



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Research Assistant (0.6 FTE, 4 months duration)

CORE Project: *'Establishing a long-term record of natural climate variability to inform future climate predictions for Ireland'*

School of Geography, Archaeology and Irish Studies / College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, University of Galway

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a part-time (FTE 0.6), fixed-term position as a Research Assistant with the [Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit](#), Discipline of Geography at the University of Galway, Ireland.

This position is funded by Research Ireland and co-funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and Met Éireann through the SFI-IRC Pathway Programme, and is available from the 1st July 2025 to the contract end date of the 31st of October 2025 (4 months duration).

CORE Project Description:

Human-induced climate change is one of the greatest global threats of the 21st Century to environmental and socioeconomic sectors. There is a pressing need to address pertinent inconsistencies in the Irish palaeoclimatic record regarding abrupt climate events, which currently inform climate prediction models and subsequent mitigation and adaptation policies. The CORE project seeks to create the first robust, high-resolution regional temperature record since the end of the last ice age, focusing on abrupt climate events in western Ireland. Reconstruction of past climates is challenging due to timeline uncertainties, human impact on the landscape and methodological incompatibilities. This project aims to rectify critical issues in the Irish palaeoclimatic record by employing a uniform, innovative and multi-method approach to climate reconstruction using complementary palaeolimnological (study of past lakes systems) techniques, which infer direct temperature estimates (such as chironomid subfossil analysis) and supporting environmental information. The project will prioritise research excellence, generate high-quality contributions to European and global climate science and policy, and enhance the Irish palaeoclimatic research community - *'we reconstruct Earth's past in order to better understand our future'*.

Specialist analysis associated with the Research Assistant position:

Chironomid subfossils are a versatile biological indicator in both palaeotemperature and palaeoenvironmental studies, due to their worldwide distribution and abundance, mobility and sensitivity to changing lake conditions. The CORE project utilises chironomid analysis as part of a multi-proxy approach to reconstruct a regional temperature estimate for Ireland.



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For more information on the CORE project, see the [project page](#) on our Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit's website and the CORE project's [Instagram page](#).

Salary: Research Assistant salary scale €32,962 - €42,943 per annum (subject to the project's funding limitations), and pro rata for shorter and/or part-time contracts.

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 payscale (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.

[\(Research Salary Scales - University of Galway\)](#)

Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 17:00 (Irish Time) on 23rd of May 2025. It will not be possible to consider applications received after the closing date.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job description:

The successful candidate will perform chironomid subfossil extraction on lake sediment samples for the CORE project.

Duties:

- Subsampling and preparation of lake sediment samples for chironomid analysis.
- Extraction and preservation of chironomid head capsules, involving the use of a dissection microscope and mounting varnish in a fume hood.
- Any other duties assigned commensurate with this level of post.

Specialist training will be provided by the Principal Investigator (Dr Karen Taylor), following standard research procedures.



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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Essential Requirements:

- An upper Second Class Honours, Grade 1 minimum (or equivalent international qualification) Primary Degree (level 8) in a discipline such as Geography, Geoscience or Natural Sciences.
- Previous relevant laboratory experience using a dissection microscope, which highlights excellent observational and fine motor skills.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Experience in data acquisition, data entry, database management, quality control, processing and scientific report writing.

Desirable Requirements:

- A suitable professional background in palaeoclimatic and/or palaeoenvironmental reconstruction, preferably involving chironomid subfossil analysis or other biological palaeoclimatic proxies.
- Detail-oriented, patient and thorough in work ethic.
- The ability to work independently as well as in a research group.
- Must be highly motivated.
- Laboratory health and safety training.
- Research integrity training.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email the following documents as **one PDF file** to karen.taylor@universityofgalway.ie

1. **CV** (two pages max.). Please include academic qualification grades as a percentage (i.e. overall degree and final subject grades).
2. **Cover letter** (two pages max.). Here, the applicant describes their interest in the position and how their skills/competencies match the job requirements.
3. **Two referees.**

Please include your **name in the document title** (PDF file name). Submissions after the deadline will not be accepted.



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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:

- For informal enquiries, please contact Dr Karen Taylor (karen.taylor@universityofgalway.ie), Principal Investigator of the CORE Project and Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher (Honorary Research Senior Lecturer) at the Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit, School of Geography, Archaeology and Irish Studies.
- [University's Strategic Plan](#)
- [Working in Research at University of Galway](#)
- 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.

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