

TITLE OF POST: Teaching Assistant in Biological Sciences - Food Science

LOCATION: University of Limerick

REPORTS TO: Head of Department

CONTRACT TYPE: 10 Month Fixed Term

SALARY SCALE: €38,890 p.a. pro rata

"A Teaching Assistant post in the University of Limerick operates as a training contract. The duration of the contract is limited to 10 months. However, it may be renewed for one further period only not exceeding 10 months. Applications will only be considered from individuals who have not already received two Teaching Assistant contracts."

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB SYNOPSIS:

The Department of Biological Sciences is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Teaching Assistant to support its BSc and MSc taught programmes. The successful candidate will assist in the delivery and assessment of laboratory-based and computer-based practicals. They will also give tutorials, support end of term assessments and contribute to the overall educational experience for our students. The appointee will also participate in Departmental outreach activities in support of its academic programmes. Other relevant duties, commensurate with the grade of the post, may also be assigned by the Head of the Department.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A BSc in Biological Sciences or related discipline, level 8NFQ, Honours Level (2.2. or above) Final year students graduating in summer 2026 are also eligible.

OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

The Department of Biological Sciences is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Teaching Assistant to support its BSc and MSc taught programmes. The successful candidate will assist in the delivery and assessment of laboratory-based and computer-based practicals. They will also give tutorials, support end of term assessments and contribute to the overall educational experience for our students. The appointee will also participate in Departmental outreach activities in support of its academic programmes. Other relevant duties, commensurate with the grade of the post, may also be assigned by the Head of the Department.

The Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Limerick (UL) is widely regarded as one of Europe's leading centres for biological research and education. Nestled along the scenic banks of the River Shannon, the Department had built a reputation for excellence in research, innovative teaching, and community engagement.

The Department is home to cutting-edge biomolecular, cellular and bioanalytical facilities funded through university investment and international grants. These have served as a nexus for research in areas such as cell and molecular biology, food science and health, biotechnology and equine science. The Department comprises 32 academics supported by 10 technical staff and 4 administrators. It has over 40 PhD students and 20 postdoctoral scientists across various disciplines such as cell biology, protein chemistry, cancer research, neurobiology, infection and immunity, environmental biology, reproductive biology, equine science, food science, food microbiology, and microbial ecology.

Over the last two academic years alone, Department of Biological Sciences academics have secured over €8 million in competitive research funding from sources alone including Horizon Europe (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships and Doctoral Networks), Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund, Science Foundation Ireland, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Irish Research Council, Enterprise Ireland, Health Research Board, Industry and others. This has been matched by a correspondingly high level of top-decile research publications as well as book chapters, patents, invention disclosures, etc., over the same period, and indeed, the Department is home to several of the most highly cited researchers in their field.

In addition to its research activities, the Department of Biological Sciences offers undergraduate programmes in Food Science and Health, Bioscience, and Equine Science. It also significantly contributes to programmes such as BSc Biological Sciences (Education), BSc Environmental Science, BSc Industrial Biochemistry, and BSc Nursing and Midwifery. It also offers two MSc programmes: an MSc in Biomolecular Science and an MSc in Functional Foods and Product Development. It also contributes to the MSc in Nutrition and Dietetics (a joint programme with the School of Allied Health). Since 2015, the Department has proudly held a Bronze Athena Swan award in recognition of its commitment to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion in higher education.

DESCRIPTION:

Key Responsibilities

- Assist professors with the preparation and delivery of labs and tutorials.
- Grade assignments, exams, and lab reports.
- Provide group tutoring sessions to students.
- Maintain accurate records of student performance and attendance.
- Assist in the development of course materials and resources.
- Participate in departmental meetings and training sessions.
- Support research projects at the BSc and taught MSc levels.
- Support outreach programmes and other Departmental initiatives.

Essential Criteria:

- A BSc in Biological Sciences or related discipline, level 8NFQ, Honours Level (2.2. or above) qualification. Final year students (expected to graduate in summer 2026) are welcome to apply.
- Relevant teaching experience in a biology related topic.

