Job Description

Comp ID: 035222
Job Title: Assistant Professor in Physical Geography (Environmental Change)
School/Department: School of Natural Sciences
Job Category and Level: Academic; Assistant Professor

The Purpose of the Role

We are seeking applicants with research interests in Physical Geography sub-fields such as Biogeography, Hydrology/Hydromorphology, Soil Science, or Meteorology, and with a passion for policy engagement in relation to their research. We welcome applicants who conduct their research in any setting (rural or urban) and with an international dimension which compliments or extends existing strengths in the discipline. We are looking for applicants who are keen to engage in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research with and beyond fields such as planning and governance, geoscience and engineering. We seek applicants with demonstrated interest in applying process knowledge to environmental challenges such as environmental degradation, land-use change, hazards, and climate change mitigation/adaptation.

Preference will be given to candidates whose research complements the ongoing work of existing faculty within Geography, the Trinity Centre for Environment and more widely within the School of Natural Sciences. The successful candidate will conduct research and teaching (at both undergraduate and postgraduate level) with a strong focus on addressing key 21st Century societal challenges such as climate change, assessment of ecosystem / environmental system function and services, environmental hazards, environmental degradation, or land use change. A strong track record in publication is expected and the appointee will be required to compete for national and international research funding (e.g. SFI; EPA; Horizon Europe; ERC; DAFM) and to build a dynamic research group with international recognition. Applicants should also be mindful of the potential to develop multidisciplinary research synergies with colleagues in the other E3 Schools of Engineering and Computer Sciences and Statistics. The appointee will support the University’s Strategic Plan by strengthening the geographical aspects of one or more of the University’s research themes https://www.tcd.ie/research/themes/, in particular the “Smart & Sustainable Planet” research theme. The post will support the agenda and mission of the E3 initiative, the Engineering, Emerging Technologies and Environment Institute (http://www.tcd.ie/E3/).
**Context**

The School of Natural Sciences seeks to appoint an outstanding Physical Geographer/Environmental Change scientist to an Assistant Professorship position in the Discipline of Geography. We are looking for candidates with research and teaching expertise in the study of environmental change with relevant new expertise to complement existing research strengths within the discipline and the School of Natural Sciences (SNS).

The successful candidate will have a strong background in field-based research and teaching. Experience in applying innovative environmental data analysis and prediction techniques, advanced statistical modelling/‘big data’ approaches and teaching such approaches at the undergraduate and postgraduate level is desirable. Experience in leading and/or contributing to student field courses, including residential fieldtrips, is essential. The successful candidate will have a demonstrable ability to teach aspects of environmental processes and change and how to apply this knowledge to address key environmental challenges both present and future at various spatial scales (climate change impacts on the environment, environmental degradation and management).

**Main Responsibilities**

This Assistant Professorship post strategically targets an important and vibrant research area that is core to activities of the School of Natural Sciences, the E3 Institute and the associated research clusters and centres (Nature+, The Centre for Biodiversity Research and The Centre for the Environment).

Geography at Trinity has a high international standing (ranked within the top 100 Universities worldwide in 2019/2020) which stems from the high calibre collegiate staff and a network of multidisciplinary research links both within the University and at the wider national and international level. Our academic and research staff cover an extensive range of scholarship and expertise. Here at Trinity, we aim to deliver a balanced curriculum focused on both physical and human geography as well as their interface. We attract high quality PhD students from national and international backgrounds.

The individual appointed, whilst being based in Geography, will be expected to foster interdisciplinary, collaborative research and teaching. They will be expected to develop an internationally recognised research profile whilst contributing to undergraduate and postgraduate level teaching and to the supervision of research students. The successful candidate will also undertake such administrative responsibilities as directed by the Head of School or their nominee; these will, however, be kept to a minimum during the first year of appointment.

The appointee is expected to take on teaching duties at Freshman level. They will play a key role in the development and teaching of the Geography moderatorships and the taught Masters programmes in the School.

They may also be asked to contribute to other School modules and a Trinity Elective module. Undergraduate teaching will involve giving lectures, seminars and tutorials; setting and marking examinations; organising and teaching practical classes; supervising projects; and organising and running field courses both locally and abroad. The appointee may participate in and develop the teaching of one or more of the School’s taught postgraduate courses, new Masters programmes under development and taught modules for Ph.D.
students. Teaching loads will be gradually increased in the initial years following appointment to facilitate the initiation and development of an active research group.

The appointee will be expected to raise funds from Exchequer, non-Exchequer and industry sources. They will engage in international networks to support research, including funds to support postgraduate research students, research fellows and/or research assistants. They will be expected to act as supervisor or co-supervisor to research students, and to continue to recruit new research students annually. The appointee will also contribute to outreach and the promotion of Geography in the wider community.

Person Requirements

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

Qualifications

• Candidates must hold a PhD in a relevant research area and be able to demonstrate a proven track record in one of the subfields of Physical Geography related to Environmental Change.
• Academic publications in peer reviewed international journals and/or publications of equal standing of recognised originality and value.

Knowledge & Experience

Research

• Evidence of research potential and achievements, including publications, in a cognate area. Essential
• Ability and potential to attract national and international research grants. Essential
• Participation in research seminars and conferences. Desirable
• Experience of research student supervision. Desirable
• Success in applying for research grants. Desirable

Teaching

• Evidence of experience of undergraduate teaching and a personal contribution and commitment to excellence in teaching, particularly within the context of undergraduate Geography programmes. Essential
• Inspiring educator employing innovative approaches to learning and teaching.
• A commitment to student care. Essential
• Evidence of skills relating to the administration of academic programmes. Essential
• Experience of teaching at Masters level.
• Experience of developing new modules and teaching material, including online platforms. Desirable
• Experience of supervising undergraduate dissertations. Desirable

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

• A collaborative and collegial leadership and working style, with openness to collaboration with colleagues in other disciplines. Essential
• A commitment to scholarship. Essential
• A commitment to the contribution of knowledge to society. Essential
• A commitment towards maintaining/raising the profile of Geography. Essential
• A commitment to developing their own professional development. Essential
• Experience and interest in working in an interdisciplinary setting. Desirable

**Skills & Competencies**

• Field specific technical/scientific skills.
• Demonstrated potential to manage and develop modules in a University setting.
• Ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
• Excellent communication skills.
• Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
• Demonstrate vision and commitment.
• Willingness to contribute to the College, to the discipline and to the wider community

**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

**Note:**

• Please note: Candidates who do not address the application requirements above in their cover letter will not be considered at the short list stage.
• Candidates should note that the interview process for this appointment will include the delivery of a presentation
Further Information

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

Candidates wishing to discuss the post informally and in confidence should email Professor Iris Moeller, Professor of Geography, moelleri@tcd.ie or Professor Patrick Wyse Jackson, Head of School, wysjcknp@tcd.ie.