

Research Assistant Position in Nature+Energy available at Trinity College Dublin

We are hiring a new Research Assistant as part of a new SFI-funded project: *Nature+Energy: Optimising Land Management and the Delivery of Ecosystem Services from Wind Farms*.

Given the current biodiversity and climate emergencies, onshore wind farms have the potential to provide more than renewable energy. If managed properly, the natural capital within onshore wind farms has the potential to not only enhance climate change mitigation, but to improve the resilience and adaptation capacity of ecosystems to climate change, and enhance the provision of ecosystem services within wind farms and throughout the wider countryside.

[Nature+Energy](#) aims to maximise the positive impacts of wind farms on biodiversity and ecosystem service provision, while mitigating the negative effects by developing sector-specific Natural Capital Accounting methods and a state-of-the-art Environmental Monitoring System. The project is led by [Dr Ian Donohue](#) (Zoology, Trinity College Dublin) and includes several collaborators including: [Prof Jane Stout](#) (Botany, Trinity College Dublin), [Prof Yvonne Buckley](#) (Zoology, Trinity College Dublin), [Prof Andrew Parnell](#) (Mathematics and Statistics, Maynooth University), [Dr Aoibheann Gaughran](#) (School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin), [Wind Energy Ireland](#) and several industry partners.

We are now seeking applications from qualified candidates for the position of Research Assistant at the [School of Natural Sciences](#), Trinity College Dublin.

NOTE: The deadline for receipt of 1st phase applicants is 30 June 2011. It is hoped that this Research Assistant will ideally start in September 2021 (flexible start dates will be arranged based on Government guidelines during the COVID-19 Pandemic).

Post description

This Research Assistant will be an active member of the *Nature+Energy* project, assisting in the delivery of the overall research objectives including planning, logistics, data collection, data analyses and report writing. The 2.5-year post is based at Trinity College Dublin and involves field work across the Republic of Ireland.

The RA will be responsible for reviewing ecological surveys/reports, sourcing and collating relevant datasets, establishing data share agreements with data providers, and exploring the use of GIS and other models to use the data to build natural capital accounts for exemplar wind farms. These accounts include asset extent (developing an asset extent and risk register), condition (identifying datasets to map pressures and condition indicators), services (sourcing data to map services at geosystem, ecosystem and atmospheric system levels) and benefits (identifying uses and users of services).

To compliment this research, the RA will also organise and participate in targeted ecological surveys of habitats and indicators species including plants, pollinators, birds and bats, using standardised methods tailored to wind farm sites.

In addition, the RA will contribute to stakeholder workshops and Steering Committee meetings, and writing reports, including biodiversity action plans for wind farms. The RA will provide guidance as

required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research, and contribute to outreach events organised by the School and/ or SFI and maintain project-related social media.

The ideal candidate will have a BSc/MSc in ecology, botany, zoology, environmental sciences, natural resource management.

Key skills

Essential:

- Excellent data collation, management, analytical and statistical skills
- Excellent fieldwork skills
- Excellent written communication skills to prepare clear and precise documents and reports
- Excellent organisational, verbal communication, and interpersonal skills
- Proven ability to work in a team and to communicate effectively with other team members – the position will involve collaborative research, data sharing, and analysis
- Proven ability to plan own day-to day activity within framework agreed with the PIs and Postdoctoral Researcher.

Desirable:

- Full Driver's License
- Excellent GIS skills
- Knowledge/experience in identification/valuation of ecosystem services, environmental impact assessment, natural capital accounting, economic impact assessment
- Experience engaging with stakeholders
- Language skills – must be fluent in English

Salary for this 2.5-year Research Assistant post is in the range €28,000-€32,000.

Application Procedure

Please send applications to: Dr Donohue (ian.donohue@tcd.ie) with '*Nature+Energy Research Assistant*' in the subject line of the email. Deadline for receipt of applications is 30 June 2021.

Attach a single PDF Document that contains the following:

- A cover letter: Your letter should clearly set out your suitability and motivation for this post with reference to your relevant experience that links to the essential and desirable criteria.
- A CV that includes your previous experience and achievements to date plus qualifications (if applicable) and contact information for 2 referees.