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HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Research Assistant – Research Ireland Future Food Challenge

Agriculture & Bioeconomy Research Centre, Ryan Institute

& School of Biological & Chemical Sciences, College of Science & Engineering

[Colleges & Schools - University of Galway](#)

Ref. No. 011083

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full time specific purpose fixed term position as a Research Assistant on the Research Ireland Future Foods Challenge funded project, Agri-Immanence, at the University of Galway, Ireland.

This position is funded by Research Ireland and is available from immediately to contract end date of 28/02/2026 with possibility for extension. The position is full time.

Overview of the Project: The Agri-Immanence project team is developing digital agronomy tools for the covered greenhouse production sector globally.

Agri-Immanence project website: <https://agri-immanence.com/>

Project Leader: Prof. Charles Spillane, Project Co-PI: Dr. Galina Brychkova; Societal Champion: Prof. Phil Thornton.

Salary: Research Assistant salary scale €32,962 - €42,943 per annum, (subject to the project's funding limitations), and pro rata for shorter and/or part-time contracts.

The default position for all new public sector appointments is the 1st point of the salary scale. This may be reviewed, and consideration afforded to appointment at a higher point on the payscale (subject to the project's funding limitations), where evidence of prior years' equivalent experience is accepted in determining placement on the scale above point 1, subject to the maximum of the scale.

[\(Research Salary Scales - University of Galway\)](#)

Closing date for receipt of applications is 17:00 (Irish Time) on 16th May 2025. It will not be possible to consider applications received after the closing date.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Description:

The successful candidate will have skills in agribusiness, entrepreneurship and commercialization in the agrifood sphere. They will work as part of an inter-disciplinary team of researchers with



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complementary skills in horticulture, entrepreneurship and data analytics. The individual will work closely with Lead PI Prof. Spillane and Co-PI Dr. Galina Brychkova, as well as with collaborators on development of digital agronomy tools for the covered greenhouse production sector.

Duties:

- Actively participate as a member of a Research Ireland funded research team and work with Project Leaders and Project Team to design, develop and test minimal viable prototype.
- Conduct research activities to design, develop and test minimal viable prototypes.
- To coordinate and perform a variety of independent tasks and team activities involved in the collection, analysis, documentation, and some interpretation of information/results.
- To develop product concepts/prototype taking inputs from the multidisciplinary team.
- To present information on research progress and outcomes to others responsible for the research project.
- To develop detailed design outputs, including software code and release notes.
- To make software test protocols as part of design verification activities, execute any testing as necessary, and produce test reports.
- To identify design improvements and value engineering opportunities and be actively involved in change control within the product lifecycle
- Participate in field deployments of prototype/pilot devices, which may include travel.
- Actively participate in all activities associated with the project, including required training, developmental opportunities and commercialisation activities
- To have knowledge and understanding of the policy, practices and procedures, relevant to the role, this may include broader University/ sector/ external sponsor or funder (e.g. Commercial Awareness, Research Ethics, Knowledge Transfer, Patents, Intellectual Property Rights, Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities & Diversity).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Essential Requirements:

- Candidates must have a Primary Degree (level 8) in which data analytics and software engineering are significant components.
- Proven experience in AI and machine learning, and in arena of IoT sensor feeds. .
- Prior experience with software/firmware development for embedded systems and any prior experience with Cloud-based solutions, IoT platforms, wireless communication technologies, database (SQL) & dashboard development, object-oriented programming, unit testing and data analytics.
- Strong experience in user experience (UX) design and development of decision-support tools and dashboards.
- Strong interest in sustainability requirements across agrifood value chains in different jurisdictions.

Desirable Requirements:

- Any prior experience in developing sensors for environmental analysis, particularly in-situ monitoring, would be a significant advantage.



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- Excellent interpersonal, communication and organisational skills.
- Experience on topics of relevance to the horti-food production systems.
- Excellent written and oral communication, editing, and reporting skills.
- Understanding of emerging frontier science in AI, machine learning and data analytics.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at University of Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. University of Galway provides continuing professional development supports for all researchers seeking to build their own career pathways either within or beyond academia. Researchers are encouraged to engage with our Researcher Development Centre (RDC) upon commencing employment - see [HERE](#) for further information.

FURTHER INFORMATION/LINKS

- **TO APPLY:** [Search Current University of Galway vacancies](#). Applications must be submitted online.
 - [How to apply guide](#)
- For informal enquiries, please contact Prof. Charles Spillane [charles.spillane@universityofgalway.ie]
- [University's Strategic Plan](#)
- [Working in Research at University of Galway](#)
- [Moving to Ireland \(Euraxess\)](#)
- [Applicant Information](#)
- We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.
- University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.
- All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment.



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