



Cork Food Policy Council

Combined PhD & Co-ordinator Opportunity

Background

The Cork Food Policy Council (CFPC) was formed in 2013 to work towards the achievement of a fairer, healthier, more secure and sustainable food system within the city and throughout the region under the slogan: 'Pure Cork – Real Food for All'. CFPC seeks a candidate with a desire to complete a PhD and to take on a part-time role as Coordinator. The successful candidate will be a highly motivated individual and will register for a PhD in the School of the Human Environment, UCC under the supervision of Dr Colin Sage.

Research Tasks

The CFPC needs to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the food system within the city and region and to build a food profile. In particular it wishes to better comprehend the extent of food poverty and the measures that will strengthen social inclusion so that we can achieve improved access to healthier food. The Coordinator will undertake research (3-4 days/week) that contributes to building this evidence base. From this, a PhD topic will likely comprise a more focussed, in-depth analysis of one aspect of this work.

Co-ordinator Tasks

In addition to the research efforts to develop a food profile for Cork the Coordinator will also undertake a range of duties (1-2 days/week) to extend, support and develop the work of the CFPC. These duties will include:

- Convene and support meetings of the CFPC Steering Committee and of its Task Groups
- Provide follow up supports to ensure implementation of actions by liaising and working with the members of the Steering Committee and its Task Groups.
- Facilitate collaboration across a wide range of stakeholders associated with the CFPC including the City Council, Cork Healthy Cities, Cork Environmental Forum, Health Action Zones and other community, statutory, commercial and voluntary organisations.
- Support the development of our communications strategy, updating and maintaining our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Provide planning and event support for several public events each year, including a willingness to engage in very occasional weekend and evening events.

Competencies and qualifications required

- A Bachelor's Degree (minimum upper second class) and at least three years professional experience or a Master's Degree and 1-2 years of experience in a non-profit or statutory body engaged in environmental, agricultural, public policy, public health or planning issues;

- Evidence of a clear understanding and a high level of engagement with the issues surrounding the contemporary food system as well as wider environmental debates.
- Clear ability and motivation to undertake research to PhD level including an understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies; the ability to manage data sets; and a commitment to high ethical standards to ensure confidentiality
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including the ability to give presentations in a variety of settings (community groups, the City Council as well as within academic settings). A sample of recent writing is required with the application
- Exceptional organizational skills including project management abilities; the ability to manage and prioritise several time sensitive projects simultaneously.
- An empathy and ability to engage with people from different communities across the city and region
- A willingness to extend IT literacy in order to support website management and data analysis tools.

A stipend of €10,000 per annum is available to the successful candidate for a period of three years.

Application Process

Letters of application are sought from interested candidates and should include a copy of their CV plus a sample of their writing to:

Dr Colin Sage
Department of Geography
School of the Human Environment
University College Cork
College Road
Cork
or

E-mail: c.sage@ucc.ie (Subject line: *'Combined PhD & Co-ordinator Opportunity'*)

Closing date: 5pm June 5th 2015