



College Management Unit:	UCD College of Science
School Unit:	UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science
Post Title & Subject Area (if relevant)	UCD Post-doctoral Research Fellow Level 1
Projects:	Building Resilient Irish Coasts through Oyster Restoration: A Nature-Based Solution for Enhancing Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystems. (BRICONS)
Post Duration:	Temporary 24 months post (with possibility of renewal)
Line Manager	Dr. Paul Brooks, Principle Investigator
Competition Ref. N°	019379
HR Administrator	Kim Hannon

Position Summary:

The BRICONS project, funded by the Marine Institute, focuses on advancing knowledge of the potential for restoration of native oyster reefs in harbour environments under climate change conditions. Specifically, the project aims to evaluate how native oysters can function as a nature-based solution (NbS) to support harbours and ports through sediment stabilisation, while enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services. This includes their role in habitat provision, biodiversity promotion, ecosystem functioning, and their buffering capacity under projected climate scenarios. Within BRICONS, the successful candidate will undertake research into native oyster restoration trials at sites in Ireland. In particular, the candidate will lead the coordination of field surveys in Dublin Bay, carrying out environmental monitoring and habitat characterisation surveys at selected restoration sites. Biodiversity monitoring will include video and photographic surveys, sediment sampling, and deployment of underwater baited cameras and other instrumentation to monitor fish assemblages. The successful candidate will work with other researchers to develop, implement and coordinate a structured monitoring program in the Dublin site and as required in other partner locations in Galway and Belfast. In addition, the candidate will lead the procurement and deployment of artificial reefs, shell catch and other restorative approaches used in oyster reef restoration, including reintroduction and translocation of native oysters, in communication with project partners and where relevant local aquaculture and fisheries stakeholders at demonstration sites in Dublin Bay so that it aligns with approaches taken at oyster restoration sites in partner locations.

As part of this research-focused role, the successful candidate will primarily be focussed on the BRICONS project, however they may be required to contribute to other projects within the research group. Within BRICONS they will collaborate closely with team members across both initiatives, including postdoctoral researchers, PhD students, and research assistants, spanning multiple institutions. The successful candidate will join a multidisciplinary team of experts in marine biology/ecology, coastal engineering, nature-based solutions, data science, and key industrial stakeholders, providing a unique opportunity for cross-sector collaboration and impactful research.

This is a research focused role, where you will conduct a specified programme of research supported by research training and development under the supervision and direction of a Principal Investigator.

The primary purpose of the role is to further develop your research skills and competences, including the processes of publication in peer-reviewed academic publications, the development of funding proposals, the mentorship of graduate students along with the opportunity to develop your skills in research led teaching.

The BRICONS Project (Grant-Aid Agreement No. PBA-BIOD-24-11) is carried out with the support of the Marine Institute under the Marine Research Programme and funded by the Government of Ireland.

Project website: <https://briconsproject.com/>



Foras na Mara
Marine Institute



Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct a specified programme of research and scholarship under the supervision and direction of your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities as required by your Principal Investigator, your School or Institute, or the University.
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which you are engaged as directed by and with the support of and under the supervision of your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of your research group, School and Institute.
- Mentor and assist, as appropriate and as directed, the research graduate students in your group, School and Institute
- Carry out administrative work associated with your programme of research

Fixed Salary: €46,305 per annum

Details on eligibility to compete and pension information is available at:

<https://www.ucd.ie/hr/resourcing/eligibilitytocompete/>

UCD welcomes applications from everyone. We are committed to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is afforded equality of opportunity. Learn more about Diversity at:

<https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/>.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided to any applicant during the interview process who discloses they have a disability or are neurodiverse.

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post. Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Mandatory:

- PhD in Marine Ecology or related discipline.
- Experience in conducting field-based studies in ecological research with a good track record in organising and conducting marine habitat surveys and experiments.
- Proficiency in statistical data analysis with use of appropriate software (R/Python/Matlab or similar).
- A demonstrated commitment to research and publications.
- An understanding of the operational requirements for a successful research project.
- Evidence of research activity (publications, conference presentations, awards) and future scholarly output.
(working papers, research proposals), and ability to outline a research project.

- Excellent Communication Skills (Oral, Written, Presentation, etc).
- Excellent Organisational and Administrative skills including a proven ability to work to deadlines.
- Eligible to drive legally in Ireland, or abroad.
- Candidates must demonstrate an awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion agenda.

The PD1 position is intended for early-stage researchers, either just after completion of a PhD or for someone entering a new area for the first time. If you have already completed your PD1 stage in UCD or will soon complete a PD1, or you are an external applicant whose total Postdoctoral experience, inclusive of the duration of the advertised post, would exceed 4 years, you should not apply and should refer to PD2 posts instead.

Desirable:

- Experience in setting own research agenda.
- Have experience in undertaking scientific diving (Diving qualification equivalent to CMAS*** or above).
- Having published in the field of restorative ecology or nature-based solutions
- Experience in public engagement through channels such as social media, LinkedIn, YouTube, Facebook etc.
- Experience in engaging with community and stakeholder groups for disseminating ecological restoration principles.
- Affinity for marine ecological research.
- Knowledge of bivalve aquaculture techniques, especially native oysters *Ostrea edulis*.
- Experienced in European marine faunal and algal species identification.
- Boat handling qualification/associated experience.
- Experience of working in multidisciplinary research environment.

Supplementary information:

The University:	https://www.ucd.ie/
UCD Strategy to 2030 – breaking Boundaries:	https://www.ucd.ie/strategy/
The College/Management Unit:	https://www.ucd.ie/science/
The School/Programme Office/Unit:	https://www.ucd.ie/bioenvsci/
Equality Diversity and Inclusion at UCD	https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/
Other (Please specify):	https://briconsproject.com/

Informal Enquiries ONLY to:

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