



Post Specification

Post Title:	Post-Doctoral Research Assistant
Post Status:	Full time for 24 months from 1 st January 2017
Department/Faculty:	School of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Watts Building, College Campus
Reports to:	Jane Stout
Salary:	This appointment will be made to the Post-Doctoral Research Assistant scale (Level 2, Point 1) for non-new entrants based on the Irish Universities Association (IUA) Guidelines for Contract Researchers Salary Scales (Gross €37,750 p.a.)
Closing Date:	12 Noon on 11 th November 2016

Post Summary

A Post-Doctoral Research Assistant (PDRA) is required to work on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded project “**POLLIVAL: assessing market and non-market values of pollination services in Ireland**” led by Professor Jane Stout in School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin. The position is available for up to 2 years, with a start date of 1st January 2017.

Background to the Post

Assessing and evaluating natural capital and ecosystem services which flow from it are key national environmental research priorities (for various organisations including the EPA, National Biodiversity Plan, Irish Forum on Natural Capital, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan), enabling integration of natural capital into decision-making processes and the sustainable use of natural resources. This project will provide a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of the market value of pollination services in Ireland using best-practice methods. Data gaps in terms of pollination dependency of Irish crops will be identified and filled. In addition, the project will deliver a method for assessing non-market values of pollination services, including supporting, regulating and cultural services. Finally, by investigating future drivers of change, including climate, policy and consumer behaviour using horizon scanning and scenario modelling, we can predict how values may change. By understanding and communicating the total value of key ecosystem services, such as pollination, we can develop a better



appreciation of natural capital for policy and planning decisions at many levels and in several sectors.

The POLLIVAL project will develop national capacity in evaluation of ecosystem services using pollination as a case study. By integrating market and non-market values, assessing current status and identifying drivers of future change, the project will develop a model system to enable evaluation of other forms of natural capital for decision-making and planning processes.

The objectives of the project are:

1. To identify best practice to evaluate the current market values of pollination services in Ireland
2. To develop methods to assess non-market values
3. To integrate the implications of land use change (driven by various processes including environmental change, policy change and consumer behaviour) on the value of pollination services in Ireland

The project will integrate approaches from natural, social and economic sciences and will involve consultation with experts and integration of expert knowledge, data-gathering (from a range of sources, including collection of novel ecological data sets), development of methods, and modelling of future scenarios.

Principal Duties

The PDRA will work with Prof. Jane Stout and be responsible for the delivery of the project, which will include co-ordinating stakeholder workshops, collecting, collating and analysing data, producing scoping reports and datamaps, and publishing scientific peer-review journal papers. The PDRA will also contribute to supervision of MSc students, and communication and dissemination to stakeholders.

Person Specification

Qualifications

- PhD in Ecosystem Service Valuation, or relevant Ecology, Geography or Environmental Economics subject
- MSc/BSc in Natural or Social Science

Skills and Competencies

Essential

- Broad knowledge and interest in biodiversity and ecosystem services, pollination ecology, environmental economics and natural capital approach to nature conservation.



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- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal), with a track record of publishing peer-review journal papers.
- Excellent ability to assemble and critically analyse relevant literature and datasets; excellent data handling skills.
- Excellent organisation and task management skills, ability to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines; be capable of working on own initiative and have the ability to prioritise tasks and work under time constraints. Enthusiastic, flexible and willing to work outside usual office hours when required.
- Interpersonal skills: ability to work effectively as part of a team – tolerant, cordial and willing to help others.
- A pro-active approach to work, anticipating and resolving problems in advance and attention to detail.
- Highly motivated with a ‘can-do’ attitude, and commitment to the project.

Desirable

- Experience of pollination services research.
- Experience in managing research budgets and reporting.
- Experience in supervising MSc/BSc project students.

Further Details

Candidates wishing to discuss the post informally and in confidence should contact Professor Jane Stout, at stoutj@tcd.ie.

Application Procedure

Candidates should submit a cover letter (maximum 2 A4 pages) with their full Curriculum Vitae, including the names and contact details of three referees to Prof. Jane Stout (stoutj@tcd.ie).

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Founded in 1592, Trinity is at the nexus of tradition and innovation, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across 24 schools and three faculties: arts, humanities, and social sciences; engineering, maths and science; and health sciences. Spread across 47 acres in Dublin’s city centre, Trinity’s 17,000-strong student body comes from all 32 counties of Ireland, and 16% of students come from outside the country. Of those, 40% are from outside the European Union, making Trinity’s campus cosmopolitan and bustling, with a focus on diversity.

As Ireland’s leading university, the pursuit of academic excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of the Trinity education. Trinity is known for intellectual



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rigour, excellence, interdisciplinarity, and research-led teaching. Home to Nobel prize-winners such as scientist Ernest Walton and writer Samuel Beckett, Trinity draws visitors from across the world to its historic campus each year, including to the Book of Kells and Science Gallery which capture the university's connection to both old and new.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity College is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community.

On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community.

Trinity College's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>