



## JOB DESCRIPTION

### Research Assistant Opportunity

<b>Job Title:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Dr Deirdre Brophy
<b>Location:</b>	Marine Institute Catchment Research Facility, Furnace, Newport, Co Mayo
<b>Duration:</b>	36 Month Fixed Term Contract
<b>Funding Agency:</b>	Marine Institute
<b>Project Title:</b>	Unlocking the archive: using scale and otolith chronologies to resolve climate impacts

#### Description:

An opportunity has arisen for a suitably qualified candidate to be part of an exciting partnership between the Marine and Freshwater Research Centre (MFRC) at GMIT and the Marine Institute (MI).

The MI's Catchment Research Facility at Newport Co Mayo holds valuable multi-decadal collections of biological material (scales and otoliths), obtained as part of national stock assessment, monitoring and research programmes. This archive material holds sustained and detailed individual growth records that can provide insight into how fish populations respond to environmental change. This project aims to consolidate these collections and associated data into a single biochronology repository thus maximising the use of the archive by researchers. Existing growth time-series will be updated and an interface created to ease future access and updating. The establishment of the biochronology repository will enable detailed analysis of growth histories and environmental time series as well as scale/otolith composition.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Catalogue and archive available scale and otolith collections
- Prepare and image scales/otoliths and extract growth measurements
- Quality check and cross validate previously collected growth measurements
- Establish a relational database to house images and associated data
- Create and compile protocols describing sample preparation and measurement
- Work with project team and Marine Institute to facilitate the use of the archive by researchers
- Participate in project meetings and workshops
- Contribute to project reports, publicity and publications

#### Requirements/Background:

The ideal candidate will have a primary degree in a cognate discipline (biology, ecology, zoology) with an MSc, a technical laboratory qualification or equivalent laboratory experience. They will have excellent organisational skills and experience of working with relational databases. Previous experience with cataloguing and archiving of biological material and with reading growth increments in calcified structures would also be an advantage. The candidate should have excellent written, verbal and inter-personal communication skills and a demonstrated ability to work as part of a collaborative team.

**Salary:**

- IUA Research Assistant: €20,459.00 (1<sup>st</sup> point) - €27,956.00 (11<sup>th</sup> point) (Level on scale dependent on funding availability and experience, and will also be market-driven and discipline-related. Candidates with a secondary degree and/or research experience can expect to be placed above the starting point on the scale).
- Pension contribution @ 20% of salary. **\*The appointee will not become a member of the Public Service pension scheme and the pension contribution will only be paid where an approved PRSA is established by the appointee).**

Further information on the position may be obtained from Dr Deirdre Brophy ([deirdre.brophy@gmit.ie](mailto:deirdre.brophy@gmit.ie))

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Interested applicants should submit a detailed Curriculum Vitae including a personal statement as to how you meet the requirements of the post described to [hr@gmit.ie](mailto:hr@gmit.ie)

The Human Resources Department  
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology  
Dublin Road  
Galway  
Ireland.

Telephone No. + 353 91 742766/742767

**Latest date for receipt of completed application is: 12 noon on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.**

It is anticipated that interviews will take place on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

*Please note:*

*Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.*

*Candidates must hold a valid work permit to work in Ireland.*

*Garda Vetting will apply.*

*The Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from people with a disability.*

*Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras trí Ghaeilge.*