

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Temporary Laboratory Analyst – Biotoxin Chemistry Unit, Shellfish Safety Section, MEFSS
Grade & Contract	Laboratory Analyst – Temporary Specified Purpose Contract – Maternity Leave cover up until the 2nd of October 2025
Service Group	Marine Environment and Food Safety Services (MEFSS)
Location	Marine Institute, Rinville, 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.

The temporary Biotoxin Chemistry Laboratory Analyst will work as part of the Shellfish Safety Section Team. This team is responsible for a wide range of monitoring and analytical services to clients including the Government, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Shellfish Industry and the EU. The Shellfish Safety Unit is the National Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins in Ireland. The unit is part of the Marine Environment & Food Safety Services, which operates a number of programmes, and has engaged in an active Laboratory Accreditation programme.

The Analyst will work with the existing biotoxin chemistry team to fulfil the national biotoxin monitoring programme which is carried out to detect naturally occurring marine toxins in shellfish, to ensure that they are not placed on the market when these toxins are present. This involves analysing samples of shellfish using a variety of advanced analysis methods. We are the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for marine biotoxins and operate within the EU network of NRLs which is led by the EU Reference Lab.

The primary analytical techniques used may include hyphenated mass spectrometry techniques such as Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS) and also High-Performance Liquid Chromatography. This may also involve analytical method troubleshooting, development and validation.

The analyst will contribute to the implementation of the Institute's ISO17025 Quality System and may assist with data management and preparation of technical reports and products. The work will primarily be carried out in the Marine Institute's facilities in Oranmore, Co. Galway.

What Will You Be Doing Every Day?

Principal Tasks:

The candidate will be responsible for carrying out a range of duties consistent with the work described above. These may include the following tasks:

- Carry out high-quality biotoxins analysis of marine toxins in shellfish samples.

- Input data into the Marine Institute databases and reporting on biotoxin results to management staff within the institute.
- Preparation of samples and analysis using a range of analytical techniques including; LC-MS/MS, QToF, UPLC DAD and UPLC FD methods
- Preparation of analytical reports for reporting to Shellfish Safety unit clients
- Carry out analysis in accordance with ISO 17025 accredited Quality System and assist in the maintenance and ongoing improvement of the Quality System.
- Participation as required at meetings both internal and external and preparation of synopses of biotoxins monitoring for internal and external use.
- Assistance in other work programmes as required.
- Assist in research projects in the area of biotoxin monitoring and analysis, undertaken by the Shellfish Safety Team.
- Any other duties as may be required from time to time, as appropriate to the grade.

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 third level Certificate in a relevant scientific subject.
- Laboratory experience using analytical instrumentation.
- Experience working in a quality controlled / accredited laboratory environment.
- Strong appreciation for laboratory health & safety practices.
- Effective numerical and literacy skills.
- Demonstrates previous experience of scientific/ technical report writing.
- A high level of computer literacy (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet/Email).
- The ability to work on time dependant tasks unsupervised and to work within a team towards a common objective.

Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- A degree, or post-graduate qualification, in analytical chemistry or equivalent.
- Previous experience in a similar role.
- A minimum of 1 years post qualification relevant laboratory work experience.
- Additional qualifications in a relevant Science Subject.
- Experience with the operation and general maintenance of LC-MS/MS, and UPLC systems.
- Experience with the development and validation of analytical methods (LC-MS/MS, UPLC) to meet the requirement of ISO 17025 and INAB accreditation.
- Previously completed some formal and relevant training in the area of laboratory Health & Safety.
- Knowledge of the Irish Aquaculture Industry.

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

- Be industrious, decisive and self-sufficient with a proven ability to use his/her own initiative while at the same time working well as a team player.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to constructively collaborate with scientists and members of a technical team.
- Ability to work on own initiative and progress work independently.

- Excellent time management and organisation skills, with the ability to work well under pressure in the delivery of multiple deadlines.
- Attention to detail, and an analytical approach to problem solving
- Ability to keep an organised and tidy workspace

Description of Service Group and the Wider Team

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.

Overview of MEFS Biotoxin Chemistry Unit.

The Biotoxin Chemistry Unit (BCT) is part of the Shellfish Safety Section. The BCT unit consists of a team of five permanent MI laboratory analysts. The core responsibility of the unit, as National Reference Laboratory, is to deliver on the chemical analysis of shellfish for marine toxins as part of the National Biotoxin Monitoring Programme. The Unit is also involved in a number of marine toxin related research projects and contracts that further enhance the deliverables of the unit. A fundamental requirement for the monitoring programme and research is the production of data of the highest quality. In this regard, a quality system is in operation in the section with all test methods accredited by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) to ISO17025 standard.

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

The successful candidate will report to the Team Leader of the Biotoxin Chemistry unit or whomever the Section Manager of Shellfish Safety designates as appropriate.

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:

Director MEFS, Senior Chemist, Senior Laboratory Analyst, Chemistry Team Leaders, Chemistry Section and Management Team & Staff of MEFS

Director MEFS, Section Manager, Biotoxin Chemistry Team Leaders, Senior Lab Analysts, Shellfish Safety and other team members within MEFS and Health & Safety Committee members.

External:

To a lesser extent, liaison with Officials within the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Food Safety Authority of Ireland and aquaculture industry.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Department of Finance approved Salary Scale for Laboratory Analyst Grade which runs from €40,773- €67,066 on a full-time basis per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point of the scale €40,773 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 specified purpose contract of employment, Maternity Leave cover will run up until the 2nd of October 2025. You will be on probation for 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/BIOCHEM/MAR25**

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12pm noon, 20th of March 2025**. 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.**