



Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher

Job Posted: 12 Mar 2015

Closing Date for Applications: 27 Mar 2015

Department: SFI MaREI Centre

College: College of Science, Engineering and Food Science, University College Cork.

Contract Type: Fixed Term Whole-Time

Job Type: Research

Salary: €43,643 - €46,255 p.a.

Position Summary

Applications are invited for a three year position leading a marine mammal monitoring programme in Co. Mayo on the west coast of Ireland. The marine mammal monitoring programme is grant aided by Shell E&P Ireland through RSK Environment Ltd with support funding from Science Foundation Ireland under MaREI (Marine Renewable Energy Ireland).

Background: Under a development plan for the CORRIB gas field off western Ireland, Shell E&P Ireland commissioned the Coastal & Marine Research Centre (CMRC), University College Cork to conduct an independent marine mammal monitoring programme in northwest Ireland in 2001/2002. Research was undertaken in Broadhaven Bay (candidate Special Area of Conservation - cSAC), County Mayo and its adjoining coastal waters. The programme of marine mammal monitoring has been continuous since 2008 during the CORRIB development's marine phases, to safeguard protected species from potential impacts. A valuable long-term dataset of marine mammal occurrence and distribution has resulted, through visual and acoustic efforts. Research efforts will continue until March 2018 with support from Science Foundation Ireland under MaREI (Marine Renewable Energy Ireland) building on previous work to date.

Position: We are recruiting a project leader to join a team of two research assistants and volunteers to coordinate the marine mammal monitoring programme. The position will be from **May 2015-April 2018**. The candidate will ideally be an experienced postdoctoral researcher, employed through MaREI, Environmental Research Institute, University College Cork and will be based close to the study area in Broadhaven Bay, Co. Mayo for at least 6 months of the year during the field season and at University College Cork for the remainder of the year. Office space and shared accommodation/field station will be provided for the team. Data collection will primarily be in the form of land-based surveys and PAM using C-PODs, there may be limited opportunities to conduct boat-based surveys. **Post Duration: 3 years**

Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher

This is an advanced research training role, building on their prior experience as a Post-Doctoral Researcher in UCC or elsewhere, where you will conduct a specified programme of research and research training under the guidance of a Principal Investigator. The primary purpose of the role is to deliver research results and objectives, develop new or advanced research skills and competencies, the successful development of funding proposals and to interact in the supervision and mentorship of graduate students, in conjunction with an academic supervisor.

The Post-Doctoral/Senior Post-Doctoral phase has an expected duration up to a maximum of 6 years, subject to the term of the project, on a full-time or part-time basis. Movement to the grade of Senior Post-

Doctoral researcher in the University will be by competing for an advertised post. External appointments made directly to Senior Post-Doctoral research positions must have previous post-doctoral experience of at least 3 years.

Key duties and responsibilities

- To conduct and lead a specified programme of research under the supervision and direction of a Principal Investigator/Project Leader.
- To conduct shore based marine mammal surveys
- To conduct analyses of cetacean visual and acoustic datasets
- To coordinate research activities, including planning, organizing, conducting, and communicating research studies within the overall scope of the research project.
- To coordinate and perform a variety of independent and team activities involved in the collection, analysis, documentation and some interpretation of information/results.
- To undertake tasks which may include recording results and preparing technical reports including conclusions and recommendations.
- To present information on research progress and outcomes to others responsible for the research project.
- To provide guidance as required to any support staff and/or research students or volunteers assisting with the research project, as agreed with the Principal Investigator/Grant holder.
- To confer with the Principal Investigator in developing plans for research projects and to discuss the interpretation of results and the preparation of manuscripts for publication.
- To perform other related duties incidental to the work described herein.
- To secure competitive research funding for research proposals
- To engage in appropriate and professional development opportunities as required by your Principal Investigator, School or College.
- To assume a role in the design as well as the execution of research, contributing significantly to the development of research proposals and funding successes.
- To support the Principal Investigator and research group in the design and development of a research programme.
- To engage in the dissemination of the results of the research, as directed by and with the support of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.
- To engage in the wider research activities of the Research Group, School or College.
- To interact closely with postgraduate research students who are studying for a Masters or a PhD and have an agreed role in supporting these students in their day to day research in conjunction with the supervisor or supervision team.
- To conduct administrative and management work associated with the research project.
- To carry out any additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.
- To engage in costing research grant proposals and take on financial management of projects.

Criteria

- A PhD in any area of marine mammal ecology (preferable, but suitably qualified candidates with relevant experience may also be considered)
- Relevant marine mammal research/monitoring experience
- Knowledge of marine mammal survey methodologies including theodolite
- Experience of cetacean photo identification techniques
- Experience of acoustic monitoring of cetaceans (CPODs currently used in the project)
- Experience with deployment and retrieval of CPODs, and experience downloading and checking the metadata page for warnings and acting accordingly
- Experience of GIS (e.g. ArcGIS) for mapping data, handling long-term, large databases
- Experience with statistical analysis and statistical modelling, preferably in R
- Good publication track record
- Proven ability of team leadership and excellent oral and written communication skills
- Ideally experience supervising and managing volunteers
- Demonstration of project management, handling budgets and networking skills
- Proven ability to work unsupervised in a small research group ideally in a remote location
- Willingness to work in a remote part of western Ireland for a 6 month period
- Proven ability to work outdoors for extended periods of time often in adverse weather
- Good physical fitness
- Good interpersonal skills
- The following are also desirable: full drivers licence, own a car
- Extensive competence and experience in a research area.
- Supervisory skills.
- Leadership potential.
- Experience of applying for and securing funding.

For Informal Enquiries on the post candidates should contact:

Name: Michelle Cronin

Email Address: michelle.cronin@ucc.ie Telephone: 021-4703100

To Apply: Please submit a short cover letter and C.V. to Grainne Lynch at Email Address: grainne.lynch@ucc.ie before the **closing date 6th April 2015**