



## Job Description

<b>College</b>	College of Health Science
<b>School/Unit</b>	UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science/ UCD Conway Institute
<b>Post Title</b>	UCD Post-doctoral Research Fellow Level 1 (Nutrition, Metabolism & Inflammation – ImmunoMet)
<b>Project</b>	ImmunoMet
<b>Post Duration</b>	Up to July 2018
<b>Reports to</b>	Prof Helen Roche
<b>HR Reference No.</b>	007186
<b>HR Administrator</b>	Gosia Wojnicka

### Position Summary

Applications are invited for a very dynamic post-doctoral scientist to lead the experimental core of ImmunoMet with Prof Helen Roche's Nutrigenomics Team at UCD Conway Institute (<http://www.ucd.ie/conway/research/researchers/conwayfellowsa-z/professorhelenroche/>) and the UCD Institute of Food & Health, in collaboration with APC UCC (<http://www.ucc.ie/research/apc/content/>), Teagasc and UL.

ImmunoMet is a collaborative project designed to investigate the effect of dietary manipulation of microbiota diversity for controlling immune function and metabolism. The purpose of this post is to provide high-level scientific knowledge, experimental and management skills to support UCD's contribution to this collaborative programme.

Specific knowledge in relation to adipose and skeletal muscle biology within the context of inflammation and metabolic health is essential. The study will characterise the effect of novel dietary interventions on the gut microbiome; with a view to understanding the cross-talk with metabolism and inflammation using a combination of *in vivo* animal feeding / metabolic studies and cell culture models (e.g. 3T3-L-1 adipocytes, macrophages, C2C12 myotubes). Specific expertise in metabolic phenotyping (GTT, ITT, etc.), *ex vivo* adipose / skeletal muscle characterisation, flow cytometry, cell culture, RT-PCR, western blots, insulin and inflammatory signalling, is required.

Candidates should be highly self-motivated and enthusiastic, who interact well within a large research team. They should hold a PhD in biochemistry, pharmacology, immunology or related disciplines; have excellent research skills as evidenced by a strong publication track record, allied with exceptional mentorship, project management and interpersonal skills.

This is a research focused role, where you will conduct a specified programme of research supported by research training and development under the supervision and direction of a Principal Investigator. The primary purpose of the role is to further develop your research skills and competences, including the processes of publication in peer-reviewed academic publications, the development of funding proposals, the mentorship of graduate students along with the opportunity to develop your skills in research led teaching.

In addition to the principal duties and responsibilities below, The post-holder will have responsibility for a number of specific areas, including those outlined below:

- Manage the day-to-day operation of ImmunoMet within the Nutrigenomics Group.
- Organise scientific meetings to present and discuss of on-going analysis / research.
- Prepare of annual progress & scientific reports.
- Lead authorship of high-impact peer review scientific publications.
- Disseminate ImmunoMet to the scientific and public audiences.

**Salary: €33,975 - €40,003 per annum**

Appointment on the above range will be dependent on qualifications and experience.

### **Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

- Conduct a specified programme of research and scholarship under the supervision and direction of your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities as required by your Principal Investigator, your School or Institute, or the University.
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which you are engaged as directed by and with the support of and under the supervision of your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of your research group, School and Institute.
- Mentor and assist, as appropriate and as directed, the research graduate students in your group, School and Institute.
- Carry out administrative work associated with your programme of research.

### **Selection Criteria**

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post. Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

#### Mandatory

- PhD in a field relevant to the research programme.
- Research expertise related to glucose / insulin / lipid metabolism, metabolic-inflammation and/or the gut microbiome.
- The ability to promote the professional development of PhD students and foster innovative collaborative work with colleagues.
- Demonstrate an excellent track record in research management skills
- A demonstrated commitment to research and publications
- An understanding of the operational requirements for a successful research project
- Evidence of research activity (publications, conference presentations, awards) and future scholarly output (working papers, research proposals, and ability to outline a research project.
- Excellent scientific, organisational and project management skills.
- Excellent interpersonal and scientific communications skills with the ability to generate presentations reports and scientific papers to the highest standards.
- Excellent Organisational and Administrative skills including, understanding of the operational requirements for a successful research project and a proven ability to work to deadlines.

The PD1 position is intended for early stage researchers, either just after completion of a PhD or for someone entering a new area for the first time. If you have already completed your PD1 stage in UCD or will soon complete a PD1, or you are an external applicant whose total Postdoctoral experience, inclusive of the duration of the advertised post, would exceed 4 years, you should not apply and should refer to PD2 posts instead.

#### Desirable

- A demonstrated commitment to research and publications.
- Experience in setting own research agenda.
- Ability to manage competing priorities; demonstrate initiative and work independently.
- Evidence of research activity (publications, conference presentations, awards) and future scholarly output (working papers, research proposals, and ability to outline a research project.

