



BIRR CASTLE
DEMESNE

1620 – 2020 | CELEBRATING 400 YEARS

Call for applications – Educational Project Manager, The Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation

ROLE: Project Manager, Wild Connection Project, The Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation

CONTRACT: 2 Year Fixed Term

LOCATION: Birr Castle Demesne

CLOSING DATE: 10th January 2022

SALARY: €30,000 - €34,000 per annum (depending on experience)

TO APPLY: Please forward a copy of your CV and a cover letter outlining your interest, competency, and desire to be considered for the position to career@birrcastle.com

The Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation is seeking applications from suitable candidates to fill the post of a Project Manager for the SFI funded Wild Connection project. This is a full time 2-year fixed term contract. This position will be filled by open competitive interview. Following completion of the competition a panel will be established. The panel will be in place for 12 months from date of establishment.

Job Title

Project Manager, Wild Connection, The Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation, Birr Castle Demesne (BCD).

Location

The post-holder will be based in Birr Castle Demesne, Birr, Co. Offaly, Ireland. The post holder will be expected to work both onsite and remotely considering the current epidemic and Public Health advice.

Hours of Attendance

The working week is Monday to Friday, however occasional evening or weekend work is an essential part of the terms and conditions of employment of this position. Any extra hours worked are repaid as time in lieu.

Reporting to

The post-holder will report to the General Manager, BCD.

Responsibilities of the Post

The post holder's role is to work with the General Manager and the supporting board of the Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation, in addition to the wider BCD Team. The role centres on the design, development, delivery, and evaluation of the SFI funded Wild Connection project.

About Birr Castle Demesne and the Wild Connections Project

BCD has a mission "to preserve and to protect, to educate and to inspire" and has an extraordinarily rich natural heritage on site that will be explored and studied through Wild Connections. We will embark on a quest to educate and connect students, teachers, and members of the public to the outstanding Irish biodiversity within the region encouraging a deeper knowledge, appreciation and connection to our natural landscape and native flora and fauna.

This will be achieved through the following initiatives:

- **Wild Connections for Schools:** Opportunities for students and teachers to engage in curriculum aligned programmes to study the ecology of Birr Castle Demesne with blended learning, field work, sessions in science-inspired creativity and specially designed resources both separately and linked to livestream observations from the purposefully installed wildlife cameras.
- **Wild Connections for All:** Opportunities for members of the public to explore our Interactive Biodiversity Discovery Zones and engage with experts in conservation through webinars, workshops and field research encouraging confidence and enthusiasm for citizen science initiatives and conversation on environmental science.
- **Wild Connections for Wellness:** A safe space project for restoration in nature and formal engagement in biodiversity themed activities and studies, for vulnerable and less-inclusive members of our community.

Wild Connections is the first step in a long-term initiative that aims to communicate the scientific and social value of our native species and habitats, opening conversations on a regional and national scale.

Job Description of the Project Manager for Birr Castle Demesne and Wild Connection.

The Project Manager of Wild Connections will be responsible for the planning and delivery of all aspects of our education program in line with approved funding initially, and then develop the role into building and developing the educational offering at BCD into the future. They will be integral in the development of our educational story and mission and help realise the educational strategy of the business.

The project manager will be confident in public speaking, have passion for environmental science, and a keen desire to provide excellent customer service as well as strong administration skills.

Key Responsibilities

- Communication with groups of all levels on the subjects of biodiversity and environmental science.
- Develop, co-ordinate and deliver the successful biodiversity program in line with SFI fund guidelines.
- To assist in the recruitment of schools and co-ordinate bookings from groups for the Wild Connections programme.
- To help develop and deliver CPD training to primary school teachers (pre-STEM week teacher workshops in line with SFI brief/direction).
- To develop and co-ordinate public workshops associated with STEM and the funded program.
- Maintain and update the BCD web site on all subjects associated with the role.
- To promote all educational workshops and events via suitable channels.
- Attend off-site events in association with the role, as required.
- To work closely with bodies such as Science Foundation Ireland, Discovery Centres, I-LOFAR team, partner universities/colleges, Midlands Science, Blackrock Observatory, and other educational bodies within a 50-km radius, and all other associated bodies relating to their remit.
- To have an excellent understanding and knowledge of all the sciences associated with BCD.
- To give guided tours based on the science and history of BCD.
- To measure, monitor and report on the impact of the activities and adjust accordingly.
- To have the ability to think in a strategic manner and run operations for your department on the ground.
- Manage budgets both income and outgoings in line with allocated/targeted funds.

Personal Specification

Essential

- A third level qualification in one or more of the following areas: education and learning, education, science, biological sciences, or environmental sciences.
Alternatively, at least five years' experience of outdoor education and audience-centred programming.
- Experience of developing programmes, projects and learning resources, with and for schools, third-level students, families, adults, diverse communities, and other audiences.
- Ability to work with a wide range of stakeholders including schools, education centres, local authorities, and other agencies.



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- Excellent project management, administrative, co-ordination and organisational skills.
- Excellent interpersonal communication and team-based skills and the ability to work on their own initiative.
- Effective communication skills including writing, editing and presentation.
- Excellent IT skills – a good working knowledge of software packages such as Word, Excel, and Access, and using IT to develop and deliver online events and resources, and to communicate with the public.
- Proven ability to prioritise and plan effectively to work to deadlines and maintain focus under pressure.
- Ability to be flexible in a busy working environment.
- Garda vetting will be required for this role.

Desirable

- Familiarity with the SFI and their funding.
- A minimum of two years professional experience working in one or more of the following areas: Teaching, Science Communication, Outdoor Education, Public Cultural Programming, etc.
- Knowledge of the cultural, STEM and outdoor education sector in Ireland.
- Experience of working in either of the Irish Education system, the Irish Forest School system, or the Irish Biodiversity education sector.
- A knowledge of The Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation and BCD.
- Access to own transport with a clean driving licence.

Selection Process

In the event that the number of applications received significantly exceeds that required to fill existing and anticipated future vacancies over the lifetime of the panel, the BCD may implement a shortlisting process to select a number of candidates to be invited to interview based on the information contained in their application. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable, or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that, on this occasion, there are some candidates who are, on the basis of the information provided, better qualified, and /or have more relevant experience.

Birr Castle Demesne does not reimburse the cost of travel to interview.



To Apply:

Please forward a copy of your CV and a cover letter outlining your interest, competency, and desire to be considered for the position, to: career@birrcastle.com

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 5pm on 10th January 2022

The Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation
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