 

**Research Associate in Public engagement**

**Cell EXPLORERS Outreach Programme**

**School of Natural Sciences**

**National University of Ireland, Galway**

**Ref. No. NUIG 066-18**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time, fixed term position as a Research Associate with the Cell EXPLORERS outreach programme in the School of Natural Sciences at the National University of Ireland, Galway. This position is funded by Science Foundation Ireland and is available from 1st May 2018 to 31st December 2018 (8 months).

Cell EXPLORERS is a science education and outreach programme based in the School of Natural Sciences at NUI Galway ([www.cellexplorers.com](http://www.cellexplorers.com)). The programme aims to inform, inspire and involve the general public in science, technology and local research by connecting primary, second level, third and fourth level students, lecturers, researchers and the general public. It uses hands-on activities and local scientists to engage a range of public in the importance of science in society with a diverse set of activities including school visits and science festival workshops

The programme is establishing a unique model of sustainable public engagement for higher education institutions. The idea is to engage students in science communication and educational outreach activities as part of their curriculum and to complement this with the activities of a growing base of volunteers.

A key development is the national expansion of this model to disseminate and support STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) engagement activities sustainably in the future. Currently, the Cell EXPLORERS network is constituted of 10 national partner teams in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The Cell EXPLORERS teams in local HEIs act as informal science education providers by bringing engaging science activities and information on science careers to children at an age where they make decisions about their interest in STEM (primary school age) or make their choice of STEM as a career (secondary school age). The programme will investigate whether a sustainable outreach structure for institutions nationwide can be developed following this model so that all areas and audiences of Ireland can be reached.

**Job Description:**

The successful candidate will be involved in the running and evaluation of the Cell EXPLORERS National expansion project as a national coordinator. She/he will coordinate and organise all national partner teams set up, training and perform data collection. An important part of the project is the measurement of the success of national expansion of the programme and the impact of participation on volunteers of all teams. The national coordinator will then be expected to collect data from evaluation tools develop, to analyse results and to generate guidelines, reports and publications based on results. The successful candidate will also be integrated in the NUI Galway Cell EXPLORERS team and be involved in the coordination its educational outreach activities.

**Main duties and responsibilities:**

* Coordination of the National network
  + Keep communication and track of the activities of the national partners (includes training of teams, transport, budget among others; development of communication documents)
  + Organise partner training and coordinate work with these partners to allow project delivery and data collection
  + Contribute to quick and effective solving of technical problems raised by students and staff participating on the project
  + Coordination of data collection from local and national teams (includes making sure that data collected from schools (children and teachers), volunteers, and coordinators is received and completed in due time; Training of team of volunteers to input data in our online system, and that data is analysed).
  + To complete the administrative work to support the programme
* Coordination of the local team
  + Contribute to the coordination of the local team of activities (includes management and delivery of science festivals, summer camps, and other special events)
  + To manage the specific programme resources (specialist equipment, laboratories).
* Evaluation study:
* Refine, in collaboration with the project leader, evaluation methodology according to scope, goals and deliverables of the project
* Collection of data and data analysis
* Compile and analyse data required for progress reports, presentations and publication.
* Improve data collection tools for use within the project
* Dissemination:
* Engage in the dissemination of the results of Cell EXPLORERS programme under any suitable forms (write up reports or articles, present at conferences…) with the support of and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.
* Communicate results to all relevant groups (partners, peers, institutions, policy makers…) nationally and internationally
* Project Supervision, Teaching & Training
* Contribute to teaching /tutoring/mentoring taking place within the framework of the Cell EXPLORERS programme
* Acquire generic and transferable skills (including project management, business skills and undergraduate mentoring/supervision).
* Mentor, assist or supervise, as appropriate and as directed, the undergraduate placement/intern/project and research graduate students of the Cell EXPLORERS group
* Develop their own career reputation and career development

**Qualifications/Skills required:**

The ideal candidate should have experience coordinating and delivering project to completion. Applicants must possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge/practice in the field of public engagement/outreach/informal science education as well as an interest in research and evaluation methods and techniques. Experience in program evaluation in these fields is important. The applicant should be creative and enthusiastic, with excellent organization and communication skills and proven ability to work independently, on its own initiative and in a team environment.

**Essential Requirements:**

* Third Level Qualification in Sciences or in Science education or equivalent relevant experience
* Demonstrable experience in delivery of STEM public engagement/outreach activities
* Evidence of experience in measuring impact of STEM public engagement/outreach activities.
* Teaching experience/qualification and/or experience of working with students

Have experience in the following:

* Fluency in IT skills including word processing, Power Point and spread sheets
* Excellent Oral presentation skills
* Demonstrable track record of excellent project management skills

**Desirable Requirements:**

* Knowledge of Molecular and Cellular Biology and Biomedical sciences
* Experience in designing science outreach activities for young people (primary/post-primary school students)
* Evidence of experience with Social media, Website design and/or press relation
* Experience in volunteering programme
* Conducting research studies; quantitative and qualitative data analysis (use of SPSS, NVIVO or similar platforms);
* Experience of applying for research funding and/or reporting for funders, peer reviewed publications (conferences presentation, research article or equivalent)
* Full Driving Licence.

**Salary**: €36,000 - €38,000 per annum, pro-rata for this shorter contract.

**Start date**: Position is available from 01/05/2018

**Continuing Professional Development/Training**:

Researchers at NUI Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans.

Further information on research and working at NUI Galway is available on [Research at NUI Galway](http://www.nuigalway.ie/our-research/)

For information on moving to Ireland please see [www.euraxess.ie](http://www.euraxess.ie)

Further information about Cell EXPLORERS programme is available at www.cellexplorers.com.

(Informal enquiries concerning the post may be made to Dr Muriel Grenon by emailing [Muriel.grenon@nuigalway.ie](mailto:Muriel.grenon@nuigalway.ie)

**NB**: Gárda vetting is a requirement for this post

**To Apply:**

Applications to include a covering letter, CV, and the contact details of three referees should be sent, via e-mail (in word or PDF only) to [Muriel.grenon@nuigalway.ie](mailto:Muriel.grenon@nuigalway.ie)

Please put reference number **NUIG 066-18** in subject line of e-mail application.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm on Friday 30th March 2018.**

**Interviews currently planned on 12th of April.**

All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment.

National University of Ireland, Galway is an equal opportunities employer.

