



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

## Research Assistant – Inter-PWOs

**School of Biological and Chemical Science/College of Science and Engineering/Plant and Agricultural Biosciences Centre, Ryan Institute**

**Ref. No. NUIG-RES 237-21**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time, fixed term Research Assistant position in Plant Development & Chromatin within the Plant and Agricultural Biosciences Centre (PABC), Ryan Institute at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

This position is funded by Science Foundation Ireland and is available from 01/01/2022 to contract end date of 31/12/2024.

In a world threatened by climate change, plants face a major challenge to adapt to environmental stress. In addition, seeds are cornerstones of novel sustainable agricultural strategies to secure animal and human food. Therefore, the **Inter-PWOs project** aims to investigate how specific sets of proteins that regulate development have aided plants to thrive in new environments throughout evolution, which will contribute to discover novel breeding tools to enhance plant fitness and survival, and how these proteins regulate seed development, a key agricultural trait. This project will be developed in the Plant Developmental Epigenetics Lab (<http://www.farronalab.org>), which is a research group of the PABC (<http://plantagbiosciences.org>), Ryan Institute (<http://www.nuigalway.ie/ryaninstitute/>).

### **Job Description:**

The successful candidate will support and assist other members of the Inter-PWOs project. The applicant will contribute to the production and cultivation of plant transgenic and mutant lines. The candidate will carry out molecular experiments in plants, particularly Arabidopsis and moss. In addition, the applicant will aid in the management of the Plant Developmental Epigenetics Lab and will be responsible for liaising with suppliers to purchase consumables and items for the laboratory.

### **Duties:**

The successful candidate will work under the supervision of Dr. Sara Farrona to

- Set up and conduct plant molecular experiments.
- Support the work of other team members.
- Grow plants (e.g. Arabidopsis, moss) and microorganisms (e.g. bacteria, yeast) under different conditions.
- Input to the project monitoring reports with assistance from the principal investigator.
- Liaise with the project collaborators on an ongoing basis as required.
- Participate in research team meetings.
- Assist with other reasonable, research-related tasks.
- Order consumables and material for the group.
- Develop organisational duties (e.g. keeping up-to-date list of chemicals, glycerol stocks, protocols, etc.).
- Recording and organising relevant Health & Safety data.

**Qualifications/Skills required:**

**Essential Requirements:**

- A MSc (or superior) degree in Biology, Biotechnology, Plant Sciences or any similar background.
- Experience of having previously worked as a Research Assistant.
- Experience in working with the plant model species *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Physcomitrella patens*.
- Experience in performing molecular techniques (e.g. PCR, plasmid extraction, PCR/qPCR, cloning, gel electrophoresis) and plant molecular techniques (e.g. plant DNA/RNA extraction, plant transformation) and developmental analyses (e.g. characterisation of plant growth, mutant phenotyping).
- Good level of common IT skills (e.g. Microsoft Excel, Photoshop).
- Proficient in record keeping and report writing (e.g. technical reports).
- Evidence of track record in developing research in an international environment.
- Supervision of research undergraduate/postgraduate students.

**Personal skills**

- Highly motivated and passionate about developing high quality and novel research contributing to a pioneering project.
- Self-motivated with strong attention to detail and quality.
- Proven ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Good level of English.
- Ability to work in an interdisciplinary team.

**Desirable Requirements:**

- Knowledge of NUI Galway financial system (i.e. Agresso).
- Experience in carrying chromatin isolation and epigenetic analyses (e.g. ChIP).
- Experience with basic biochemistry analyses (e.g. western blots, immunoprecipitations, protein isolation).
- Experience with microscopy (e.g. bright/fluorescence microscopy, confocal).

**Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post**

**Salary:** €26,609 to €27,767 per annum.

**Start date:** Position is available from 01/01/2022

**Continuing Professional Development/Training:**

Further information on research and working at NUI Galway is available on Research at NUI Galway Researchers at NUI Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. NUI 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 [www.nuigalway.ie/rdc](http://www.nuigalway.ie/rdc) for further information.

For information on moving to Ireland please see [www.euraxess.ie](http://www.euraxess.ie)



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Further information about the College of Science and Engineering is available at <https://www.nuigalway.ie/science-engineering/>  
Informal enquiries concerning the post may be made to Dr. Sara Farrona [sara.farron@nuigalway.ie](mailto:sara.farron@nuigalway.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 Sara Farrona: [sara.farrona@nuigalway.ie](mailto:sara.farrona@nuigalway.ie)

Please put reference number **NUIG-RES 237-21** in subject line of e-mail application.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Interviews are planned to be held on 10/12/21**

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

National University of Ireland, Galway is an equal opportunities employer.

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

