

Research Assistant post Circular Economy

UCC, Cork

College	SEFS
School/Research Institute/Centre/Unit	BEES/ERI
Post Title	Research Assistant-Technical
Project	FORWARD
Post Duration	18 months
Reports to	Prof Marcel AK Jansen

Position Summary

This is a key appointment in the FORWARD project, that brings together researchers from Technological University Dublin (TUD), Munster Technological University (MTU), and University College Cork (UCC). The central objective of FORWARD is to develop a “waste-to-value” bioeconomy by assessing, quantifying and developing a circular bioeconomy approach to food waste. The primary purpose of the research role is to design a roadmap for the waste management industry and policymakers for converting household food waste into sustainable biobased products using the cascading approach of a biorefinery. The roadmap will provide a framework for making the transition from food waste to food resource by exploring the literature, and other knowledge sources, for established and emerging technologies for bioconversion and valorisation of food waste. Specifically, the RA will review international knowledge re the biochemical profile of food waste, explore scope for a biorefinery approach to extract high value compounds from waste, explore scope for production of high value synthons from food waste using bacterial, fungal or yeast systems, assess the energy value of food waste, and the scope for mineral recovery using primary producers.

The Research Assistant will be based at the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at UCC, and report to Prof Marcel Jansen. The Research Assistant will closely liaise with the overall project coordinator, Dr Anushree Priyadarshini (TUD), co-PI Dr Gaurav Rajauria (MTU) and a project postdoctoral researcher (TUD).

Apart from contributing to the development of the aforementioned roadmap, the Research Assistant may also be required to assist with public outreach, stakeholder interactions, report writing and supervision of student research-projects.

A modest amount of travel, mostly between Cork, Tralee and Dublin is required.

The duties of the successful candidate will include:

- The Research Assistant will assist in a scoping of established and emerging technologies through literature research
- Liaising with project partners
- Contributing to outreach activities, stakeholder engagement and student research projects
- Report writing

The Research Assistant post has an expected duration of 18 months, subject to the term of the project.

Salary: €27.380 - gross

ROLE SUMMARY

A Research Assistant- Technical will work under the direction of the Principal Investigator/Project Leader and perform a variety of technical duties in support of the research project.

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To work under the direction of the Principal Investigator.
- To perform a variety of duties involved in supporting the research project(s) or programme.
- To work with the Principal Investigator to review work assignments and to develop plans to support the research/area.
- To explore published literature and other sources of knowledge for relevant information.
- To maintain detailed notes of activities and progress.
- Collection and analysis of data.
- To ensure Health and Safety.
- To perform other related duties incidental to the work described herein.
- To carry out any additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

The list of duties detailed above is not intended to be exclusive or restrictive and may be adjusted dependent on the area of research.

CRITERIA

- A graduate qualification in a field of discipline relevant to the area of investigation i.e. BSc, MSc or PhD.
- Excellent writing skills and experience in drafting reports and/or publications.
- Undergraduate experience in laboratory practices and in conducting laboratory experiments.
- Demonstrated ability to work well within a team.
- Ability to maintain records and excellent computer skills.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills, including a proven ability to work to deadlines.
- Please note that Garda vetting and international police clearance check may form part of the selection process.

Informal enquiries can be made in confidence to Prof Marcel AK Jansen, School of BEES, Email: m.jansen@ucc.ie