## Further Information for Candidates

### Supplementary information

The University:	<a href="http://www.ucd.ie/aboutucd.htm">http://www.ucd.ie/aboutucd.htm</a>
The College of Health Sciences:	<a href="http://www.ucd.ie/chs/">http://www.ucd.ie/chs/</a>
The School of Public Health, Physiotherapy & Population Science:	<a href="http://www.ucd.ie/phpps/">http://www.ucd.ie/phpps/</a>
UCD Conway Institute:	<a href="http://www.ucd.ie/conway/">http://www.ucd.ie/conway/</a>

UCD offers a comprehensive **Research Careers Framework** in line with the Advisory Science Council Report *'Towards a Framework for Researcher Careers'*. This model provides a structured and supportive **Career and Skills Development** system designed to ensure that Post-docs in UCD are able to plan their careers and prepare for future opportunities in academia, industry or the public sector. For more information, please [click here](#)

### Relocation Expenses

- Will not apply
- Will be applied in accordance with the UCD policy  
<http://www.ucd.ie/hr/policies/#d.en.31150>

### Informal Enquiries ONLY to:

Name:	Prof Helen Roche
Title:	Associate Professor Nutrigenomics
Email address:	<a href="mailto:helen.roche@ucd.ie">helen.roche@ucd.ie</a>
Telephone:	+353 -1 -716 6845

### Eligibility to compete and certain restrictions on eligibility (Relevant only to those with previous Irish Public Sector experience)

#### Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)

It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under that Scheme, are debarred from applying for another position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position.

#### Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010)

The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 dated 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme and Voluntary Redundancy Schemes (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider public service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public moneys. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the VRS, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years, after which time any re-employment will require the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. People who availed of either of these schemes are not eligible to compete in this competition.

#### Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28th June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1st June 2012, a Collective Agreement which had been reached between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Public Services Committee of the ICTU in relation to ex-gratia Redundancy Payments to Public Servants. It is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible for re-employment in the public

service by any public service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011) for a period of 2 years from termination of the employment. Thereafter the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will be required prior to re-employment. People who availed of this scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility) and the Minister's consent will have to be secured prior to employment by any public service body.

### **Declaration**

Applicants will be required to a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether they have previously availed of a public service scheme of incentivised early retirement and/or the collective agreement outlined above. The above represents the main schemes and agreements restricting a candidate's right to be re-employed in the public service. However it is not intended to be an exhaustive list and candidates should declare details of any other exit mechanism they have availed of which restricts their right to be re-employed in the public service. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Public Service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any Public Service employment.

### **Superannuation and Retirement**

The successful candidate will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the University, at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, and except for candidates who have worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) public service job in the 26 weeks prior to appointment (see paragraph d below), this means being offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"). Key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:

#### **a. Pensionable Age**

The minimum age at which pension is payable is 66 (rising to 67 and 68) in line with State Pension age changes.

#### **b. Retirement Age:**

Scheme members must retire at the age of 70.

#### **c. Pension Abatement**

If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service or in the Public Service please note that the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 includes a provision which extends abatement of pension for all Civil and Public Servants who are re-employed where a Public Service pension is in payment. This provision to apply abatement across the wider public service came into effect on 1 November 2012. This may have pension implications for any person appointed to this position who is currently in receipt of a Civil or Public Service pension or has a preserved Civil or Public Service pension which will come into payment during his/her employment in this position.

Department of Education and Skills Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers Circular 102/2007

The Department of Education and Skills introduced an Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers. It is a condition of the Early Retirement Scheme that with the exception of the situations set out in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the relevant circular documentation, and with those exceptions only, if a teacher accepts early retirement under Strands 1, 2 or 3 of this scheme and is subsequently employed in any capacity in any area of the public sector, payment of pension to that person under the scheme will immediately cease. Pension payments will, however, be resumed on the ceasing of such employment or on the person's 60th birthday, whichever is the later, but on resumption, the pension will be based on the person's actual reckonable service as a teacher (i.e. the added years previously granted will not be taken into account in the calculation of the pension payment).

#### **Ill-Health-Retirement**

Please note that where an individual has retired from a Civil/Public Service body on the grounds of ill-health his/her pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement within the pension scheme of that employment.

d. Prior Public Servants

While the default pension terms, as set out in the preceding paragraphs, consist of Single Scheme membership, this may not apply to certain appointees. Full details of the conditions governing whether or not a public servant is a Single Scheme member are given in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012. However the key exception case (in the context of this competition and generally) is that a successful candidate who has worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) capacity in the public service within 26 weeks of taking up appointment, would in general not become a member of the Single Scheme. In this case such a candidate would instead be offered membership of the UCD Pension Scheme. This would mean that the abatement provisions at (c) above would apply, and in addition there are implications in respect of pension accrual as outlined below:

e. Pension Accrual

A 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one existing public service pension scheme would apply. This 40-year limit, which is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 came into effect on 28 July 2012. This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.

f. Pension-Related Deduction

This appointment is subject to the pension-related deduction in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measure in the Public Interest Act 2009.

For further information in relation to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme for Public Servants please see the following website: <http://www.per.gov.ie/pensions>.