



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHĒ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Postdoctoral Researcher - MPA-LIFE-Ireland project

School of Natural Sciences / Ryan Institute

Ref. No. 011774

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time, fixed term position as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the MPA-LIFE-Ireland project with the School of Natural Sciences and Ryan Institute at the University of Galway, Ireland.

This position is funded by EU Life and is available from 1st September 2026 to contract end date of 31st August 2029.

MPA-Life-Ireland project aims to support the significant expansion of Ireland's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to reach a target of 30% coverage of the maritime area by 2030. It aims to make a major contribution to protecting, conserving and enabling the recovery of Ireland's marine ecosystems, thereby supporting the achievement of Good Environmental Status in our marine environment. Operationally, the project will examine and develop area-based conservation measures for a wide range of vulnerable species, habitats, and other sensitive features that need protection based on current knowledge and scientific evidence.

<https://www.mpalife.ie>

Salary: Postdoctoral Researcher salary scale €46,805 - €59,654 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 17th June 2026. It will not be possible to consider applications received after the closing date.

Interviews are planned to be held on 7th July 2026

***Please review full job description for further details and essential requirements.**

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Description:

The successful candidate will work with the MPA-LIFE-Ireland team on identifying and prioritizing areas of potential importance for marine conservation. The role will involve processing spatial data, extracting data



from existing image annotations (e.g., from VARS, BIIGLE), deriving and evaluating habitat and species distribution models and running conservation prioritization analyses in R. The candidate will need to communicate with national and international experts and present analyses to stakeholders.

Duties:

- Collaboratively determine the priority habitats and species for spatial modelling
- Data collation and quality assessment
- Habitat suitability modelling
- Conservation prioritization analyses
- Participate in regular project group and subgroup meetings
- Present outcomes in appropriate scientific and public fora
- Publish outcomes in appropriate scientific journals
- Contribute to reporting to funder as required
- Data management in line with University best practice
- Manage budget and procurement as directed
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this level of post

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Essential Requirements:

- PhD in Marine Conservation or related area
- Experience in habitat or species distribution modelling in the marine environment
- Extensive experience developing R scripts for novel tasks
- Competence in GIS
- Familiarity with species and habitats of conservation importance in the North East Atlantic
- Evidence of publishing on topics of relevance in appropriate scientific journals

Desirable Requirements:

- Experience using Jupyter Notebooks
- Experience in Python or other suitable programming language
- Evidence of successful collaboration in large-scale projects
- Strong oral communication skills

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



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- **TO APPLY:** [Search Current University of Galway vacancies](#). Applications must be submitted online.
 - [How to apply guide](#)
- For informal enquiries, please contact Susan Gallagher, School of Natural Sciences, Email susan.gallagher@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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