



**Postdoctoral Researcher - Planning / Governance / Economics,**

**School of Business and Economics,**

**Ref. No. University of Galway 047-24**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full time fixed-term contract position as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the discipline of [Economics](#) with the [J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics](#) at the University of Galway, Ireland.

This position is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment's Research Programme. (Grant Agreement 2023-NE-1190) and is available immediately for 24 months.

**FORSEA project (Framework for Optimising Resources through Strategic Environmental Assessment):**

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, which became law in Ireland in 2004, aims to protect the environment and support ecosystem services. It also includes a social element: community engagement and personal or community responsibility for environmental impacts and outcomes in project planning to ensure sustainable development. The FORSEA project uses environmental valuation methodologies to determine the social and environmental impacts of SEA projects in Ireland.

**Job Description:**

The successful candidate will conduct a review of the literature and use a mixed methods approach involving workshops, focus groups and quantitative econometric analysis of survey data to assess social and environmental outcomes of a range of SEA projects in Ireland such as flood relief schemes, renewable energy projects and grid expansion. The candidate will also be expected to present their work in oral format, at national and international project meetings and symposia.

**Duties:**

- Significantly contribute to day-to-day project management of University of Galway's participation in the FORSEA project, including ongoing technical and financial reporting.
- Analyse data using the relevant modelling techniques
- Gather data and design surveys for industry and community stakeholders
- Collaborate with relevant project partners for data collection and modelling
- Prepare periodic and final reports of findings.
- Prepare abstracts, journal articles, policy briefs and presentations for dissemination of the work in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals, international conferences and relevant industry symposium.
- Assist in the operation of the research group by helping with the following: (i), day-to-day management, and liaise with partners and University of Galway staff as required (iii) writing research funding applications.
- Work independently to ensure the successful completion of the work and their development as an academic researcher.
- Any other duties assigned commensurate to this level of post.

**Qualifications/Skills required:**



**Essential Requirements:**

- Hold a PhD in a relevant research area (e.g. Economics/Environmental Economics/Planning/Geography/Environmental Impact Assessment).
- Strong publication record as a senior author in peer-reviewed journal papers.
- Have a strong knowledge of the legislative background and practice of environmental assessment and implementation.
- Demonstrable expertise in the collection and evaluation of Strategic Environmental Assessment data or Environmental Impact Assessment data to be used in the design of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Framework.

**Desirable Requirements:**

- Experience in writing research funding applications.
- Proven experience in using stated preference methods including discrete choice/contingent valuation modelling techniques
- Demonstrable expertise in the collection of data to be used in and the design and implementation of stated preference surveys.
- A willingness to integrate valuation techniques with SEA research for project evaluation
- Project and/or research group management experience
- Proven ability to engage with stakeholders, industry and communities.

**Salary range:** Postdoctoral Researcher salary scale €42,782 - €54,965 per annum, (subject to the project's funding limitations), and pro rata for shorter and/or part-time contracts.

The default position for all new public sector appointments is the 1st point of the salary scale. This may be reviewed, and consideration afforded to appointment at a higher point on the payscale (subject to the project's funding limitations), where evidence of prior years' equivalent experience is accepted in determining placement on the scale above point 1, subject to the maximum of the scale.

[\(Research Salary Scales - University of Galway\)](#)

**Start date:** Position is available immediately

**Continuing Professional Development/Training:**

Researchers at University of Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. University of Galway provides continuing professional development supports for all researchers seeking to build their own career pathways either within or beyond academia. Researchers are encouraged to engage with our Researcher Development Centre (RDC) upon commencing employment - see [HERE](#) for further information.

Further information on research and working at University of Galway is available on [Research at University of Galway](#)

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

**Informal enquiries** concerning the post may be made to Dr Thomas van Rensburg <Thomas.vanrensburg@universityofgalway.ie>.

**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 Dr Thomas van Rensburg:

[Thomas.vanrensburg@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Thomas.vanrensburg@universityofgalway.ie).



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UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Please put reference number **University of Galway 047-24** in subject line of e-mail application.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm (Irish Time) 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.**

We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.

The University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.

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

