



Postdoctoral Researcher - Grassland Ecologist

GreeNet: Grassland conservation across European landscapes protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services with ecological networks

Applied Ecology Unit, School of Natural Sciences, College of Science & Engineering

Ref. No. University of Galway 143-23

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time, fixed term position as a PostDoctoral Researcher for the EU funded GreeNet project in the Applied Ecology Unit, School of Natural Sciences at the University of Galway https://www.universityofgalway.ie/applied_ecology_unit/

This position is funded under the **EU Biodiversa+ Transnational Call (BioDivProtect)** and is available from August 1st 2023 to June 30th 2026.

The multidisciplinary team consists of partners in Austria, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Switzerland with each country undertaking case studies that feed into the overall project. The overarching aim of the project, with respect to grassland conservation across European landscapes, is to determine how target-oriented grassland conservation management options can be integrated into biophysical and socio-economic assessment tools at a landscape level. The Irish case study data will be combined with the partner case studies to develop the next generation of conservation incentive schemes, ready to cope with future challenges of maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services of European grasslands

The Irish Project Team consists of Professor Mike Gormally, Dr Caitriona Carlin and Dr Gesche Kindermann in the Applied Ecology Unit, University of Galway and Dr John Carey, Project Manager for the Corncrake LIFE project <https://www.corncrakelife.ie/>.

Job Description:

While the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to all work packages in conjunction with our partners, their primary focus, with reference to the north-west of Ireland, will be to:

- Review grassland conservation targets
- Develop plant indicators to support species-rich grassland systems
- Apply remote sensing methods using local datasets as ground-truth for calibration
- Contribute to landscape assessment using the Viva Grass tool
- Utilise literature surveys/questionnaires to determine factors which influence conservation programme uptake by landowners

The Grassland Ecologist will be responsible for advancing the research and innovation outputs, impacts and outcomes of the research project, under the direction of the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators, to ensure that projects goals, milestones and impacts are reached. The Grassland Ecologist should be technically strong in the area of terrestrial plant ecology, ground truthing in conjunction with GIS / remote sensing and landscape scale conservation with a thorough understanding of conservation management schemes. The Postdoctoral Researcher will work with the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators as well as other members of the Applied Ecology Unit team. The Postdoctoral Researcher will be based in the Applied Ecology Unit at the University of Galway.



Duties:

- Determine appropriate methodologies for GreeNet research under the guidance and direction of the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators.
- Plan and implement research for GreeNet, to ensure that all relevant Work Packages and Research Activity Areas of GreeNet are advanced to reach milestones and targets.
- Assist and engage in the research supervision of other researchers working on the GreeNet project.
- Draft and submit research papers, reports and other forms of GreeNet project outputs.
- Draft reports for funding agencies
- Keep appropriate records as directed and in line with Funder/University policy
- Work closely with the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators on an on-going basis to support the efficient functioning of the GreeNet project
- Set up and maintain website and social media accounts for the project
- Carry out any additional duties as may reasonably be required.
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this level of post.

Qualifications/Skills required:

Essential Requirements:

- PhD degree in Environmental Science, Ecology, Botany, or equivalent
- Quantitative and qualitative research skills that are integrative and interdisciplinary in the field of ecosystem conservation and management
- Educational and research background that demonstrates capability to conduct research (including fieldwork) on plant indicators in terrestrial ecosystems.
- Skills of relevance to the project e.g. GIS skills (ArcGIS, qGIS) etc.
- Data analytics capability for mapping ecological data collected in the field and using existing datasets (e.g. using R, SPSS etc).
- Excellent scientific/report writing skills and proficiency in data visualisation
- Willingness to travel to partner countries for site visits and meetings.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills including a proven ability to work to deadlines.
- Full clean driving licence, valid for Republic of Ireland (this includes EU/EEA countries or one of the recognised states for which a full driving licence can be exchanged for a Republic of Ireland driving licence – see: <https://www.ndls.ie/licensed-driver/exchange-my-foreign-driving-licence.html>)

Desirable Requirements:

- Understanding of agri-environmental measures and farming systems
- Published peer-reviewed journal papers on European terrestrial ecosystems, terrestrial plant indicators and/or ecosystem services
- Highly motivated and detail oriented with the ability to work independently and in close collaboration with team members.
- Excellent communication, organisation and interpersonal skills, including the ability to write concise, readable reports in English; set up and maintain website and social media accounts; and to interact with other researchers.
- Ability and willingness to work in diverse multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environments.
- Interest in terrestrial invertebrate ecology and plant – invertebrate interactions



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Salary: Postdoctoral Researcher pay scale €42,032 - €54,153 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, 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](#)).

Start date: Position is available from August 1st 2023

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 on research and working at University of Galway is available on [Research at University of Galway](#)

For information on moving to Ireland please see www.euraxess.ie

Further information about The Applied Ecology UNIT is available at https://www.universityofgalway.ie/applied_ecology_unit/

Informal enquiries concerning the post may be made to Professor Mike Gormally at mike.gormally@universityofgalway.ie OR Dr Caitríona Carlin at caitrona.carlin@universityofgalway.ie

To Apply:

Applications to include a covering letter, CV, and the contact details of three referees should be sent, via e-mail (in word or PDF only) to Dr Caitríona Carlin at caitrona.carlin@universityofgalway.ie

Please put reference number **University of Galway 143-23** in subject line of e-mail application.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm (Irish Time) 22nd June 2023

We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.

The University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.

All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment

