



4-Year postdoctoral fellowship

Understanding the importance of bluefin tuna for Ireland's marine ecosystem



Photo: Michael Callaghan

NOTE: The deadline for applications is 5 January 2026

The School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin is seeking a highly qualified and ambitious candidate to undertake a 4-year fixed term postdoctoral research project aimed at understanding the importance of bluefin tuna to Ireland's marine ecosystem. The project will combine research on (i) the spatial ecology of bluefin, leveraging large existing satellite tracking datasets to build species distribution models and forecast future bluefin occurrences, (ii) dietary tracers in tissue samples to infer trends in tuna diet and trophic ecology, and (iii) adopt ecosystem accounting methods to reveal the broad economic and social benefits of bluefin tuna to Ireland.

The project is a collaboration between Trinity, the Marine Institute, University College Cork and Inland Fisheries Ireland, and is funded by a Marine Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme grant. The postdoc will receive guidance and training opportunities from all project partners through a dedicated steering committee, which at Trinity is led by Profs Nicholas Payne, Andrew Jackson and Catherine Farrell. The position is best suited to candidates with backgrounds in fish ecology, or marine spatial ecology. The successful candidate is expected to conduct fieldwork on boats, and collaborate closely and broadly with members of State Agencies as well as members of the Irish fishing community. Funds are available for fieldwork, lab analyses, conference attendance, stakeholder engagement and outreach.

The successful candidate will be appointed on a research contract at point 1 on the PD1 Irish University Association pays scale: gross salary €47,273 with annual increments thereafter (<https://www.iaa.ie/research-innovation/researcher-salary-scales/>). Will be based at Trinity in Dublin, and ideally commencing in spring 2026.

Essential attributes

- A PhD in a relevant field.
- Good quantitative skills (ideally including spatial) in a program such as R or matlab.
- Ability to conduct fieldwork in challenging marine environments.
- Very good communication and collaborative skills.
- Strong publication record for career stage.
- Good leadership skills and initiative

Applications

Email applications and informal enquiries to: Dr Nicholas Payne (paynen@tcd.ie) by **5 Jan 2026**, with 'Tuna Postdoc' 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 position with reference to your past relevant experience and achievements as well as your ambitions for this project and your career trajectory.
2. A CV that includes your relevant experience, publications and contact information for 2 academic referees.