



**Trinity
College
Dublin**

The University of Dublin

4 Year PhD scholarship on Ecology of Irish Tunas



Marine Institute
Foras na Mara



GMIT
INSTITIÚD TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE-MAIGH EÓ
GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NOTE: The deadline for applications is 16 November 2020



Project description

The Department of Zoology, Trinity College Dublin, is seeking a passionate and ambitious candidate to undertake a full-time PhD project exploring the ecology of Irish tunas. The work will combine a variety of approaches to explore several general questions related to the ecology of Irish tunas. These include the use of cutting-edge bio-logging tools to explore the impact of catch-and-release fishing on tuna and refine best practices; identify spatial dynamics, population

connectivity, and environmental preferences of tuna throughout the NE Atlantic; and to design and test new electronic tagging techniques for small fishes such as albacore tuna. To address these diverse objectives, we have assembled a multidisciplinary team to support the student, who will use state-of-the-art techniques spanning physiology, bio-logging, genetics, spatial analyses, and hydromechanics. Expected outcomes of the project include data that will improve stock assessment of tunas across the Atlantic, enhanced understanding of the timing and environmental drivers of tuna appearances in Irish waters, and the provision of new tagging tools for researching fishes in general. The project is funded by the Cullen Fellowship program and is a collaboration between TCD, the Marine Institute, GMIT, and AZTI (Spain).

Essential criteria

- Applicants should have an undergraduate and/or postgraduate degree in marine biology, ecology or a related field
- Ability to undertake challenging marine fieldwork, and ideally some experience working on boats
 - Passion for teamwork and collaborating with diverse stakeholders
 - Full driver's license

Note: the fieldwork will require the successful candidate to pass a sea-farers medical exam during year 1.

Funding and hosting notes

The successful candidate will commence the project in March 2021. Funding is from a Cullen Fellowship conditionally awarded to TCD, so is contingent on final approval in October 2020. It is for 4 years and comprises academic fees at EU rates and an annual stipend of €16,000. Candidates from outside the EU are eligible to apply but must provide evidence of sources of additional funds to cover excesses associated with Non-EU fees. Significant logistical and infrastructural support will be provided by the project team to enable the field- and laboratory- work. The candidate will be based both at Marine Institute facilities in the west of Ireland, and at TCD in Dublin.

The project is co-supervised by Dr Nicholas Payne (TCD), Dr Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (Marine Institute) and Dr Andrew Jackson (TCD). Additional support comes from Dr Deirdre Brophy and Dr Luca Mirimin (GMIT), Dr Naiara Rodríguez-Ezpeleta and Haritz Arrizabalaga (AZTI, Spain).

Applications

Email applications to: Dr Nicholas Payne (paynen@tcd.ie) by 5pm **16/11/2020**, with 'tuna phd' in the email subject line. Attach a single PDF Document that contains the following:

1. A cover letter of <2 pages: Your letter should clearly set out your suitability and motivation for this PhD with reference to your past relevant experience and achievements.

2. A CV that includes your relevant experience, undergraduate results, postgraduate results (if applicable), any relevant publications and contact information for 2 academic referees.

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed digitally in late December.

Trinity is committed to employment and student 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 community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Dr Nicholas L Payne
Assistant Professor
School of Natural Sciences, Department of Zoology
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Dublin 2, Ireland.
+353 1 896 1642
paynen@tcd.ie
www.thepaynelab.com
Twitter: @nicklpayne