**INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SLIGO**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| **1.** | **Job Title** | Upland Ecologist |
| **2.** | **Reference** | 005991 |
| **3.** | **Closing Date** | **18th April 2017 at 12.00 noon** |
| **4.** | **Grade** | Post Doctorate Researcher |
| **5.** | **Nature of Contract** | Specified Purpose contract position to the 31st December 2021 (5 years) |
| **6.** | **Working Week** | 39 hours per week |
| **7.** | **Department/Function Area** | Centre for Environmental Research Innovation and Sustainability (CERIS); Department of Environmental Science |
| **8.** | **Reports To** | Dr James Moran, Department of Environmental Science. |
| **9.** | **Summary**  **Description of Post** | As part of an INTERREG VA project an opportunity exists for an uplands ecologist to join the applied ecology team at IT Sligo. This is part of a larger project with our project partners in Northern Ireland and Scotland in the Collaborative Action for Natura Network project.  The specific objectives of the project are:  - to promote cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species.  - to increase the percentage of selected protected habitats in or approaching favourable condition from current baseline of 1% to 10% by 2023  We are focusing on seven protected habitats prioritised by INTERREG VA: alkaline fens, blanket bog, active raised bog, marl lakes, calcareous fens, petrifying springs and transition mires/quaking bogs; as well as all selected species: White-clawed Crayfish, Hen Harrier, breeding waders (Curlew, Redshank, Snipe), Golden Plover, Corncrake and Red Grouse.  Within the project the uplands ecologist will work closely with the wider uplands team to deliver and monitor project actions.  The project itself will last 5 years from the 1st January 2017 and will work across the 3 jurisdictions:  - Republic of Ireland  - Northern Ireland  - Western Scotland |
| **10.** | **Essential Qualifications/Skills** | **Applicants for this post must have:**   * Honours Degree and a PhD in environmental science, ecology, agricultural science or related discipline; * Minimum 2 years practical experience of ecological management of habitats and species * Experience of both working in a project team and of conducting critical analysis of scientific data. * Ability to work independent. * Good interpersonal, oral and written communication skills. |
| **11.** | **Desirable Qualifications/Skills** | * Knowledge of GIS techniques; * Semi-natural vegetation, habitat and species identification; * Knowledge of/experience of farming systems and ecology of upland areas; * Knowledge of socio-economic and policy context of agri-environment schemes; * Publication record in ecological research; * Good ecological field work skills; * Good project management skills; * Ability to engage and communicate with farmers;   Such factors may or may not be taken into account should there be a need for short listing of applicants for interview. |
| **12.** | **Duties** | The appointee will carry out such duties as are assigned by management, including, but not limited to: -   1. Work on the INTERREG CANN project as determined by ITS team leader (Dr. James Moran - IT Sligo in consultation with project Steering Committee); 2. Implementation of uplands actions for targeted habitats and species (development of conservation action plans and individual sub-unit/farm implementation plans; stakeholder consultation); 3. Mapping, Monitoring and evaluation of actions (quantification of targets and methods for assessing results; GIS mapping; Condition assessment; implementation monitoring) 4. Liaison with farmers and landowners. 5. Preparing manuscripts for publication, and contributing to wider dissemination; 6. Undertake travel as required by the project; 7. Drafting project final report and reports on project status; 8. Other duties may be assigned from time to time. |
| **13.** | **Salary** | €35,488 – €46,255 |
| **14.** | **Return of Applications** | **On-line Applications**: Applications must be submitted by the advertised closing date and time. If you commence the on line application process and the closing time is approaching you will receive a message letting you know that the competition is closing in X minutes. You will have to complete your application and submit same within the time advised, otherwise your application will be deemed to be late and will not be considered. |

**March 2017**