Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Assistant
Post Status:	12 month fixed term contract (Full Time)
Department/Faculty:	Geography, School of Natural Sciences
Location:	Geography, School of Natural Sciences
Salary:	It is envisaged the appointment will be made on the IUA Research Assistant Level 1 Salary Scale (depending on experience and budget)
Closing Date:	12 Noon on Nov 16th 2015

Post Summary

The Department of Geography at Trinity College, the University of Dublin wishes to appoint a Research Assistant who will also assist with research related project activities for a period of 12 months to work on the research project *SHARECITY: Assessing the practice and sustainability potential of city-based food sharing economies*, with Professor Anna Davies, Chair of Geography, Environment and Society at Trinity College. *SHARECITY* is funded by the European Research Council and is a collaborative, multi-phased investigation of the phenomenon of food sharing economies in cities. The successful applicant will become a core member of the *SHARECITY* team (which will include the Principal Investigator, at least 4 postdoctoral researchers and a PhD student). For further details regarding this post please contact Prof. Anna Davies:- daviesa@tcd.ie

Background to the Post

There is growing clarity regarding the unsustainability of cities, not least with respect to food consumption. Sharing, including food sharing, is increasingly being identified as one transformative mechanism for sustainable cities: reducing consumption; conserving resources, preventing waste and providing new forms of socio-economic relations. However, such claims currently rest on thin conceptual and empirical foundations. *SHARECITY* will identify and examine diverse practices of city-based food sharing economies, first determining their form, function and governance and then identifying their impact and potential to reorient eating practices. The research has four objectives: to advance theoretical understanding of contemporary food sharing economies in cities; to generate a significant body of comparative and novel international empirical knowledge about food sharing economies and their governance within global cities; to design and test an assessment framework for establishing the impact of city-based food sharing economies on societal relations, economic vitality and the environment; and to explore how food sharing economies within cities might evolve in the future. *SHARECITY* will open new research horizons to substantively improve understanding of how, why and to what end people share food within cities in the 21st Century.

The successful candidate will join Prof. Davies and her research group and it is anticipated that the contract will start in January 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

For further details regarding this post please contact Prof. Anna Davies:- daviesa@tcd.ie

Standard duties of the Post

We are looking for a dynamic, organised and self-motivated person to act as Research Assistant for *SHARECITY*. The successful applicant will be an active member of the *SHARECITY* research team, participating in research data collection, analysis and dissemination. As SHARECITY is a global project with research being conducted internationally some language skills in addition to English are desirable. The successful candidate will have undergraduate and masters qualifications in a relevant research area, which includes (but is not limited to) geography, sociology, anthropology, agriculture and environmental studies. The appointee will, along with the rest of the research team, provide day-to-day management of issues related to the research; the development and maintenance of the project website and the project's social media profile (blog, twitter, LinkedIn etc.); the organisation and administration of meetings (team meetings, advisory group meetings, workshops as required); financial tracking of the project's budget and liaising with the relevant institutional processes to ensure proper reporting.

Person Specification

Qualifications

- Undergraduate and masters qualifications in geography, sociology, anthropology, agrifood subjects, environmental studies or related fields

Knowledge, Skills & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential
- Relevant qualitative and quantitative research experience at undergraduate, masters levels or research project level
- Interest in interdisciplinary research, particularly between the natural sciences, social sciences, and computer sciences
- Enthusiasm for, and interest in, urban sustainability transitions, food consumption and sharing
- Quantitative skills and knowledge of excel or SPSS
- Experience of social media, website and database management

- Experience of project management
- Demonstrable ability to work both in a team and independently and to work accurately to deadlines
- Excellent communication and organisational skills

Desirable
- Language skills in addition to English
- Knowledge and experience of GIS

Further information
For further information about the Discipline and School see www.tcd.ie/Geography and www.naturalscience.tcd.ie

Discipline/Area Summary
The School of Natural Sciences
The School of Natural Sciences, comprising the Disciplines of Botany, Geography, Geology and Zoology, the Centre for the Environment and the TCBR, is one of the largest schools in the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science and hosts biological, physical and social scientists. The School currently accommodates 40 academic staff, ca. 14 postdoctoral research fellows and ca. 164 postgraduate students (including 89 research and 75 taught students). Its taught programmes are varied as the School offers moderatorships (undergraduate degrees) in Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Functional Biology, Geography, Geology, Plant Sciences and Zoology and contributes to other moderatorships including Neurosciences, Geography and Politics and to the Two Subject Moderatorship (TSM) programme (http://www.naturalscience.tcd.ie/undergraduate/). The School has also a major commitment to graduate teaching and supervision and currently hosts three taught Masters programmes (http://www.naturalscience.tcd.ie/postgraduate/).

