



Applications are invited from suitably qualified staff for the following position:

Research Centre	School of Physical Sciences
Post title	Postdoctoral Researcher in Sustainable Biomaterials
Level on Framework	Level 1
Post duration	Up to 12 Months Fixed-Term Contact

Dublin City University

Dublin City University (DCU) is a leading innovative European University. It is proud to be one of the world's leading Young Universities and is among the world's top 2% globally. DCU is known as Ireland's University of Impact, with a mission to 'transform lives and societies' and focuses on addressing global challenges in collaboration with key national and international partners and stakeholders.

DCU has over 20,000 students in five faculties spread across three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra area of North Dublin. Thanks to its innovative approach to teaching and learning, the University offers a 'transformative student experience' that helps to develop highly sought-after graduates. DCU is currently No. 1 in Ireland for Graduate Employment Rate, and for graduate income (CSO).

DCU is a research-intensive University and is home to a number of SFI-funded Research Centres. The University participates in a range of European and international research partnerships. DCU is also the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

As a 'People First' institution, DCU is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - a University that helps staff and students to thrive. The University is a leader in terms of its work to increase access to education, and is placed in the world's Top 10 for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Research Career Framework

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to Researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

Background & Role

Grain-4-Lab is a €2.4 million funded sustainability project, part of the SFI Future Innovator Prize Programme (<https://grain4lab.ie/>). The aim of the project is to reduce the reliance on fossil-fuel based single-use plastics in research laboratories, by providing a more sustainable and functionally equivalent alternative. At *Grain-4-Lab* we take waste products from the brewing and distilling industry and aim to produce a high quality bioplastic alternative. We are a highly multi-disciplinary team which includes researchers from the fields of bioprocessing, materials science, polymer synthesis, societal change and scientific outreach. *Grain-4-Lab* operates in close collaboration with an international network of companies and collaborators to develop, test and trial their bioplastic solution. The project was recently featured on Irish national news channel RTE (<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2022/1005/1327355-dcu-scientists/>).

The School of Physical Sciences at Dublin City University invites applications for a postdoctoral researcher in material science and biology to work on the Grain-4-Lab project on the design and testing of compostable, single-use, polymer laboratory components. The position is available from mid-November 2023.

The goal of this specific project is to design, build and test compostable polymer laboratory components to determine if the material can meet chemical, biological, mechanical, and regulatory applicability as laboratory consumables products and to work with colleagues across the project to modify the properties of the polymer to increase its capabilities. The project will involve collaboration with the Schools of Chemical Sciences, Biotechnology, and Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health in Dublin City University.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

See job description for list of main duties and responsibilities with this role.

Minimum Criteria

Applicants should have a PhD in molecular or microbiology. In addition, it is desirable that the individual has:

- A minimum of two years' relevant post-PhD research and teaching experience at undergraduate level
- Practical laboratory experience in animal/mammalian cell and/or microbial culture
- Experience with testing novel biomaterials and benchmarking against ISO standards
- Evidence of publication of research articles in relevant fields
- Experience with writing technical reports for a range of project stakeholders, including industry partners and funding organizations.
- High motivation and passion about sustainability and climate change research
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- The ability to work on multidisciplinary and high collaborative projects.

Individuals will be assessed on the following competencies:

Discipline knowledge and Research skills – Demonstrates knowledge of a relevant research discipline and the ability to conduct a specific programme of research within that discipline

Understanding the Research Environment – Demonstrates an awareness of the research environment (for example national funding bodies) and the ability to contribute to grant applications and project funding reviews

Communicating Research – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research with their peers, the wider research community, and review panels

Managing & Leadership skills - Demonstrates the potential to manage and deliver on a research project including the supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students

Essential Training

The postholder will be required to undertake the following essential compliance training: Orientation, Health & Safety, Data Protection (GDPR) and all Cyber Security Awareness Training. Other training may need to be undertaken when required.

Salary: Postdoctoral Researcher: € 42,033 - €44,572 (Point 1 – Point 3)

*Appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience in line with IUA Researcher salary scale

Closing date: Tuesday, 29th August 2023

For more information on DCU and benefits, please visit [Why work at DCU?](#)

Informal Enquiries in relation to this role should be directed to:

Dr Mehreen Mahmud, Project Manager, Grain-4-Lab, School of Physical Sciences, Dublin City University. Phone + 353 (0)1 700 7244; Email: mehreen.mahmud@dcu.ie

Application procedure:

Application forms are available from the DCU Current Vacancies website at <http://www.dcu.ie/hr/vacancies-current-vacancies-external-applicants>

Applications should be submitted by e-mail with your completed application form and CV to hr.applications@dcu.ie

Please clearly state the role that you are applying for in your application and email subject line: #RF1898 Postdoctoral Researcher in Sustainable Biomaterials

Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer. In line with the Employment Equality Acts 1998 – 2015, the University is committed to equality of treatment for all those who engage with its recruitment, selection and appointment processes. The University's Athena SWAN Bronze Award signifies the University's commitment to promoting gender equality and addressing any gender pay gaps. Information on a range of university policies aimed at creating a supportive and flexible work environment are available [in the DCU Policy Starter Packs](#)