

Marine Institute Job Description

Position	Temporary WFD Laboratory Analyst
Grade & Contract	Laboratory Analyst - Temporary specified purpose contract for a duration up to 31st of December 2027 – (DHLGH funded)
Service Group	Marine Environment and Food Safety Services
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?

You will work as a key part of the Water Framework Directive Team (6 people) within the busy Marine Chemistry section (~22 people) and will be based at our headquarters in Oranmore, CountyGalway.

You will primarily be responsible for undertaking analysis of environmental contaminants, such as mercury and trace metals and other parameters in environmental matrices (e.g. saline and non- saline water, sediments and biota) using state of the art instrumentation, for example Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) and Cold Vapour Atomic Fluorescence Spectrometry(CV-AFS). New method development, optimisation and validation will also form a key aspect.

You will work in our very well equipped chemistry laboratories, overlooking Galway Bay, where we have state-of-the-art instrumentation, including various hyphenated mass spectrometric, chromatographic and spectroscopic systems. These analyses support national monitoring under theEuropean Water Framework Directive and ultimately contribute to ensuring Irish coastal and transitional waters are clean and of good quality. The Marine Institute implements a strong laboratory quality management system with most test methods accredited to ISO 17025 standard and you will actively contribute to maintaining the high standards set.

You will receive comprehensive on the job training relevant to this role, and the Marine Instituteimplements a wider training and development programme for its staff in line with relevant opportunities.

Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD Directive 2000/60/EC) came into force in December 2000 and establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. The Marine Institute carries out monitoring of certain quality elements in transitional and coastal waters; specifically, phytoplankton, benthic invertebrates, relevant pollutants and priority substances. There are strong links to other directives and marine monitoring requirements such as those required of shellfish waters (Directive 2006/113/EC) and under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC.

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 include:

- Carry out chemical analysis of substances such as trace metals in marine samples (biota, sediment and seawater).
- To assist the Team Leader/sampling team in providing technical support for the WFD sampling and field measurement programme for physicochemical parameters.
- To carry out analytical method development, optimisations and validations for the analysis of environmental contaminants such as trace metals in relevant matrices.
- To develop and implement ISO17025 procedures and best quality practices in the laboratory and field.
- To contribute to all aspects of the Institute's quality system as required, for example undertaking of internal audits.
- To contribute to assessment of data and assist with preparation of reports as required.
- To assist in the oversight of sample analysis schedules and management of relevant lab consumables.
- To liaise with EPA, and other relevant organisations as appropriate.
- To update monitoring databases and assist with data reporting.
- Any other duties (e.g. field work) as appropriate may be 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 minimum of a Certificate (third level) in a relevant Science subject or an equivalent qualification.
- Demonstrated relevant post qualification work experience, ideally to include analysis of chemical substances in complex matrices
- A high level of computer literacy including proficiency in the use of standard Microsoft Office software packages.
- Excellent working knowledge of modern analytical instrumentation, such as ICPMS, and atomic fluorescence spectroscopy.
- Proven scientific & technical report writing skills.
- The ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- The ability to manage time effectively and work to deadlines.

Ideally Nice to Have / Desirable:

- A degree, or post-graduate qualification, in analytical chemistry, marine science or an equivalent.
- Knowledge of marine/environmental science and biogeochemical processes.
- Three years of relevant analytical experience, preferably in analysis of environmental contaminants.
- Experience of using instrumentation for analysis of environmental contaminants such as ICPMS, CV-AFS or other hyphenated mass-spectrometric or spectroscopic techniques.

- Demonstrated experience in working in a formal quality system such as an ISO17025 accredited laboratory environment, and track record in undertaking accredited analysis
- Highly skilled in analytical troubleshooting.
- Experience in field sampling for environmental monitoring programmes.
- A full driving license.
- Willingness to work at sea on board research vessels and sufficiently fit to pass an ENG II/Seafarers medical

What else do you need to know?

(Special personal attributes required for the role)

It is essential that the successful candidate is a good communicator and works well with colleagues. Additionally, this person should be industrious, decisive, have a proven ability to use his/her own initiative while at the same time working well as a team player. Excellent organizational, time management and problem-solving skills are prerequisites as is a strong attention to detail.

Description of Service Group and the Wider Team

Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS) provide government agencies, industry and other clients with marine licensing advice, food safety, environmental and fish health scientific services; through the implementation of monitoring and research programmes and the provision of advice and regulation. The successful candidate will be based in MI Headquarters in Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

- We provide expert integrated advice to Government in support of sustainable development and management of the marine environment; and technical support on implementation of European and national food safety and environmental legislation.
- Working with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, we monitor seafood safety, supporting the Irish seafood industry's reputation for high quality products and meeting national and international regulatory requirements.
- We undertake monitoring of marine environmental health under the OSPAR convention and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and MEFSS works with the Environmental Protection Agency in delivering significant components of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring programme.
- We test for fish and shellfish diseases and aim to maintain Ireland's superior fish and shellfish health status, supporting the aquaculture industry and inland fisheries sector.
- We undertake national and international collaborative research projects in support of our core monitoring and advisory services.
- Our fish health unit is the national authority responsible for implementation of EU and national aquatic animal health legislation. We oversee and monitor the movement of finfish and shellfish into, out of, and within Ireland.

Food safety, environmental monitoring and fish health work are accredited in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The work of the Fish Health Competent Authority is ISO 9001:2015 certified.

The position will be based in the Marine Chemistry Section. This section has a team of approx. 22 scientists, analysts, researchers and support staff engaged in undertaking statutory monitoring and complementary research and providing scientific advice relating to the health of the marine environment and the quality of marine foodstuffs. The section maintains a suite of well-equipped laboratories undertaking trace analysis of metals, persistent organic pollutants, residues and biogeochemical parameters in environmental matrices.

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

The successful candidate will directly report to WFD Programme Coordinator (Team Leader) with further day-to-day supervision from the Senior Laboratory Analyst in chemistry (trace metals laboratory).

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:

WFD Team Leader and WFD Team, Chemistry Data manager, Senior Chemist, Director MEFS, Section manager – Phytoplankton, Chemistry Section and Management Team & Staff of MEFS, Colleagues, CEO, Directors, Section Managers and Staff of all Service Groups.

External:

Suppliers, Auditors, Customers, Government Departments, and State Agencies and other relevant business / organisations including subcontracted laboratories and scientists and officials from other government organisations, in particular the EPA.

Salary:

Remuneration is in accordance with the Public Sector, Dept of Finance approved Salary Scale for a Laboratory Analyst which runs from €39,273 - €65,100 on a full-time basis per annum pro-rated with time worked. You will commence on the first point of the scale €39,273 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 is 23 days per annum. Annual leave entitlements are exclusive of Public Holidays and are managed using the Time & Leave Management System in Place in the organization. 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 contract will be issued on a temporary specified purpose basis and will run up to 31st December 2027. There will be a 6-month probationary period.

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 **MWFS/LA/WFD/AUG24**

Closing date for Applications:

All applications for this post should be received by the Marine Institute in advance of **12 noon, 3rd of September 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.