GARDA Clearance
Police vetting will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

PLEASE NOTE: Candidates will be required to complete and return a Garda vetting form should they come under consideration for appointment. In some cases they may be requested to complete the form on the day of interview. This form will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána (Irish Police) for security checks on all Irish addresses at which they have resided. An Garda Síochána will make enquiries with the Police Service of Northern Ireland with respect to addresses in Northern Ireland. If a candidate is not successful in obtaining the post for whatever reason, this information will be destroyed by the PAS. If a candidate, therefore, subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

While candidates must complete information in relation to all addresses at which they have resided, the vetting is only done on addresses on the island of Ireland.

If a candidate has resided / studied in countries outside of Ireland for a period of 6 months or more, it is mandatory for them to furnish a Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate from those countries stating that they have no convictions recorded against them while residing there. Candidates will need to provide a separate Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate for each country in which they have resided. The Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate must be dated after the date the candidate left the relevant country. Candidates should provide documentation in the English and/or Irish language. Translations must be provided by a registered translation company/institute in the Republic of Ireland; all costs will be borne by the candidate. Only original version documents will be accepted.

Candidates should be aware that any information obtained in the Garda Vetting process can be made available to the employing area.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to seek security clearances in a timely fashion as they can take some time. No candidate will be appointed without this information being provided and being in order.

The following websites may be of assistance in this regard:

www.disclosurescotland.co.uk
www.psni.police.uk
www.afp.gov.au This website provides information on obtaining a national police clearance certificate for Australia
www.courts.govt.nz This website provides information on obtaining police clearance in New Zealand.

For other countries not listed above candidates may find it helpful to contact the relevant embassies who could provide information on seeking Police Clearance. Original Police Clearance documentation should be forwarded to the PAS where it will be copied and the original returned to the candidate by post. Any cost incurred in this process will be borne by the candidate.

Trinity College Dublin
Founded in 1592, Trinity is at the nexus of tradition and innovation, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across 24 schools and three faculties: arts, humanities, and social sciences; engineering, maths and science; and health sciences. Spread across 47 acres in Dublin's city centre, Trinity's 17,000-strong student body comes from all 32 counties of Ireland, and 16% of students come from outside the country. Of those, 40% are from outside the European Union, making Trinity's campus cosmopolitan and bustling, with a focus on diversity.

As Ireland's leading university, the pursuit of academic excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of the Trinity education. Trinity is known for intellectual rigour, excellence, interdisciplinarity, and research-led teaching. Home to Nobel prize-winners such as scientist Ernest Walton and writer Samuel Beckett, Trinity draws visitors from across the world to its historic campus each year, including to the Book of Kells and Science Gallery which capture the university's connection to both old and new.

Trinity accounts for one-fifth of all spin-out companies from Irish higher education institutions, helping to turn Ireland into an innovation-intensive, high-productivity economy. That culture of innovation and entrepreneurship is a defining characteristic of our campus as we help shape the next generation of job creators.

Trinity has developed significant strength in a broad range of research areas, including the 19 broadly based multi-disciplinary thematic research areas.

TRINITY'S RESEARCH THEMES

AGEING	INCLUSIVE SOCIETY
CANCER	INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CREATIVE ARTS PRACTICE	INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION
CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES	INTELLIGENT CONTENT & COMMUNICATION
DIGITAL HUMANITIES	MATHEMATICS OF COMPLEXITY
GENES & SOCIETY	NANOSCIENCE
IDENTITIES IN TRANSFORMATION	NEUROSCIENCE
IMMUNOLOGY, INFLAMMATION & INFECTION	NEXT GENERATION MEDICAL DEVICES
	SMART & SUSTAINABLE CITIES
	SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Ireland's first purpose-built nanoscience research institute, CRANN, houses 150 scientists, technicians and graduate students in specialised laboratory facilities. Meanwhile, the state-of-the-art Biomedical Sciences Institute is carrying out breakthrough research in areas such has immunology, cancer and medical devices.

The Old Library, which houses the Long Room, in Trinity is the largest research library in Ireland, with a collection of six million printed items, 500,000 maps, 80,000 electronic journals, and 350,000 electronic

books. Some of the world's most famous scholars are graduates of Trinity, including writer Jonathan Swift, dramatist Oscar Wilde, philosopher George Berkeley, and political philosopher, and political theorist Edmund Burke. Three Trinity graduates have become Presidents of Ireland - Douglas Hyde, Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese.

Trinity is the highest ranked university in Ireland, and among the world's leading higher education institutions.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity College Dublin is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to the employment 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.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

Application Procedure

Please apply via email to daviesa@tcd.ie, including: Full CV with contact details of 2 referees and academic results, and a cover letter outlining research experience to date and suitability for the position (max. 1000 words)

There will be an interview process the week beginning November 23rd 2016, and the successful candidate will be appointed on January 11th 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter

General enquires concerning this post can be addressed to daviesa@tcd.ie

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER