



Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

Duration: 18 months

Location: National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, Ireland

A research position is available immediately for a fixed contract of 18 months as part of DAFM and NPWS funded projects. There are two primary objectives of the projects. First to undertake a survey of seed sourcing capacity in Ireland for native forest trees. Second to undertake genetic analysis on target species to characterise their genetic diversity. Staff from the National Herbarium in the National Botanic Gardens (OPW) are leading the projects in collaboration with Teagasc for the seed sourcing and in collaboration with NPWS for the genetic characterisation. The project will utilise GIS to map and analyse seed sources across Ireland. It will also use DNA sequencing technologies to estimate genetic diversity in a number of species. We are seeking an enthusiastic postdoctoral level researcher. The position involves a range of responsibilities, including stakeholder engagement, data gathering, field work, GIS mapping, genetic analysis and report writing. The ideal candidate will possess a relevant NFQ level 9/10 third-level qualification with experience in GIS and laboratory work such as DNA extraction, PCR and analysis of genotyping, analysis of sequencing and NGS data. The candidate should be capable of adapting to new technologies and will be tasked with developing a protocol for the genetic analysis. Experience of analysing genomic data with R would be a distinct advantage. The salary is €43,908 per annum. A full driving licence and access to a car or willingness to travel by public transport is essential.

The DBN Plant Molecular Laboratory in the National Botanic Gardens is equipped for DNA sequencing and genotyping. The gardens are located to the north of the city of Dublin. The lab research focuses on biogeography and genetic variation in natural populations, conservation genetics and taxonomy. For more information see <http://botanicgardens.ie/>

The role will involve the following duties:

- Survey stakeholders and collate details of native forest seed sources.
- GIS – basic mapping and gap analysis of seed sources.
- Genetic analysis including DNA sequencing and NGS technology.
- Communication and liaison including outreach to key stakeholders.
- Reporting: analyse results and generate reports on project progress and milestones achieved. Peer-reviewed publication is a target for the project.

Applications by way of cover letter and CV with a list of three referees all as one document to be sent to: DBNHerbarium@opw.ie noting “NATSEED” in the subject heading. Closing date for receipt of applications is end of 20th Mar 2025.