

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Temporary Laboratory Analyst – Shellfish Microbiology
Grade & Contract	Laboratory Analyst Grade - Temporary Specified Purpose Contract – PreVir Project Funded for 24 months via EPA Research Programme
Service Group	Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS)
Location	Marine Institute, Renville, Oranmore, Co.Galway The Marine Institute has a Blended Working Policy in Place

Who will you Work With and What Will The Role Involve?

This important role supports our organisation in delivery of its essential work programmes. This role provides candidates with the opportunity to work in a diverse organisation which invests in and celebrates its people.

A laboratory analyst is required to provide support the PreVir project within the Shellfish Microbiology team at the Marine Institute. The PreVir project (full title: Towards an early-warning tool predicting enteric virus contamination in coastal watersheds) is an EPA/JPI Water4All funded research project in collaboration with a number of European partners (France, Switzerland and the Netherlands). The aim of the project is to acquire new knowledge on the viral contamination in catchments where commercial shellfish production is undertaken and to co-develop an early-warning tool to help end-users to mitigate the impact of this contamination upon extreme hydroclimatic events.

The work will primarily involve laboratory based detection of norovirus using a standardised quantitative real-time PCR method (ISO 15216-1:2017) in oysters, seawater and wastewater as well as field work at the Irish study site. Laboratory testing will be undertaken to ISO 17025 accreditation standard.

The laboratory analyst will be responsible for establishing methods for virus detection in seawater and wastewater, norovirus testing in all matrices, producing and reviewing test results, preparing test result reports and maintaining all project related data on an ongoing basis. In addition, application of other molecular testing procedures may be carried out to support other elements of the project.

What Will You Be Doing Every Day?

Principal Tasks:

- Sample receipt and processing
- Field work at project study site (seawater and oyster sampling; collection of environmental data)
- Establishment of laboratory protocols for virus extraction from seawater and wastewater samples
- Norovirus analysis in oyster, seawater and wastewater samples using a standard real-time qPCR method
- General laboratory (microbiology and molecular biology) duties
- Working within the Marine Institute quality assurance system (ISO 17025)
- Preparation of test reports and other written reports as required
- Data recording and analysis

- Working as part of a team

What do You Need to Have Done to Apply for This role? (Education, Professional or Technical Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, Aptitudes, Experience and Training)

Essential / Important:

- A minimum of a Certificate in Biological Sciences or similar.
- Experience of working in a microbiology/molecular biology laboratory
- Experience of using quantitative real-time PCR
- Experience of undertaking field work for environmental monitoring purposes
- A proven ability in scientific and technical writing (laboratory record keeping, protocols, reports, dissertation, etc.)
- A good level of computer literacy (Access, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet/Email)
- Full driving licence.

Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- A further qualification in Molecular Biology.
- Experience of working with digital PCR
- Experience of working in a Quality System laboratory environment, for example an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory
- A proven ability in report writing
- Keen interest in environmental science and food safety

What else do you need to know? (Special personal attributes required for the role)

- An ability to work in an organised, tidy and safe manner
- Proven ability to use initiative
- Attention to detail
- The ability to work unsupervised and to work well with others.
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to effectively communicate in written and oral formats
- Able to work to deadlines and work as part of a team in a fast-paced environment

Description of Service Group and the Wider Team

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS) is a service area of the Marine Institute that plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of sea-food, preserving environmental health, providing a variety of policy supports and safeguarding fish health. Operating as an integral part of the Institute, MEFSS undertakes multifaceted responsibilities primarily through the execution of scientific monitoring and research programs, coupled with offering expert scientific interpretation and regulatory guidance to government.

Shellfish Safety

Shellfish Safety in MEFSS involves rigorous monitoring and testing to ensure the safety and quality of shellfish products, contributing to the protection of public health. This includes adherence to established standards and regulations while actively collaborating with relevant authorities to maintain Ireland's superior shellfish health status. Collaborating with organisations such as the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, MEFSS actively monitors seafood safety, upholding the reputation of the Irish seafood industry for high-quality products while adhering to national and international regulatory standards.