Desirable Criteria:

- MSc in Biological Sciences/Food Science or related discipline.
- Postgraduate research experience.
- Third level teaching experience.

- Proficient in laboratory techniques relating to spectrophotometry, microscopy, food chemistry and basic analytical techniques.

The successful candidates will report to the Head of Department and will assist in the delivery of laboratory-based practicals and coordinate tutorial supports and contribute to the overall educational experience for our students. They may also be requested to participate in Departmental outreach activities in support of its academic programmes. They will undertake other duties commensurate with the grade of the post as may be assigned by the Head of the Department.

Further Information for Candidates:

Are you currently legally entitled to work and reside in Ireland?

If you are not currently an EEA Citizen and have stated, you are currently legally entitled to work and reside in Ireland. You MUST upload a copy of your current Visa and Work permit in the attachments section application form, or your application will not be processed.

Please note your current work authorisation status must allow you to fulfil the terms of the contract on offer.

Pension Abatement

If an appointee has previously been employed in the Civil or Public Service and that appointee is entitled to or in receipt of a pension from the Civil or Public Service or where a Civil/Public Service pension comes into payment during the appointee's re-employment that pension will be subject to abatement in accordance with Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012.

Please note: In applying for this position you are acknowledging that you understand that the abatement provisions, where relevant, will apply. It is not envisaged that the employing Department/Office/Body will support an application for an abatement waiver in respect of appointments to this position.

Recruitment Procedures used at the University of Limerick (UL)

The University of Limerick uses a three-stage recruitment procedure: screening, shortlisting and interview.

Screening: Initially applications for an advertised position are screened to determine if applicants have met the 'Essential Criteria' as outlined in the advertised job description. Only candidates who meet the 'Essential Criteria' will progress beyond this stage.

Shortlisting: Depending on the number of applications remaining, it may not be possible to interview every candidate who has passed the screening process. Therefore, at this stage the Selection Board for this position may review the applications which have passed screening and will select a final shortlist of candidates who in their view were most closely aligned to the post as advertised.

Interview: Once a shortlist has been finalised, all applicants will be notified of the status of their application. The final shortlist of candidates will then be invited to interview. We aim to provide at least two weeks' notice to all candidates. The interview process may take the format of a standard interview and will include a presentation –you will be provided with details of this in your invitation to interview letter. Candidates may interview in person or also via video link – Microsoft Teams.

Benefits at the University of Limerick

Employees of the University of Limerick receive a variety of benefits including:

- Supported professional development under the [Researcher Development Programme](#) and [Staff Training Programmes](#).
- Membership of the Public Sector [Single Public Service Pension Scheme](#).
- Membership of the [Income Continuance Plan](#)
- The opportunity to join the University's [Additional Life Cover](#) plan.
- Coverage in the UL [Sick Leave Scheme](#) (available under "S" on the HR A-Z)
- Flexible working practices such as the [Shorter Working Year Scheme](#).
- Preferential rates for [health insurance](#).

- Employee wellness is a priority and a number of initiatives take place each year for the benefit of UL employees, see more at [Be Well at UL](#).
- Preferential rates for access to the [UL Arena](#) swimming pool and fitness centre.

Equal opportunities at the University of Limerick

The University of Limerick holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our commitment to advancing equality in higher education. The University of Limerick is an equal opportunities employer, is committed to selection on merit, welcoming applicants from all sections of the community. UL is committed to developing and maintaining a positive working environment, in which all employees are treated with dignity & respect. In pursuit of this, it is the policy of the University to provide all employees with an environment, which is free from bullying, harassment or victimisation of any form. You can read more about UL's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion [here](#).

Additional Links:

Link to the University of Limerick's Strategic Plan	UL@50 - UL Strategic Plan 2019-2024
Join the Team in UL	Join the team in UL University of Limerick
Link to website for new staff	New To UL - Staff Roadmap

Qualifications: Please take note of the essential qualifications for this position as listed in the job description, if you are successful in being offered this position, the offer will be made pending the Chair of the selection committee, verifying your qualifications. Therefore, after the interview you will be required to forward your transcripts to the Chair by email. No contract of employment will be issued until all required documentation is received.