- Produce appropriate internal and external reports, including the tracking and monitoring of progress and outcomes.
- Contribute and participate as a representative of An Cosán in policy fora, networks and committees relevant to the work of the Higher Education programme.

### Essential Requirements

- Relevant qualification in Education / Community Development / Social Studies at minimum of MA Level.
- Experience in managing people, budgets, quality and projects.
- Minimum of 3 years teaching and curriculum development experience.
- Experience of online teaching and learning practice, and educational technologies.
- Proven focus on results and linking KPIs to Strategic Goals.
- Strong communication skills
- Skilled in building relationships and establishing a solid network.
- Flexibility and ability to work on own initiative and co-operatively.
- Ability to multi-task, whilst being flexible and highly organised, with excellent time management skills.
- A strong social inclusion and community development ethos.

### Desirable

- Understanding of the characteristics and needs of mature adults returning to learning in a community setting.
- Understanding of the barriers and challenges experienced by adult learners from underrepresented groups in their learning journey.

- Creative questioning and solution-based approach to challenges.

### Terms and Conditions

- Salary: €50,000 (commensurate with experience).
- Annual Leave: 24 days
- Flexible Work: Hybrid model; occasional evening/weekend work (TOIL available).

### Application Process

Email your application to [jobs@ancosan.ie](mailto:jobs@ancosan.ie) with “Higher Education Lead” in the subject line, including:

1. CV.
2. Cover letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining your experience, competencies, and salary expectations.
3. Contact details for two referees (not contacted until offer stage).

Deadline: 3/7/26

Additional Information or Queries contact: Adelaide Nic Chárthaigh at [a.niccharthaigh@ancosan.ie](mailto:a.niccharthaigh@ancosan.ie)