MEFSS collaborates with various departments and agencies, including the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. This collaborative approach underscores the organisation's commitment to ensuring comprehensive and effective support across diverse domains. MEFSS ensures the highest quality standards with our laboratories accredited under EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for food safety, environmental monitoring, and fish health work. Furthermore, the Fish Health Competent Authority is ISO 9001:2015 certified, emphasising the organisation's commitment to excellence.

Who Will You Report to / Who will Manage and Support You?:

The Laboratory Analyst will report directly to the Shellfish Microbiology Team Leader.

What we offer

We value our staff, and we value their contribution to the work of the Marine Institute. In return for this, we provide benefits that promote a healthy work-life balance and which we hope will help them to develop professionally. These include personal and career development, work/life balance policies, an employee assistance programme, "Bike to Work" Scheme, staff medicals and annual flu vaccination.

Training

A full range of training will be provided as required, on the job and through appropriate courses. Training needs will be identified through the MI Performance Management Development System (PMDS).

Contacts:

Within the Marine Institute:

- All members of the shellfish microbiology team (STO and Laboratory analysts), users of the Molecular Biology Unit (MBU)
- Quality Manager

External:

- PreVir project partners
- Industry partner at project study site

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Laboratory Analyst Grade which runs from €38,884 - €64,455 on a full time basis per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point of the scale €38,884 and become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme unless you are currently or have worked in the Public Sector in the past 6 months and are a member of another Public Sector Scheme.

Annual Leave:

Annual leave entitlement for a Laboratory Analyst Grade 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 in advance in line with Marine Institute leave policies and using time and leave management system in place, by your manager or their authorised representative.

Duration of Contract:

This temporary specific purpose contract of employment will be for a 2-year period from the start date. The successful candidate will be on probation for the first 6 months of this contract.

Who is 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 Ireland’s scientific agency responsible for supporting the sustainable development of the state’s maritime area and resources. We do this through conducting applied research and providing scientific knowledge, advice and services to government, industry and other stakeholders and users. This policy advice capacity, our broad mandate, and the research programmes we fund and undertake, give us a unique insight into the science-policy interface and make us an exemplar in the provision of integrated ocean knowledge.

The Marine Institute provides a broad range of essential scientific support to its parent department, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). There is an increasing demand from Government for the data and evidence that are essential to inform national policy and to underpin the state’s governance of our maritime area. Through laboratory, field and seagoing work, the Institute carries out statutory environmental, fisheries and aquaculture surveys, seafood testing and other monitoring programmes assigned by government. The Institute plays an important role in supporting the state’s response to the impacts of our changing seas and oceans, through working with the national and international scientific community to observe, study and understand our changing oceans. This essential scientific advice supports industry, protects consumers and underpins legislative and other obligations aimed at the protection and management of the marine environment.

Our vision - *The Marine Institute is a national and international leader in ocean knowledge that benefits people, policy and planet.*

Our Mission - *The Marine Institute provides scientific, research and development services to government, agencies, industry and society that support the sustainable use of our maritime area, the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, and promote a shared understanding of the ocean.*

There are 6 broad service areas within the Marine Institute; (1) Ocean, Climate and Information Services, (2) Marine Environment & Fish Health Services, (3) Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services, (4) Irish Maritime Development Office, (5) Policy, Information and Research Services and (6) Corporate Services.

The Marine Institute 5 Year Strategic Plan (2023 to 2027) is available [Here](#)

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, H91 R673. All correspondence for this post should quote reference **MEFSS/LA/PREVIR/MAY24**

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon, Monday 10th of June 2024**. Unfortunately, late applications cannot be accepted.

Use of Data - all personal data and the information submitted for this application will be used solely for the purpose of this campaign, after which it will be deleted in line with our General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Policy and data retention schedule. All information will be treated with the strictest confidence and accessed only by those involved directly in the campaign.

The Marine Institute is an organisation that champions Diversity, Inclusion & Equality for all. We encourage and welcome applications from anyone interested in this role.

Please do advise if there are any special accommodations required for the recruitment process. We are here to help you access opportunities with us.