

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Economic Researcher: Offshore Renewable Energy
Grade & Contract	Temporary Specified Purpose Contract up to 28th February 2027 funded by SEAI Master Service Agreement Experienced Postdoctoral Researcher Grade
Service Group	Policy, Innovation and Research Services (PIRS)
Location	Marine Institute, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland (Noting that the Marine Institute has introduced a Blended Working Policy, which you may be able to apply for in due course in line with the Policy.)

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

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Marine Institute (MI) have been working in partnership on projects related to offshore renewable energy since 2009. The relationship has been formalised through a series of master service agreements (MSAs). The MSAs provide for the provision of research and development services related to the delivery of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications' (DECC) national offshore renewable energy programme and related Government policies. The work under the MSA provides support across a range of technical, economic and scientific areas.

The Post-Doctoral Researcher (PDR) will work within the policy support function in PIRS, which conducts and coordinates policy analyses including socio-economic research, science and industry foresight, supporting the development of strategy and integrated marine policy at both national, EU and international level.

The PDR will also be required to work in partnership with other national and international organisations e.g. Socio-Economics Marine Research Unit in the University of Galway, other HEIs such as MaREI, SEAI, Economic & Social Research Institute, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Central Statistics Office, OECD, DG Mara/JRC.

The PDR will conduct individual and collaborative research, modelling and analysis delivering socio-economic data-focused services. The PDR will specifically provide research, data and evidence to support the Government's ambitions for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) delivery in Ireland set out in the Government's Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy and related Industrialisation Strategy – Powering Prosperity.

The candidate will work in a team with economists funded by DECC to support the implementation and monitoring of the National Marine Planning Framework and associated Designated Maritime Areas Plans. A key output of this team includes the delivery of Ireland's annual Ocean Economy Report.

What Will You Be Doing Every Day?

Principal Tasks:

The tasks will link in with current work and build on previous and carried out by SEMRU and the Marine Institute on Ireland's Ocean Economy. This includes

- Collating micro data for the offshore renewable sector and associated ancillary services as part of annual Ocean Economy reporting. Collecting economic and social data at differing spatial scales that can feed into regional and local plans as appropriate.
- Carrying out analysis of data using appropriate quantitative techniques and writing up associated reports and research papers for publication in top-level outlets in the fields of energy/environmental economics and management.
- Providing research, data and evidence to assist DECC as decision maker and other stakeholders in assessing the socio-economic impact and potential benefits and costs related to the delivery of a vibrant ORE industry in Ireland and distributional effects across other sectors.
- Examining different economic modelling approaches, developing modelling structures to look at the linkages across the Irish economy and also measure the economic impacts of expansion of the sector (planned and potential).
- Developing and participating in research initiatives to facilitate and advance decision-making; such as quantifying sectoral and tangible benefits, identification of approaches to define intangible benefits/constraints, an assessment of the social benefits of activities and spatial representation, and recommendations arising from policy decisions
- Collaborative and multidisciplinary research linking ecological and economic models and their use in marine policy analysis and decision-making. This research will include analysis of the economic impacts on Ireland's 'blue natural capital' through examining potential changes in ecosystem services (linked to work being carried out in association with the CSO environmental accounts and related Cullen PhD).

Other tasks include:

- Contribute to the monitoring of the NMPF and other policies, programmes and plans, including the establishment of appropriate socio-economic indicators and baselines, as well as providing economic data required in monitoring
- Support engagement in national and international forums as required. Identify sources of internal and external data required to support the programmes.
- Provide management reports for clear communication of planning and delivery and any other duties as relevant to the programmes, position and grade as required from time to time

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 relevant degree and a PhD qualification in energy or environmental economics/business¹
- At least three years of relevant postdoctoral research experience
- Ability to generate new ideas and link and build upon existing research to generate unique concepts and solutions.
- Demonstrates evidence of research activity and a commitment to ongoing research and publications in the area.
- Skills in economic modelling, statistical, data analytics and spatial analysis, and other numerical disciplines.
- Excellent writing skills for both peer-review and public outreach formats.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate across teams.
- The ability to work unsupervised with demonstrated ability to use initiative.
- An ability to travel to relevant working groups, workshops and conferences nationally and internationally.
- A high level of computer literacy including the use of Office software packages, use of statistical/data analysis packages e.g. Stata, SPSS, Tableau, R etc., mapping and other data visualisation software.

Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- Experience with coordination of economic / technical deliverables, products/services.
- High level knowledge and capability with marine technical/economic data.
- Experience in the management and analysis of economic data and related modelling (e.g. econometric analysis, Input - Output models, micro-simulation modelling, productivity analysis, general equilibrium analysis, etc.).
- An understanding and interest in energy/marine policy of relevance to Ireland.
- Proven experience in project development, management and delivery – including financial management and reporting.
- Record of publishing in peer-reviewed scientific journals or writing other well-received technical reports and white papers.
- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the research environment both nationally and internationally and the ability to contribute substantially to grant applications.
- Experience in presenting at international project meetings and symposia as well as in related marine stakeholder fora. The researcher will also be expected to assist in writing up project proposals with the aim of generating future research funding. They will also be expected to collaborate on the production of reports and publications in the peer reviewed scientific literature and popular press

¹ As per the IUA guidelines, in exceptional circumstances, in line with institutional requirements and policies, 4 years equivalent full time research experience may be considered in lieu of PhD.

What else do you need to know?

(Special personal attributes required for the role)

Personal attributes:

- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels.
- Demonstrates energy, dynamism, reliability and a positive attitude.
- Takes ownership of tasks and is determined to see them through to a conclusion.
- An ability to work in an organised manner and progress work independently, managing time effectively to deliver multiple outputs on time.
- A collaborative and open approach to project and programme success.
- Possess a diplomatic manner, with the ability to resolve issues before conflict occurs with stakeholders.
- The ability to remain focused when multiple important deadlines coincide.
- Solutions orientated with excellent initiative and problem solving skills.

Description of Service Group and the Wider Team

Policy, Innovation and Research Support

Policy, Innovation and Research Support (PIRS) plays a key role in supporting and promoting marine policy, research and innovation at national and international level. PIRS works collaboratively to implement key aspects of the MI Strategy, Ocean Knowledge that Informs and Inspires. Our work has relevance across all parts of the strategy but is particularly important for achieving the ambitions set out in: Strategic Priorities - Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services; Delivering Impact Through Research; and Supporting Ireland's Blue Economy.

PIRS conducts and coordinates policy analyses, socio-economic research, science and industry foresight, and contributes to the development of strategy and integrated marine policy at both MI and national level. Key areas of activity include:

- Provision of services that support integrated cross-government marine co-ordination feeding into Integrated Marine Policy (IMP) nationally and at EU level. This includes providing analysis and policy support to government departments and agencies; and
- Establishing and maintaining a community of interest in marine socio-economic research in Ireland.

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

The successful candidate will be based at the Marine Institute HQ in Oranmore. The PDR will work in collaboration with PIRS Socio-Economics and Policy Support Team on the provision of socio-economic data and information required to support the delivery of MSP and related marine socio-economic outputs and services to Government.

The PDR will also work with principal Investigators (Prof. Stephen Hynes, Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue and Dr. Luke McGrath) in SEMRU, University of Galway as part of the Marine Institute/University of Galway Strategic Partnership.

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.

Contacts:

Within the Marine Institute:

PIRS Director, PIRS Socio-Economic and Policy Support Team Lead, SEAI MSA Section Manager and team members; Information Services and Development team members; Other Section Managers, Team Leaders and STOs and other staff across MI Service Groups.

External: Researchers in the Socio-Economic Research Unit, University of Galway, liaison with government departments and agencies including Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; economists, statisticians and officials from other government and non-government organisations such as CSO, ESRI, sectoral development agencies; research/higher education institutes; industry; European Commission, the JRC and other organisations as may be required.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for an Experienced Postdoctoral Researcher, which runs from €52,715-€57,331 on a full-time basis per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will 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 or are a member of another Public Sector Scheme

Annual Leave:

Annual leave entitlement for an Experienced Postdoctoral Researcher is 24 days per annum. Annual leave entitlements are exclusive of Public Holidays and are managed using the Time & Leave Management System in Place in the organisation. 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 specified purpose contract of employment will be for the period up to the 28th February 2027 with a possible 2-year extension. The successful candidate will be on probation for the first six 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 **PIRS/EPDR/SEAI/Oct24**

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **13th of November 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.