

## Teagasc Job Specification

### Contract Research Technician – Analytical Chemistry (3 Posts) (Ref: RT/TS/JC/1218) (Externally Funded Non Grant-in-Aid)

<b>Post Type:</b>	Temporary Externally Funded Non Grant-in-Aid contract post, the indicative duration of which is <b>24</b> months, subject to contract.  A panel may be formed from which future similar vacancies may be filled; such a panel will remain active for a maximum period of 12 months.
<b>Title of Project:</b>	Terra Soil
<b>Location:</b>	Teagasc, Crops Environment & Land-Use Research Centre, Johnstown Castle, Wexford.
<b>Reporting To:</b>	Project Leader and/or other nominated manager as maybe identified from time to time.
<b>Grade/Salary:</b>	Technician Grade 1, with a starting salary of €28,787 per annum. The current salary scale is €28,787 to €39,145.  Starting pay will be at the minimum of the scale per Government Circular E100/8/82. Exceptional circumstances may apply for candidates with current or previous service in the public sector (including Teagasc).  Remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government Policy.
<b>Basic Function:</b>	The Research Technician will provide laboratory support for the analytical tasks on Terra Soil and will be primarily responsible for the chemical analysis of soil samples.
<b>Background:</b>	Teagasc and Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) have begun a new and exciting collaborative research project called Terra Soil. Terra Soil is the first research collaboration between Teagasc and GSI that brings together long standing traditions of soils, agronomy, geology and geochemical expertise of both organisations. To do this, the project is tasked with analysing some 10,000 soil samples, which have been collected as part of the Tellus Programme, for available nutrients, metals and trace elements. The project will also use FTIR spectroscopy to build a spectral library of Tellus soils to predict particle size. As part of Geological Survey Ireland's Tellus Programme, Terra Soil is the first Smart Agriculture research output from Tellus Product Development, which aims to unlock the potential of Tellus data to provide value-added, user-focused outputs for the benefit of the economy and society.  Teagasc is now seeking to appoint a team of 3 highly qualified and enthusiastic laboratory technicians to support the Terra Soil research programme. The positions will be based in Teagasc Environment, Soils and Land-use Department in Johnstown Castle, Wexford. Teagasc - Johnstown Castle is Ireland's leading research institute on soils and environment related research, and conducts both fundamental and applied research on a wide range of subjects, e.g. soil quality, nutrient efficiency, water quality, gaseous emissions, agro-ecology, and land use. Johnstown Castle has many different laboratory, greenhouse and field facilities to support research as well as 190 hectares of farmland.

### Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Analyse soil samples using extracting reagents.
- Perform spectroscopic analysis using ICP-OES and FTIR.
- Perform particle size analysis of soils.

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- Collect and handle samples from GSI into Teagasc.
- Lead the administration, workflow, quality control and cataloguing of samples.
- Contribute to the management of samples, equipment and consumables.
- Contribute to troubleshooting to optimise existing protocols/develop new protocols.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities are operating at the highest level of efficiency.
- Undertake quality control of laboratory analyses and ensure good data management.
- Health & Safety Co-ordinator duties or such other Health & Safety duties as may be assigned from time to time.
- Assist Teagasc in meeting the commitments of the Quality Customer Service charter and action plan.
- Actively participate in the annual business planning and Performance Management Development System (PMDS) processes.
- Fully co-operate with the provisions made for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of themselves, fellow staff and non-Teagasc staff and co-operate with management in enabling Teagasc to comply with legal obligations. This includes full compliance with the responsibilities outlined in the Safety Statement.
- Any other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

*\* This job specification is intended as a guide to the general range of duties and is intended to be neither definitive nor restrictive. It will be reviewed from time to time with the post holder.*

### Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates must have a Level 6 qualification in analytical chemistry, chemistry, applied biology, environmental science or a related discipline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Level 7 qualification in analytical chemistry would be a distinct advantage.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic laboratory skills.</li> <li>• Experience in the use of analytical instrumentation.</li> <li>• Familiarity with Microsoft office products.</li> <li>• Database handling and management and computer skills.</li> <li>• People and resource management skills.</li> <li>• Data handling and computer skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience in spectroscopic methods and/or chemical extraction of soils.</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarity with analytical techniques.</li> <li>• Laboratory assurance and quality control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarity with current methods of soil analysis</li> <li>• Familiarity with FTIR, ICP-OES.</li> </ul>
<b>Behavioural Competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to work as part of a team, including consulting, collaborating and building relationships with key partners.</li> <li>• Ability to problem solve and demonstrates a high level of attention to detail.</li> <li>• Demonstrates positive approach to new challenges and dissemination of new tasks.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates must satisfy and continue to satisfy during employment with Teagasc, legal requirements to drive unaccompanied on Irish public roads.</li> </ul>	
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an open public competition. Should a current serving Teagasc staff member be successful in their application through open public competition for this post, their current contract of employment with Teagasc will come to an end on taking up this post.</li> </ul>	

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Note: The 'essential' qualifications, knowledge, skills and behavioural competencies outlined above are 'must-have' which will be used in the selection process.

### How to Apply

An application form for this position can be accessed on the Teagasc Website at [www.teagasc.ie/careers](http://www.teagasc.ie/careers)

Completed application forms should be TYPED, saved in PDF format and submitted by email to [teagascjobs@clark.ie](mailto:teagascjobs@clark.ie) no later than **12 noon on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

Please state relevant reference code in all correspondence.

Teagasc is an equal opportunities employer. Canvassing will disqualify.