

Postdoctoral Researcher/Research Associate
Seaweed/Microbial Biotechnology
Botany and Plant Science, School of Natural Sciences and
Ryan Institute for Environment, Marine and Energy Research
National University of Ireland, Galway
Ref. No. NUIG 141-19

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time, fixed-term position as a Postdoctoral Researcher with Dr Dagmar Stengel's Research Group in Botany and Plant Science (Algal Biosciences) at the National University of Ireland, Galway. We seek to recruit a scientist with demonstrated expertise in seaweed biology and biotechnology, and marine microbiology. This position is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and is available immediately for 20 months (initially, with possible extension), subject to a one-year probationary period.

The research group (Algal BioSciences Group Botany and Plant Science) is housed within the Ryan Institute which is NUI Galway's hub for Environmental, Marine and Energy research.

www.nuigalway.ie

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/science/school-of-natural-sciences/disciplines/botany-plant-science/>

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/science/school-of-natural-sciences/disciplines/botany-plant-science/research/algalbiosciences/>

www.ryaninstitute.ie

The position:

The research position is part of a recently funded larger DAFM-funded research project lead by Dr Dagmar Stengel in collaboration with University College Cork (UCC) and Teagasc, investigating seaweed-microbe interactions for novel applications in marine biotechnology.

Job Description:

The position will involve the sourcing (collection) of seaweeds from natural habitats, isolation and cultivation of bacteria, the extraction and analysis of compounds for high value applications (PI: Dr Dagmar Stengel, Botany and Plant Science, NUI Galway). Candidates should have extensive experience in algal/microbial ecology and biotechnology, and biochemical analyses of high-value bioactive compounds. Candidates should be effective communicators across different scientific disciplines.

Duties:

Main duties and responsibilities:

The Postdoctoral Researcher will be based in the Ryan Institute at NUI Galway and will:

- Undertake and support research in seaweed-microbial interactions
- Be responsible for experimental design on bioactive compound production, extraction and experimental manipulation
- Undertake extraction and analysis (e.g. HPLC, GC-MS, LC-MS) of macroalgal metabolites
- Isolation and molecular characterisation of microbial communities
- Assistance with supervision of PhD and other researchers in the project
- Liaise with and distribute samples and extracts to project partners
- Promote the work of the project through conference and workshop presentations, and in peer-reviewed publications
- Assist project management team and interact with project partners

- Ensure that the project is carried out with reference to the appropriate health and safety guidelines and any other relevant NUI Galway policies (e.g., purchasing and procurement)
- Maintain confidentiality of Intellectual Property (IP) associated with the project
- Assist in the application and protection of IP by identifying potential research results of value and preparing supporting documentation as required by the IP committee and Technology Transfer Office
- Assist with supervision and training of students/researchers on related projects as appropriate

Essential Qualifications:

- PhD or minimum of 4 years research experience in algal biology, biotechnology/ biochemistry and/or microbiology
- Experience extraction for bioactive compounds from algae
- Experience with analytical techniques such as HPLC, GC-MS, LC-MS and relevant bioactivity testing
- Experience in molecular microbiology; isolation and molecular characterisation of microbial communities
- Experience in experimental manipulation and processing effect on algal biochemical composition
- Demonstrable experience in both independent and collaborative research
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills (English language)
- Evidence of scientific publication and dissemination of results at conferences
- Full clean driving licence valid in Ireland
- Flexibility/mobility to work in partner institutions (UCC, Teagasc Ashtown)

Desirable skills and experience:

- Candidate will ideally be qualified to PhD level in a relevant subject (algal biotechnology, marine microbial biology)
- Experience in research on algae-microbe interactions is highly desirable.
- Experience in seaweed biotechnology in relation to microbiome research
- Experience in collaborative and/or multi-institutional research
- Additional technical, analytical, biochemical and biotechnological skills in areas that can be applied towards analysis of marine algae
- Appropriate supervisory/teaching experience may be an advantage
- Appreciation of IP procedures relevant to university research

For informal enquiries regarding this position please contact Dr Dagmar Stengel, Botany and Plant Science, School of Natural Sciences, Ryan Institute, NUI Galway via e-mail at dagmar.stengel@nuigalway.ie

Salary: €37,223 per annum.

Start date: 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible

To apply: Applications should be sent as a **single file** (PDF only) to dagmar.stengel@nuigalway.ie and include;

- 1) a covering letter stating the reason and suitability for applying for this specific position,
- 2) a full curriculum vitae,
- 3) the names and contact details of at least three *but not more than five* referees who can be contacted for confidential references.

Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at NUI Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans.

Further information on research and working at NUI Galway is available on [Research at NUI Galway](#)

For information on moving to Ireland please see www.euraxess.ie

Informal enquiries concerning the post may be made to Dr. Dagmar Stengel, dagmar.stengel@nuigalway.ie, +353 91 493192

Please put reference number **NUIG 141-19** in subject line of e-mail application.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm on Friday 26th July 2019.

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

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

