



# Essential information

## about the call for applications

### What is Community Engaged Research and Learning (CERL)?

Community Engaged Research and Learning (CERL) is an innovative approach which gives students the opportunity to participate in research and learning projects based on community ideas and needs, through the curriculum. CERL has been identified as a high-impact learning and teaching activity that educational research suggests increases student engagement and student retention.

The term CERL captures a wide range of different terms for community engaged research and learning. CERL can be taken to include community-based learning, service-learning, community service learning, community-based research, participatory action research, community-based participatory research, and science shop projects.

### What is the CIRCLET project?

CIRCLET is the acronym for Curriculum Innovation through Research with Communities: Learning circles of Educators and Technology. This Erasmus+ project aims to strengthen the capacity of higher education, especially lecturers, to improve learning outcomes for students by rethinking curricula to incorporate CERL, enhanced by educational technology.

### Are there minimum language requirements?

You will need a suitable level of English (written and spoken) to participate in the online module. Please see TU Dublin English language requirements [here](#).

### Do I need to be experienced in reflection?

Not formally, as we will provide templates, supports etc. We are looking for people who already have some self-awareness and who look to learn from their experiences.

### Do I need to be experienced in CERL / technology / module revision / design?

No – we will recruit participants with a mix of experience so you can learn from your peers as well as from the resources and facilitators. The project will also bring in expertise from relevant colleagues at institutional level, as well as community partners.

### Where will I find community partner(s) for a CERL project?

Your local CIRCLET co-ordinating team will help you with this.

### **What criteria will be used to assess the applications?**

- ◆ Interest in: CERL; revising modules / courses; and educational technology
- ◆ Potential to develop and sustain a CERL project in a course / module
- ◆ Clear personal goals for the participation in the module
- ◆ Awareness of strengths and potential challenges

*For more detail see table in appendix 2.*

### **Can I withdraw?**

If at all possible, we would ask that once you have confirmed the offer of a place, you honour that commitment. As this is a competitive process, if you withdraw it means you have taken a place that someone else might have used to the full.

### **What happens if something goes wrong?**

Please contact your local CIRCLET co-ordinating team as soon as possible, so they can work with you to provide support.

### **I still have questions, what do I do?**

- ◆ Online Module Q&A sessions (drop-in): Monday 19th April 11.30am-12.30pm CET ([Click here to join](#)) and Tuesday 4th May 1.30-1.30pm CET ([Click here to join](#)).
- ◆ For further questions, speak to your local contact point: Amalia Susana Creus, Soledad Morales, Andrea Tabernerero or Nadja Gmelch.

For a more detailed description of the online module, please see the table in Appendix 1 below.

## Appendix 1: More detailed description of the Online Module

Online Module	
<b>Description</b>	Weekly webinars with regular small assessments, individual and group work, alongside local and international peers. These lead to a final reflection and detailed proposal for a CERL project within a module.
<b>Timing</b>	Semester 1, Autumn 2021, with final assignment due early January 2022.
<b>Planning and delivering your CERL project</b>	<p>The module focuses on planning for CERL project delivery. One of the module requirements is that participants must agree and sign a project timeline agreement form with a community partner, to run a CERL project in the following 12 months.</p> <p>Participants can choose to join the international learning circle in semester 2 to support their CERL project delivery.</p>
<b>Number of participants</b>	Max 20
<b>Facilitators and contributors involved</b>	Experienced CERL staff will facilitate discussions in webinars, these will include presentations from participants, and guest inputs from experienced CERL stakeholders.
<b>International dimension</b>	Participants and facilitators from several European universities. Small group work will involve a mix of partners from different universities to allow participants to meet as many peers as possible.
<b>What supports will I receive?</b>	<p>Weekly webinars from your own university as well as from TU Dublin, with technical support. A wide range of online resources. A designated drop-in weekly online 'office hour' for asking questions. Weekly feedback from peers and/or module facilitators. Online discussion boards for questions and answers.</p> <p>In each participating university, at least one face-to-face meeting of the local participants in the online module may be facilitated, to build the local support network.</p>
<b>What will I be expected to do?</b>	<p>Weekly reading / viewing of resources and regular assignment submissions, including reflection on learning, and group work assignments. These will require 4-5 hours per week.</p> <p>Co-design with a community partner the CERL project you will complete together within the next year and submit a co-signed timeline agreement form.</p> <p>Final assignment (30-40 hours' work across the semester into early January).</p>
<b>What optional elements are offered for me?</b>	There will be some choices within assignments given, but all assignments are compulsory and must be passed in order to successfully complete the module.

## Online Module

**What do I receive at the end?**

Certificate from TU Dublin confirming your 5 ECTS (subject to successful completion of all assignments).

**Do I need particular technological skills and/or access to hardware/software?**

Recommended browsers for Brightspace (the TU Dublin virtual learning environment): Chrome, Firefox, Safari. Internet Explorer is not suitable - (see Video 1 - [Getting started in Brightspace as a student](#)). Also access to your own virtual learning environment, to use technology to enhance your CERL project

**How much time will I need to commit?**

9 weekly lunchtime webinars, with regular small individual and group assignments, requiring 4-5 hours per week. Final assignments requiring 30-40 hours across the semester. 100 learning hours are required for 5 ECTS.

**Do I have to attend every session?**

Each participant must attend 9 webinars over 11 weeks. Two of the nine webinars will be repeated in different weeks, so participants can choose the most convenient date to attend.

**Are the session times set?**

Fridays from 1-2pm Irish/UK time, 2-3pm Central European Time.

## Appendix 2: Rubric for evaluating applications.

	Not yet at level required	At level required	Above level required
Clear personal goals for the module/Learning Circle	No clear goals	Clear goals, related to module/learning circle	Very clear goals, very closely related to module/learning circle
Awareness of strengths and potential challenges.	Little or no articulation of strengths and potential challenges	Clear articulation of strengths and potential challenges, related to module/learning circle	Very clear articulation of strengths and potential challenges, very closely related to module/learning circle
Potential to develop and sustain a CERL project in a module (you should to teach and assess the module)	Does not teach and assess a suitable module	Teaches and assesses at least one suitable module.	Teaches and assesses at least one suitable module with clear potential for sustainability
Interest in CERL	Interest not clearly expressed	Quite Interested	Very interested
Interest in educational technology	Interest not clearly expressed	Quite Interested	Very interested
Interest in revising modules	Interest not clearly expressed	Quite Interested	Very interested
Enabling language ability for module: English	Not enabling enough for module requirements	Enabling enough for module requirements	Fluent

Note we will select participants for maximum diversity (gender, level of teaching experience, subject(s)/discipline(s) taught, level of experience (CERL, technology, developing courses/modules), university (CPD module only)).

We also need to recruit a minimum number of participants with a level of interest in the transnational learning circle, as it is a requirement of our funding.

To maximise sustainability, we may prioritise: programme coordinators; module coordinators; course leaders

