



Post Specification

Job title: Research Assistant in the Earth Surface Research Laboratory

Post status: Specific purpose (6 months duration)

Research group/department/school: Department of Geology, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Location: Earth Surface Research Laboratory, Unit 6b, Trinity Technology & Enterprise Centre (TTEC), Pearse Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Reports to: Dr Hilde Koch, Laboratory Manager of the ESRL

Salary: Appointment will be made on the appropriate point of the IUA Research Assistant salary scale in line with Government Pay Policy. Research Assistant €41,918/yr for 0.5 yr (6 months) = €20,959

Hours of work: 39 per week

Closing date: 13:00 Dublin time, 23 September 2024

Post summary

The [Earth Surface Research Laboratory - Geology | Trinity College Dublin \(tcd.ie\)](https://www.tcd.ie/Earth-Surface-Research-Laboratory-Geology) invites applications for a Research Assistant, funded by Geological Survey Ireland (GSI). The position will be tenable for 6 months, starting on 1 October 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applicants will contribute to the whole process from soil sampling and processing to preparation, under the management of the laboratory manager, Dr Hilde Koch. The primary goal will be the preparation of soil and stream sediment samples for geochemical analysis. They will use ESRL and TCD Geology Department facilities.

Results will be reported to Geological Survey Ireland and outputs must be publishable following the FAIR principles of the [National Open Research Forum](#).

Background to the post

The ESRL was established as a national geochemical research facility in 2019, funded through a service level agreement with Geological Survey Ireland. In December 2021, the laboratory was awarded an ISO17025:217 (General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) accreditation by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB).

The ESRL is the XRF data supplier for Geological Survey Ireland's [Tellus geochemical survey](#) and is equipped to analyse up to ~5000 Tellus soil and sediment samples per year. The laboratory is also open to all Earth and environmental scientists based on the island of Ireland for research projects through funded research projects and bi-annual open calls where researchers can apply for free facility access.

This position was created through a successful application submitted to the GSI Short Call 24. The project aims to create a regional prospectivity map for mafic/ultramafic sulphide Ni-Cu-(Au)-PGE mineralisation in the north of Ireland where Palaeogene-aged igneous intrusions have been identified as one of the most prospective regions of PGE mineralisation in Europe. Further, in two areas of particularly high prospectivity, the project will undertake high-density soil and stream sediment surveys.

The Research Assistant will conduct roughly 2 x 7 days of fieldwork, where the successful applicant is based in a locality close to the sampling site. Subsequently, samples are being processed and powdered using the rock preparation facilities of the TCD Department of Geology. Preparation of

pressed powder pellets for WD-XRF analysis is carried out in the ESRL facilities. The whole process will closely follow the Geological Survey Ireland's [Tellus geochemical survey](#) protocol.

Standard duties and responsibilities of the post

The successful applicant will:

- Join field campaigns for soil and stream sediment sampling.
- Dry and powder these samples.
- Prepare the samples for geochemical analysis, principally by XRF.
- contribute to resultant publications

Qualifications

- Research Assistant applicants must hold a BSc in Earth or environmental science, or a similar relevant area.

Knowledge and experience

Essential

- Experience working in a laboratory environment.

Desirable

- Experience in fieldwork.
- Driving licence.
- Knowledge of ISO procedures, particularly ISO 17025:2017.

Skills and competencies

- Demonstrated potential to work effectively within a geochemical laboratory in a research setting.
- Excellent organisational skills.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Team work.

Application procedure

Applications should be made to:

Dr Hilde Koch, Trinity College Dublin
kochhi@tcd.ie

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- A cover letter detailing their suitability for the post
- A full CV
- The contact details of two referees (including email addresses)

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission. Successful applicants will be invited to interview via Zoom.