



## Job Description

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<b>Comp ID:</b>	(...)
<b>Job Title:</b>	Assistant Professor in Plant Biodiversity and Conservation
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Natural Sciences/Discipline of Botany
<b>Job Category and Level:</b>	Academic; Assistant Professor (Tenure Track)

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The School of Natural Sciences and the Discipline of Botany seek to appoint a tenure track position of Assistant Professor in Plant Biodiversity and Conservation at Trinity College Dublin. The successful applicant will have an established reputation in teaching and research in fields pertinent to plant biodiversity and conservation at national, regional, or global levels, with a strong track record of scientific publications commensurate with career stage. We are seeking a candidate with strong field skills and, ideally, expertise in collection-based science. We are particularly interested in candidates whose research informs plant biodiversity policy and/or practical conservation actions, and welcome candidates interested in using and/or augmenting our botanical collections within Trinity College Botanic Garden and Herbarium in teaching, research, and/or outreach. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching within MSc and BSc programmes offered by the School. Current MSc programmes within the School include Biodiversity and Conservation, Environmental Sciences, Smart and Sustainable Cities, Developmental Practice and Global Challenges for Sustainability. Undergraduate programmes include Moderatorships in Botany (TR060), Environmental Science (TR060) and in Environmental Science and Engineering (TR064). This Assistant Professor position offers an opportunity to take on a curatorial or directorship role at Trinity College Botanic Garden in the future.

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### Context

The School of Natural Sciences is part of the Faculty of Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The School comprises of the Disciplines of Botany, Geography, Geology and Zoology and is also home to three research centres, the Centre for the Environment, Nature+ and Climate+ Co-Centre. The School is home to 49 academic staff, 31 professional support staff, 35 research staff and a large postgraduate community. The School manages seven undergraduate and four taught master's degree programmes and contributes to several other programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, catering to more than 850 students collectively.

The Discipline of Botany hosts internationally significant living and preserved plant collections and collection-based facilities including an active [herbarium](#) containing over 400,000 highly valued specimens of plants and algae and [Trinity College Botanic Garden](#) and Irish Threatened Plant Seed Bank, with over 3000 accessions in their living and seed bank collections. The Discipline manages

state-of-the-art field (Eddy Covariance Towers) experimental (Variable Atmosphere and Light Laboratory) and analytical laboratories (Molecular, Paleoecology, Soil and Plant-Climate Laboratories) for a wide range of plant and environmental science research, and the dedicated off-campus botanic garden is undergoing new glass-house developments and upgrading of facilities.

Staff and students also have access to cutting edge microscopy (Tescan TIGER SEM and Tescan Mira II SEM), isotope (CF-IRMS for the analysis of H-C-N-O isotopes in organic matter) and elemental (LA-ICP-MS systems) analysis infrastructure within the School of Natural Sciences that is managed by the Discipline of Geology and Centre for Environment. The Discipline of Botany and the School of Natural Sciences sit within a collaborative initiative called E3. This is an alignment between three Schools – Natural Sciences, Engineering, and Computer Science and Statistics – to foster multidisciplinary research and teaching with a view to tackling complex global problems.

## **Main Responsibilities**

### **Teaching**

- Deliver high-class teaching in the areas of: Plant Biodiversity and Conservation at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Deliver undergraduate and postgraduate student field trips on topics such as habitat assessment, plant specimen collection, identification, analysis and description, ecological assessments, and ecological restoration in Ireland and overseas.
- Contribute to and provide academic leadership in teaching and related activities at the undergraduate level (TR060: Biological and Biomedical Sciences; TR062: Geography and Geoscience; TR064: Environmental Science and Engineering) to foster and inspire student interest in studying Botany and Environmental Sciences.
- Contribute to and provide academic leadership in teaching and related activities at the postgraduate level (specifically three taught MSc programmes: Biodiversity and Conservation; Environmental Science; Smart and Sustainable Cities).
- Develop, in collaboration with other academic staff, new and evidence-based modules in emerging areas in the environmental and sustainability sciences, as well as practical conservation horticulture within the trinity College Botanic Gardens.
- Deliver, in collaboration with other academic staff, in-field identification courses as well as laboratory teaching, to build student skillsets for a future in botany and ecology.
- Supervise and provide academic leadership to final year undergraduate, Masters by Research, and PhD research students.

## Research

- Advance their personal research in the area of Plant Biodiversity and Conservation as appropriate for the realisation of their research agenda.
- Strengthen and augment the research and conservation value of our living, seedbank and herbarium collections
- Contribute to the overall research profile of plant and environmental sciences within the Discipline of Botany and School of Natural Sciences.
- Meet expectations in terms of numbers of publications in high impact journals, and increased level of funded research that is in line with the Assistant Professor grade.
- Collaborate with colleagues in mentoring junior researchers and/or post-docs.
- Generate research income through international grant applications, project and research proposals.

## Standard Duties

The role-holder will contribute to building the reputation of the Discipline of Botany, School of Natural Sciences, E3 and Trinity College globally through teaching, research and outreach. They will also contribute to Trinity's [Sustainability Strategy](#) as well as Trinity's commitment to [Education for Sustainable Development](#).

## Person Requirements

The role-holder will require the following knowledge, skills, and attributes for successful performance in the role.

## Qualifications

- Excellent academic record and have completed a PhD in Botany, Ecology, Conservation, and/or a related area.
- Academic publications in peer reviewed international journals in the field(s) of botany, ecology, conservation, biodiversity, and/or sustainability.

## Knowledge & Experience

The successful candidate will be expected to clearly demonstrate the following:

### Research & Scholarship

- An established record of conducting research pertinent to plant science and conservation.
- Evidence of an ambitious research plan to building to a trajectory of research excellence and success.

- A record of engagement with outreach activities related to plant sciences.

### **Teaching**

- Evidence of contribution to in-class, in-garden, field, and laboratory teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Evidence of a commitment to educational excellence in plant biodiversity and conservation
- Ability and willingness to teach outside of immediate area of specialisation.

### **Administration, Contribution to University and Engagement with Discipline & Society**

- Ability to undertake administrative responsibilities as required by the Discipline, School, and University.
- Ability and willingness to to augment the research and teaching value of Trinity College Botanic Garden collection.
- Ability to represent the School and University on appropriate national and international advisory boards and professional bodies.
- Organisational skills necessary to the performance of teaching, research, and administration requirements of the role of Assistant Professor.

### **Skills**

- Well-developed written and verbal communication skills and interpersonal skills.
- Planning and organisational skills, particularly coordinating processes and systems.
- Field experience and collection-based research.

### **Personal attributes**

- Capability and confidence to take ownership of problems and seek long term solutions.
- Career driven, enthusiastic and motivated.
- Commitment to own professional development.
- Commitment to collegiality.

## Application Procedure

Applicants should provide the following information when applying

1. A comprehensive curriculum vitae, including a full list of publications
2. The names and contact details (i.e. addresses, e-mail, etc.) of three referees
3. A research plan (summarising research to be carried out in the next two years and including details of funding to be sought - 2 pages) and a teaching statement (summarising teaching experience and approach – 2 pages)
4. PLEASE NOTE: Candidates who do not submit this additional information may not be considered for shortlisting

## Further Information

For further information about the Discipline of Botany and the School of Natural Sciences, see <https://www.tcd.ie/Botany/> and <https://www.naturalsciences.tcd.ie>.

Candidates wishing to discuss the post informally and in confidence should email Professor Marcus Collier [marcus.collier@tcd.ie](mailto:marcus.collier@tcd.ie) - Head of Discipline for Botany.