

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Temporary Laboratory Analyst Foodborne Viruses in Shellfish
Contract	Temporary for up to Two Years (FIRM Funded)
Service Group	Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS)
Location	Oranmore, Co. Galway

Brief Description of the Marine Institute:

The Marine Institute (MI) 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 and 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.

Summary of the Role:

A laboratory analyst is required to provide support to a two year research project investigating norovirus, hepatitis A virus, hepatitis E virus and sapovirus concentrations in oysters. The work will primarily involve laboratory based detection of the viruses in oysters using existing and proposed molecular procedures. In addition, there may be some elements of field work including sampling and environmental monitoring.

Background to Requirement:

Food contaminated with human pathogenic viruses can present a health risk when consumed. The Marine Institute is working with University College Dublin (UCD) and the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory on a recently awarded project aimed at identifying risk and mitigation approaches for human pathogenic viruses in foods. The Marine Institute will undertake all laboratory analysis associated with oysters as part of the project.

Principal Tasks:

- Introduction of new methods for hepatitis E virus and sapovirus into the laboratory
- Human pathogenic virus detection in oysters by quantitative real-time PCR
- Preparation of test reports and other written reports
- General laboratory duties including working within the Marine Institute quality system
- Field work including shellfish sampling and related monitoring
- Data recording and analysis.

Reporting Structure:

The Laboratory Analyst will report directly to the shellfish microbiology Team Leader.

Contacts:

- All member of the shellfish microbiology team
- Research team at UCD and Central Veterinary Laboratory
- Industry partners.

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

Essential:

- A minimum of a Certificate in Microbiology, Biochemistry or similar.
- Relevant work experience in a molecular biology laboratory
- A high level of computer literacy (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet/Email).
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- The ability to communicate effectively both in writing and verbally at all levels.
- The ability to work unsupervised and to work well with others.

Desirable:

- Demonstrated experience working in a Quality System Environment preferably including work in an accredited laboratory.
- Experience of using quantitative real-time PCR procedures.
- A proven ability in report writing.
- A further qualification in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry or similar.
- Full driving licence.

Special personal attributes required for the position:

- An analytical approach to problem solving.
- An ability to work in an organised manner and progress work independently.
- Dynamic and reliable.
- Self-sufficiency, while being a good team player.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Ability to effectively communicate results of teamwork in written formats.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Laboratory Analysts, with a 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 Laboratory 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:

This temporary specified purpose contract of employment is funded under the FIRM programme and will run for a duration of up to two years. The successful candidate will be on probation for the first six months of this contract.

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 **LA-FIRM-Jan 2017**

Closing date for applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon on Tuesday 7th February 2017**. Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

The Marine Institute is an equal opportunities employer