



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHĒ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

## Postdoctoral Researcher – BioProtect (EU Ocean Mission)

School of Natural Sciences

Ref. No. 010921

### JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time, fixed-term position at the level of Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Galway. The successful candidate will be part of a team working in the Horizon EU Mission Ocean and Waters Project – BioProtect (<https://bioprotect-project.eu>). BioProtect aims to co-develop and demonstrate area-based solutions to accelerate the effective protection and restoration of biodiversity in marine and coastal ecosystems. The project includes 18 partners and has demonstration sites in Norway, Iceland, Ireland, northern Portugal and the Azores Islands.

This is a shared three-year position. The post-doctoral scientist will be based at the University of Galway in Galway, Ireland, for the first year (March 2025 until end of February 2026), and at the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland, for the following two years.

**Salary:** IUA Postdoctoral Researcher salary scale: €44,846- €57,332per annum\*.

The initial appointment for one year will be as an Irish Post-Doctoral Researcher (IUA salary scale\* – [Research Salary Scales - University of Galway](#)). The next two years will be as an Icelandic Post-Doctoral Researcher, salary according to the current agreement: (<https://www.fin.is/media/eplicaga/2023-04-04-Felag-islenskra-natturufraedinga-LOK-1-.pdf>)

\*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 pay-scale (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.

**Start date:** from March 2024 (flexible).

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 13:00 (Irish Time) on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. It will not be possible to consider applications received after the closing date.**

**Interviews are planned to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

**Please review full job description for further details and essential requirement**

### JOB DESCRIPTION

The successful candidate will work in a team under the supervision of Drs. Oisín Callery and Anthony Grehan in Galway and Dr. Julian Burgos in MFRI, Iceland. The work of the post-doctoral scientist will



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centre on the development and application of systematic conservation planning (SCP) and ecological restoration planning (ERP) methods to identify important areas for conservation and restoration.

The post-doctoral scientist will apply and adapt workflows developed by the University of Galway to support multi-scale SCP and ERP in Irish and Icelandic waters.

The post-doctoral scientist will also contribute to the deployment and testing of the "BioProtect Marine Planner". This tool will facilitate stakeholder co-design of candidate areas for new or expanded MPAs. The tool will be tested in workshops in Ireland and Iceland.

**Duties:**

- Compile multiple data sources on the distribution of important marine species and habitats, as well as on human pressures, in Irish and Icelandic waters
- Apply and adapt workflows developed by the University of Galway to support multi-scale SCP and ERP in Irish and Icelandic waters to identify candidate protected areas that offer maximal conservation value with minimal disruption to human socio-economic activities
- Assist in the identification of ecological corridors for fish, marine mammals and seabirds to feed into SCP and ERP in conjunction with other Bioprotect partners.
- Contribute to the deployment and testing of the "BioProtect Marine Planner", a novel tool for co-design of local marine area plans
- Contribute to the writing of reports and research papers for publication in top-level outlets in the fields of marine biology/conservation
- Actively participate in new funding opportunities, such as the development and writing of proposals
- Liaise with stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally
- Attend national and international meetings and conferences
- Support the hosting of events, seminars, and workshops related to the project
- Contribute to the management and reporting requirements of the project
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this level of post

**Essential Requirements:**

- PhD in marine biology and/or statistics or data science or related disciplines.
- Record of publication in relevant disciplines
- Evidence of excellent research skills with a strong background in data analysis, including quantitative research approaches
- Evidence of excellent communications skills
- Strong coordination, project management and teamwork skills
- Be a motivated self-starter, as well as being focused and exacting in work ethic.

**Desirable Requirements:**

- Experience with multivariate techniques, spatial modelling and programming skills in R and analyses (e.g. GIS tools).
- Good knowledge exchange skills targeting non-academic audiences



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- Experience with content creation for professional social media and websites

## 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 Dr. Oisín Callery ([oisin.callery@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:oisin.callery@universityofgalway.ie)) and Dr Julian Burgos ([julian.burgos@hafogvatn.is](mailto:julian.burgos@hafogvatn.is)).
- [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.

### About the employers

The University of Galway is Ireland's #1 university for sustainable development in the Times Higher Education World Rankings (THE) and ranked in the top 2% of universities globally. Marine science is a key research focus of the University and includes extensive expertise in MSP and area-based prioritisation of conservation activities.

The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) is leading in marine and freshwater research in Iceland, providing advice on sustainable use and protection of the environment. MFRI is highly regarded in the scientific community, active at an international level, with close ties to international marine and freshwater research institutes, and universities.



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