



Earth Institute Journalist in Residence 2026

Call details

Background

[The Earth Institute](#) is UCD's institute for environmental, climate and sustainability research. The Institute comprises a community of over 400 members in UCD across all career stages drawn from across the University's six constituent Colleges, and seeks to promote interdisciplinary activity across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, engineering and architecture. Areas of expertise include biodiversity, climate, ecosystems, water, the built environment and sustainable communities. Based in University College Dublin's Belfield campus, UCD Earth Institute fosters multi- and interdisciplinary research and works with stakeholders to address global, regional and national environmental challenges.

About the residency

The goals of the residency are

- to strengthen the communication between journalists and researchers in UCD Earth Institute and across UCD more broadly
- to offer journalists the opportunity to learn more about the Institute's [strategic projects](#), [research themes](#), and [members' research areas](#) with a particular focus on interdisciplinary research;
- to encourage Earth Institute members and UCD researchers to think and learn more about public communication of their research;
- to support high-quality journalism around environmental, climate and sustainability research.

The residency will allow one or more journalists to spend a **full-time equivalent of one month** at UCD which can be distributed across either the year during the January to May academic trimester and the September to December trimester. The role is being offered to journalists, staff or freelance, active in any media format: print, radio, television, blog, podcast etc.

We welcome applications from freelance and employed journalists with **at least two years of experience** working in one or more media (print, online, radio, television, podcast etc) who currently report on or are interested in developing their work around **environmental and sustainability issues, climate change, science or technology in Ireland**. This can include societal, economic, cultural and other perspectives, i.e. it is not limited to science journalism.

The journalist-in-residence will connect with the research and teaching communities at UCD, engaging with UCD Earth Institute members and strategic projects and UCD research groups, laboratories, and/or strategic projects working in climate, environmental and sustainability research, broadly defined. Journalists will be free to define their own research interests within this context and will retain full editorial independence.

As part of the application, we encourage journalists to propose research areas they would like to pursue, but in the spirit of curiosity driven research we also hope that throughout the



residency there will be opportunities to engage more incidentally with Institute researchers working on a variety of topics. The plan requested in the application form can be revised and adapted as the residency progresses.

We hope that journalist in residence relationships with UCD Earth Institute will continue beyond the residency and generate a network of past residents as the residency scheme matures.

The fellowship will allow a journalist or journalists to spend a **full-time equivalent of one month** at UCD. Resident journalists are free to pursue their own research interests in the context of UCD Earth Institute and encouraged to exchange ideas with researchers and staff.

The residency provides:

- A €3,000 gross payment for a one-month residency (full-time equivalent)
- Desk space and access to UCD's library, events and other university resources
- Connections with an interdisciplinary research network including UCD Earth Institute members, research groups, and strategic research projects
- Access to UCD communications including UCD Research communications staff

Please note: UCD cannot provide accommodation or assistance with finding accommodation.

Residency structure

- Journalists will be invited to UCD for a welcome day shortly after the UCD residencies are announced and given an introduction to the programme and to UCD
- After this day, the structure of the residency is open and could include flexible working arrangements, e.g. one day a week or two two-week residencies etc, as well as hybrid (in person and virtual) elements, subject to professional and/or caring responsibilities outside of the residency.
- Hybrid working may be possible after initial introductions and connections are made but successful applicants are encouraged to spend a significant amount of their residency immersed in UCD campus life and engaged with UCD staff, researchers and research groups or projects.

During the residency, journalists are expected to:

- Deliver a 10-15 minute introductory talk for the UCD Earth Institute community around time of starting
- Engage in the life of the UCD Earth Institute and UCD by attending events and activities, be available to meet interested researchers, in particular at institute coffee mornings, theme meetings and other research events
- Be proactive in making connections with UCD researchers beyond formal introductions to relevant researchers, research groups, research themes and/or strategic projects
- Organise or participate in other events for UCD Earth Institute researchers possibly including mentorship and training workshops
- Engage with UCD communications including UCD Research communications



Evaluation

The UCD Earth Institute journalist-in-residence fellowship panel will base its decision on the following criteria:

- Experience, skills and suitability of applicant
- Engagement and reach
- Residency plans
- Samples of work provided

Successful applications will be chosen by the UCD Earth Institute journalist-in-residence steering group which includes Earth Institute staff, members and executive members, UCD communications staff, and external journalist representatives.

How to apply

Fill in the Application Form ([available here](#)) and send to earth.institute@ucd.ie by the deadline of **Monday 8 December 2025 at 5pm** (Irish Standard Time). Please also include samples of work (maximum file size 10Mb) either as attachments to the application email or links, as detailed on the application form.

A confirmation email of the receipt of application will be sent within 48 hours of the deadline (working hours).

Interviews are expected to take place in mid January 2026.

Email earth.institute@ucd.ie if you have any further questions.

Terms and conditions

- Applicants may only submit one journalist/t residence application per call
- The proposed media project/s must be new, i.e. must not have been previously broadcast or published in any format
- **The primary audience of all media must be in the Republic of Ireland**
- Applicants who are already in receipt of funding from UCD or who are in full-time paid employment by UCD are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must have the right to live and work in the EU

For successful applicants:

- Copyright of the final product(s) will remain with the applicant. However, materials produced must be made available – free of charge – for potential future use by the UCD Earth Institute and/or UCD including on UCD websites and social media accounts. The UCD Earth Institute and/or UCD will at all times acknowledge copyright.
- The gross payment of €3000 will be processed through UCD payroll with PRSI and tax deducted at source. UCD will not provide pension contributions.

Acknowledgement: The successful applicant will acknowledge the UCD Earth Institute journalist in residence scheme supports by including, where possible, “This article was supported by the UCD Earth Institute as part of its journalist-in-residence scheme” or their title



as journalist-in-residence at UCD Earth Institute at end of the article, an acknowledgement by programme presenter at end of the broadcast or programme credits or as a strap line during the broadcast or on website.

Diversity and inclusion: UCD is committed to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated, and everyone is afforded equality of opportunity regardless of gender, age, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, civil status, family status, or membership of the travelling community. We welcome applications from everyone, including those who identify with any of the protected characteristics that are set out in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy. The University adheres to a range of equality, diversity and inclusion policies. Applicants are encouraged to consult UCD's [policies](#) and explore UCD's [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#) which sets out the University's objectives aligned to UCD's ten equality grounds.