

**Dundalk Institute of Technology invite applications for the following position:  
PhD postgraduate Scholarship (Full-time: 36 months)**

**Project overview**

**Title:** *The Northern Box: A Critical Study of the Button Accordion in Ulster*

**Supervisor:** Dr Daithí Kearney (DkIT) and Dr Verena Commins (NUIG)

**Position Reference:** 01AHSS2020

**Keywords:** *Ethnomusicology Irish traditional music, Button Accordion, Musical Style, Music Competitions*

*This study will provide a critical overview of button accordion playing in Ulster and contribute to a more thorough geography of Irish traditional music*

The geographical focus of scholarship on Irish traditional music has typically been on the west of Ireland. Typically, scholarship has focused on instruments such as the fiddle but there has been an increased interest amongst scholars in the button accordion. However, the stylistic differences and contexts for playing in Ulster counties has not been critically examined despite the prominence of successful performers and competitors from the province. This study provides a critical overview of the key stylists in the province who influenced the current community of performers, the influence of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the success of Ulster button accordion players in competitions, and aspects of musical style that are discernible from an analysis of recordings. Source materials including extensive fieldwork, social history and archival documents and recordings are employed to establish the development of button accordion playing in the province and the factors that shape this process. The importance of individual musicians and of organisations, as well as the particular political context of Ulster is recognized in the study. Through ethnography and interviews with musicians from Ulster counties, this study will provide a critical overview of button accordion playing in the province and contribute to a more thorough geography of Irish traditional music.

**Dundalk Institute of Technology**

Dundalk Institute of Technology is a dynamic, world class Institute that has developed an international reputation in both basic and applied research through its Research Centres. This PhD Scholarship is offered through the Creative Arts Research Centre, within the School of Informatics and Creative Arts at DkIT. The successful applicant will be registered as a full time postgraduate research student in the DCU-DkIT Graduate School. The PhD position will be located on the DkIT campus and the Degree will be awarded by Dublin City University.

## Funding

This project is co-funded by the HEA Technological Universities Transformation Fund and DkIT.

The successful candidate shall receive a postgraduate stipend of €16,000 per annum, plus fees and a contribution to their direct research project costs up to a maximum of €2,000 per annum. The duration of this PhD studentship is 36 months. Terms and conditions will apply.

## Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria:	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	2:1 Honours Degree (or equivalent)	Third level qualification in music or significant professional engagement in Irish traditional music.
Experience/knowledge	A significant knowledge of Irish traditional music.	Experience as a musician, awareness of the political and social history of the region, research skills and experience in the arts and humanities fields.

It is also a requirement that any applicant whose first language is other than English must have a certified English language proficiency of at least IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

## Application process

Please send a copy of your CV and a 1-page cover letter to [orla.lynch@dkit.ie](mailto:orla.lynch@dkit.ie) no later than **4.00 pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021**. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

Please use the position reference **"01AHSS2020"** in the subject title.

Short listed candidates will be invited to interview.

Informal inquiries should be sent to; [Daithi.kearney@dkit.ie](mailto:Daithi.kearney@dkit.ie)

Please note, canvassing will render an applicant ineligible.