

**Research Centre**

DCU Water Institute
School of History and Geography

Post title

Research Assistant - Catchment Management
and Community Engagement

Post duration

24 Month Fixed Term Contract

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.

Overview of the department

The DCU Water Institute (WI) is a cross-faculty initiative of research and education on water. It aims to work with all stakeholders – a quadruple helix of academia, industry, agency and society in its research and development work. Through research and capacity building, the WI develops solutions to national and global problems in water.

We specialise in technology developments across science, engineering and computer science domains with strong communications focus and policy and business drivers. These areas are reflected in our academic members in DCU, across all faculties of the University.

The School of History and Geography is an ambitious, research-intensive School in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. While possessing and promoting an international perspective, the School has a particular focus on Ireland – its geography, history and landscape. The combining of History and Geography has created a School that is unique in Ireland in its interdisciplinary range and research potential, and that is well positioned to play a leading role, nationally and internationally, in the disciplines of History, Geography and Irish Studies. The School offers an innovative BA in Climate and Environmental Sustainability. At postgraduate level both subjects offer a PhD programme; the School delivers an MA in History and contributes to the MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society. The School has a growing and dynamic postgraduate community.

Role Profile

Applications are invited for a Research Assistant on the Horizon Europe **intoDBP** project (Innovative Tools to Control Organic Matter and Disinfection Byproducts in Drinking Water). The project focuses on organic matter and disinfection byproducts in water and aims to develop, test, scale-up, validate and benchmark innovative tools and strategies to protect catchments and minimise human exposure to disinfection byproducts under current and future climates, without compromising disinfection efficacy.

The appointee will work closely with project partners and stakeholders to carry out a range of activities investigating potential mitigation measures for reducing dissolved organic matter (DOM) in raw water sources, including conducting a systematic review of potential mitigation measures including examples from real-world practice. Input from water utility practitioners, Group Water Scheme members and the local communities will be sought through a combination of focus groups, interviews, and surveys. Where measures have previously been implemented, their success or otherwise will also be assessed. There will be a focus throughout this project on assessing feasibility, cost, and community buy-in when evaluating the success of reviewed mitigation measures.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the position include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Conducting a literature review of potential mitigation measures for reducing DOM in source drinking water.
- Conducting research surveys and collating data associated with these surveys.
- Working closely with local communities through focus groups and interviews.
- Engaging in community workshops and other Outreach Programmes.
- Carrying out sample water collection and laboratory analyses at case study sites.
- Assisting in organising project meetings and training workshops and attending all events.
- Contributing to project dissemination, including the project webpage and social media accounts.

Qualifications and Experience

Essential Criteria

- Applicants should have a good primary degree (First or Upper Second Class Honours) or M.Sc. in an appropriate discipline (limnology, freshwater ecology, environmental studies, or related field).

- Experience with aquatic field and laboratory analyses of water quality parameters.
- Good data handling skills.
- Strong oral and written communication skills in English.
- Good organisational skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Proven ability to work independently.
- EU driving licence.

Desirable Criteria

- Background knowledge of catchment pressures on aquatic ecosystems.
- Experience with outreach and public engagement in an academic research environment.
- Experience with conducting research surveys.
- Experience in using GIS software.