

Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Assistant in Environmental Technology
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract – Full-time
Research Group / Department / School:	School of Natural Sciences, Discipline of Botany, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Botany Building, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Dr Richard Nair
Salary:	Appointment will be made on the RI Research Assistant pay scale at a point in line with Government Pay Policy appointment will be made no higher than point 7 [€38,174 per annum gross], and will proceed with advancement
Hours of Work:	Full Time
Closing Date:	until filled

Post Summary

This post is a research assistant role in Plant-Soil Function group at Trinity College Dublin (Botany Department) led by Dr Richard Nair. The holder will primarily contribute to a project about understanding the controls of soil respiration – the release of climate-warming CO₂ from soil systems, via its component sources such as roots and microbes – by developing and maintaining both custom and off-the-shelf instruments in field operation.

We have developed custom built 'minirhizotron' instruments to image roots *in situ*. The purpose of this role is to work with existing designs, review these for fit-for-purpose in new instrumental set ups, and improve and maintain them during ongoing implementation in ecosystem experiments. The holder will also be involved in developing other new instruments and building and maintaining them for field use. Field sites are in Ireland although there may be potential for additional field work abroad. During the role, it is likely the holder will be involved in developing ways to disseminate the technology to other users, potentially via spin-up development.

The successful candidate will be embedded in a dynamic and interdisciplinary project team, including scientists at different career stages. The exact tasks of the role may change during the project.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

The successful candidate will:

- Develop and maintain custom root imaging and root measurement instruments in a cutting-edge research project seeking to understand our changing planet
- Work with ecologists, engineers, and computer scientists
- Attending meeting and training events, collaborate with researchers, and contribute to project reporting and reviews where necessary.
- Perform other duties that arise from time to time as directed by the project.

Person Specification

Qualifications

BSc or Masters in field relevant to the project (engineering, applied plant sciences or reasonable alternative)

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential

- Experience and interest in working in a multidisciplinary environment
- Knowledge of technological application in imaging sensor development or other applied problems
- Knowledge or experience or motivation in sustainability-adjacent fields
- Efficient and organized working style, ability to meet and exceed deadlines
- Experience of working in multidisciplinary environments
- Good quality written and spoken English.
- Numerical literacy
- Hold a valid driving license

Desirable

- Experience in field settings and engaging with biological and agricultural sciences research
- Experience in interdisciplinary research
- Experience in commercialising research
- Experience in project management tasks
- Demonstrated ability to generate and communicate new ideas as part of a team

Skills & Competencies

- Proven ability to work as part of a team and independently.
- Highly motivated individual with the ability to effectively plan, execute, and deliver project outputs within deadlines.
- Effective communication, interpersonal and organisation skills.
- Excellent team working skills with emphasis on equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae, including the names and contact details of 2 referees and a letter of interest (max 1 page), to:-

Richard Nair richard.nair@tcd.ie with the subject line '2025 Research Assistant application'

Informal enquiries are welcome.

First review of applications will take place on 6^h June 2025.

Funding Information

Details currently embargoed by funder

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	https://www.tcd.ie/Botany/ https://rosemount.ucd.ie/
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 98th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is 1st in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook 2021-2022).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of

every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals. With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity College Dublin is the top ranked university in Ireland. Using the QS methodology we are ranked 98th in the world and using the Times Higher Education World University Ranking methodology we are 146th in the World.

- Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's No.1 University (QS World University Ranking 2023, Times Higher Education Rankings 2022)
- Trinity is ranked 98th in the World (QS World University Ranking 2023)
- Trinity is ranked No.1 in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row Pitchbook 2021-2022

Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named hiring lead on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist.

Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations

<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations

<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

Application Procedure

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