# Post Description

We are seeking a postgraduate student to undertake a 12 month research MSc at UCD to investigate and address critical skills shortages and capacity issues in the Irish professional ecology sector.

With the rising demand for ecologists, largely driven by increased awareness of the biodiversity crisis and new government policies like Nature Restoration and Biodiversity Enhancement, the sector is struggling to fill both senior and entry-level roles. Employers have been highlighting the lack of practical, hands-on experience among graduates, which is making recruitment challenging.

You will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to gather insights and develop a research report that will quantify demand for ecological skills, identify specific gaps, and propose actionable recommendations to address these challenges. You will also produce presentation materials to help communicate these findings.

The project is funded by [BioSense, an Irish Sustainability Start Up,](https://biosense.ie/) and you will also have the opportunity to complete paid work for Biosense depending on the company's needs. This work will provide you with experience in ecological data science, fieldwork, and reporting.

You will be supervised by Dr Adam Kane (School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin) and based in UCD. If you have any queries about the project you are welcome to email [adam.kane@ucd.ie](mailto:adam.kane@ucd.ie)

# Further reading

[CIEEM-Partner-Proposal-Capacity-Project-Ireland.pdf](https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CIEEM-Partner-Proposal-Capacity-Project-Ireland.pdf)

# Skills Essential:

You should have a strong BSc degree (at least a 2.1 or equivalent) in a relevant field (zoology, ecology, sustainability etc.). Applicants from humanities backgrounds are welcome but you will need to provide evidence of your expertise in biology. You will need to have an excellent command of the English language. Experience working with qualitative and quantitative data.

## Desirable:

Experience with survey design / interviews/ focus groups  
Knowledge of ecology degree programs in Ireland

Understanding of ecological consultancies in Ireland

Experience working with R

# How to apply?

To apply: please send your cover letter (max 2 pages) describing your interest in the project, your CV and the contact details of two referees to [adam.kane@ucd.ie](mailto:adam.kane@ucd.ie)

Closing date: 18th November 2024 @17:00 local time

Start date: January 2025

# Funding Notes:

Student fees for a 1 year research MSc and a consumables/ training/conference travel budget is also included.