

# Dr João Costa | University College Dublin

## General Biography

I am a qualified post-primary Physical Education teacher, with a Doctorate in Educational Sciences - Teacher Education. My professional career includes: i) practicing K-12 PE teacher (2007-2010); ii) coaching sports (collective games and martial arts) to athletes across the lifespan (since 2000); iii) researching and lecturing as a PE Teacher Educator (since 2013); iv) serving as board member and reviewer for multiple international education journals; v) serving as professional and academic representative in relevant national and international associations (e.g. EUPEA); and vi) participating in and leading funded research, namely co-coordinating the Erasmus+ Project European Physical Education Observatory (EuPEO) and supporting 2 TC John Coolahan projects involving 4 schools and 9 PE teachers.

Currently, I am serving in the UCC School of Education as Lecturer in Education (Sport Pedagogy) and Programme Co-Director for the UCC B.Ed (Hons) in Sports Studies and Physical Education. My role also involves the support to postgraduates, and engaging with the community, mainly through CPD and partnering with schools.

My research interests focus on developing quality PE programmes and meaningful school-university partnerships. I wish to be a RiRS panel member to access structured opportunities for collaborating with school colleagues on: i) the PE subject delivery, ii) teachers' collaborative professional development, and iii) a the development and mentoring of teacher candidates and newly qualified teachers.

My contribution as RiRS panel member will be to assist the PE department and school leadership in collaboratively developing the PE subject under the Wellbeing framework, grounded on evidence-based and contextualised teacher collaboration that promotes inclusive and effective student learning experiences and outcomes. I can assist the schools and the PE department with supporting the integration and implementation of research for instructionally aligned and inclusive teaching and learning, for example building on the experiences and resources of the UCC PE Community of Practice or the tools of the European Physical Education Observatory as a PE development system.

I am very positive that serving as RiRS panel member will provide meaningful learning opportunities for preparing our teacher candidates with contextualised and robust understanding of the real issues and experiences from the school practice, aligning the BEDSSPE programme to the real needs and issues of schools and teachers, and developing more and better research that addresses the problems of practice with the school professionals through co-participatory approaches. I am particularly interested in exploring two key aspects of the current PE landscape: 1) on the JCPE, the collaborative work of teachers for instructionally aligned inclusive PE, grounded on collective assessment practices through the structure of Classroom Based Assessment to develop a student-centred pedagogical approach to teaching, learning and reporting; and 2) on the LCPE, to collectively develop and explore shared experiences that integrate and align the conceptual and practical aspects of the PE curriculum towards the 3 assessment components.