

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	MARBioFEED Biotoxin Chemistry Lab Analyst
Contract	Temporary specified purpose contract for a maximum duration of 2.5 years
Service Group	Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS)
Location	Oranmore, Galway

Brief Description of the Marine Institute:

The Marine Institute is a non-commercial semi-state body, which was formally established by statute (Marine Institute Act, 1991) in October 1992.

Under the Act, the Marine Institute was given the responsibility:

“to undertake, to co-ordinate, to promote and to assist in marine research and development and to provide such services related to marine research and development, that in the opinion of the Institute will promote economic development and create employment and protect the marine environment”.

The Marine Institute is the national agency responsible for marine research, technology, development and innovation (RTDI). The Marine Institute seeks to assess and realise the economic potential of Ireland’s 220 million acre marine resource; promote the sustainable development of marine industry through strategic funding programmes and scientific services; and safeguard the marine environment through research and environmental monitoring. The Institute works in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) and a network of other Government Departments, semi-state agencies, national and international marine partners.

The vision of the Marine Institute is

“ a thriving maritime economy in harmony with the ecosystem and supported by the delivery of excellence in our services “

In order to achieve this vision, the MI have six service areas; (1) Ocean Science and Information Services, (2) Marine Environment & Food Safety Services, (3) Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services, (4) Irish Maritime Development Office, (5) Policy, Innovation & Research Services and (6) Corporate Services.

The Marine Institute 3 Year Strategic Plan (2015 to 2018) is available on; http://www.marine.ie/Home/sites/default/files/MIFiles/Docs_Comms/MI%20Strategic%20Business%20Plan%20-%202015%20-%202018.pdf

Harnessing our Ocean Wealth (HOOW) is an Integrated Maritime Plan (IMP) for Ireland. HOOW sets out a roadmap for the Irish Government’s vision, high level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Goal 2 of HOOW focuses on healthy marine ecosystems and specifically; to protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems; manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem; implement and comply with environmental legislation (see www.ouroceanwealth.ie).

Brief Description of Service Group:

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS), a service area of the Marine Institute, provides essential scientific advice and a range of food safety and marine environmental monitoring services to help ensure Irish seafood products meet approved standards and that the marine environment is managed in a sustainable manner.

These services are carried out by a team of scientific personnel engaged in a range of monitoring and research programmes including aquaculture, finfish and shellfish health, shellfish safety (biotoxins and microbiological), and marine chemistry.

The Shellfish Safety Unit is the National Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins in Ireland. The Biotoxin Chemistry team is part of this unit and provide a range of accredited shellfish biotoxin monitoring and research services. The team is responsible providing this service to clients including the Government, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, the shellfish industry and the EU.

Summary of the Role:

The Lab Analyst will work as part of the Shellfish Safety Unit Team funded as part of a research project "MARBioFEED" described below.

This is a position to work as a biotoxin chemistry Analyst supporting MARBioFEED. The work will be diverse and will be based in our INAB accredited laboratories where the successful candidate will be expected to work to these standards. Activities under this programme will include detection of toxins in shellfish and carrying out a range of analytical techniques to identify and quantify these toxins. The Marine Institute Biotoxins Lab is a National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for marine biotoxins, within the EU network of NRLs and we carry out a number of monitoring and research activities under this umbrella. The Analyst will support our research into the extraction of marine biotoxins and carry out identification, quantification and other lab based analyses. The analyst will be part of the team responsible for the monitoring and research into biotoxins in shellfish based in our Oranmore laboratories.

Background to Requirement:

The M.I. has recently been awarded funding, under an ERA-MBT call, for a project called MARBioFEED (enhanced biorefining methods for the production of marine biotoxins and microalgae fish feed). The project also involves collaborators from Norway, Spain and Canada. The Analyst will be required to work on the analysis of shellfish and phytoplankton samples and optimising methods for the isolation of marine biotoxins.

Principal Tasks:

- Extraction of toxins from shellfish and phytoplankton
- Analysis of marine biotoxins using UPLC-MS/MS and UPLC-DAD
- Data reporting and presentation
- Assist with research work on isolation of marine biotoxins from shellfish and phytoplankton
- Assist with preparation of marine biotoxin reference materials
- Adhere to Marine Institute policies and procedures
- Any other duties relevant to the post, grade and role as required from time to time

Reporting Structure:

The successful candidate will report to the biotoxin chemistry unit Team Leader or whoever the Section Manager of Shellfish Safety designates as appropriate.

Contacts:

Marine Institute: Shellfish Safety and phytoplankton team members within MEFS, Team leaders, STOs, Senior Lab Analysts and Section manager. Shellfish Microbiology Unit members.

Externally: Regular liaison with Shellfish farmers, Officials within the Sea Fisheries Protection authority and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland

On a less regular basis you will be expected to work with colleagues in other Marine Institute service groups and with entities outside the Institute including other research institutes, educational institutions and government and EC bodies.

Education, Professional or Technical Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, Aptitudes, Experience, and Training

Essential:

- A minimum of a certificate in chemistry or a subject directly related to the chemical sciences.
- Hands on experience in modern chromatographic techniques, in particular LC-MS/MS.
- Experience at working level with marine biotoxins for a minimum of 1 year.
- Experience in sample preparation and clean-up for trace organic analyses.
- Familiarity with the Microsoft Office software suite.
- Familiarity with ISO/IEC standard 17025.
- An aptitude for solving problems in a logical, stepwise manner.
- Excellent report writing and presentation skills.
- Excellent time management skills with the ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

Desirable:

- An honours degree in chemistry or a subject directly related to the chemical sciences.
- LC-MS/MS method development.
- Working knowledge of isolation of marine natural products.
- Research experience.
- Knowledge of the marine and aquaculture sector.
- A full driving licence.

Special personal attributes required for the position:

- The ability to communicate and work with people at all levels of the organisation, both internally and externally.
- Enthusiastic approach to the area of marine research.
- An ability to work in an organised manner and progress work independently.
- Self-sufficient while also being a good team player.

- Dynamic and reliable.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Experience in collaborating with scientists and members of a technical team.
- Ability to work diplomatically in resolving issues with stakeholders.
- The ability to work to deadlines and manage time effectively.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the 2013 Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Laboratory Analysts, with a starting salary of €31,017 per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme.

Annual Leave:

The annual leave entitlement for a Lab Analyst is 23 working days per annum pro-rated to reflect time worked. Annual leave entitlements are exclusive of Public Holidays. All leave must be approved by your manager or their authorised representative; in advance of being taken and in line with Marine Institute leave policies.

Duration of Contract:

The temporary specified purpose contract will be full time for a maximum duration of 2.5 years. The successful candidate will have a six-month probationary period following commencement of the job.

How to Apply:

A C.V. and letter of application, summarising experience and skill set applicable to the position should be emailed to recruitment@marine.ie or posted to Human Resources at the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Galway. All correspondence for this post should quote reference MEFS/ MARBio LA/ JUNE 2016

Closing date for applications

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance 12:00 noon on Friday June 10th 2016.

Please note that late applications will not be accepted.