



College Management Unit:	UCD College of Engineering & Architecture
School Unit:	UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy
Post Title & Subject Area (if relevant)	UCD Post-doctoral Research Fellow Level 1
Project:	Building Stories (formerly Vacancy Map Ireland: Development of a geospatial data model for vacancy using proxy datasets, GIS and AI)
Post Duration:	Est. 10 months to end November 2025 (followed by possible extension to end November 2027) (Full Time or Part Time)
Line Manager	Dr Philip Crowe
Competition Ref. N^o	017991
HR Administrator	Julie Breen

Position Summary:

A 10-month post for a Postdoc Level 1 is available in the UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, as part of the UCD centre for Irish Towns (CfIT), for the Building Stories project (formerly known as Vacancy Map Ireland).

This project started in June 2023 and has recently been awarded further funding in the ‘Grow Phase’ of the National Challenge Fund (Our Tech Challenge stream) funded by Research Ireland.

Project summary:

Addressing Ireland’s high vacancy rates is a core pathway of the Government’s Housing for All policy and critical to meeting carbon emissions reduction targets. Numerous incentives have been introduced but implementation is based on incomplete and fragmented data. The scale, distribution and nature of vacancy are not understood, despite this being an objective of government policy since 2002 (most recently in the Vacant Homes Action Plan 2023-2026) and a requirement of Ireland’s Strategic Environmental Assessment for the European Commission.

The Building Stories project is developing a comprehensive, dynamic geospatial data model on the built environment at the granular scale of individual buildings or sites in Ireland. The aim is to provide a management tool for the adaptive capacity of the built environment that can help address societal challenges such as the housing crisis, decarbonisation of the built environment, and the revitalisation of urban areas in towns and cities. The focus of the current phase is achieving output datasets for vacancy and developing a robust data governance framework and a tiered access model.

Related outputs include demonstration workshops with key user groups; interviews, workshops and training with key data owners; data verification workshops with communities in pilot locations; co-design workshops for interface and model tools; a sustainable business model; academic papers/posters; dissemination events; reporting to Research Ireland.

Description of the role:

This is an academic research role, where you will conduct a specified programme of research supported by research training and development under the supervision and direction of a Principal Investigator.

The primary purpose of the role is to further develop your research skills and competences, including the processes of publication in peer-reviewed academic publications, the development of funding proposals, the mentorship of graduate students along with the opportunity to develop your skills in research led teaching.

The post will suit candidates with an interest in the planning, design and management of the built environment, particularly in relation to building condition, vacancy and dereliction, decarbonisation, and urban revitalisation. The successful applicant will join a small team focused on urban planning, architectural and social science aspects of the project. Additional teams on the project are focused on data science and data governance.

In addition to the Principal Duties and Responsibilities listed below, the successful candidate will also carry out the following duties specific to this project:

A diverse range of tasks related to research, project coordination and administration (including reporting to funders and management of advisory panels), communications, dissemination, stakeholder engagement (including workshop management and facilitation), inter alia.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct a specified programme of research and scholarship under the supervision and direction of your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities as required by your Principal Investigator, your School or Institute, or the University.
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which you are engaged as directed by and with the support of and under the supervision of your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of your research group, School and Institute.
- Mentor and assist, as appropriate and as directed, the research graduate students in your School and Institute.
- Carry out administrative work associated with your programme of research.

Particular to this position:

The post will initially be until the end of November 2025, but there is potential for a further 24 months dependent on success in gaining entry to a future phase of the funding call. The successful candidate would ideally start in February 2025.

Please note the minimum salary requirement for a Hosting agreement (Employment permit) is €23,181 per annum which might not be met with a part-time post.

Salary Range: €44,847 - €51,313 Per Annum

Appointment on the above range will be dependent on qualifications and experience

Details on eligibility to compete and pension information is available at

<https://www.ucd.ie/hr/resourcing/eligibilitytocompete/>

UCD is committed to creating an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated, and everyone is afforded equality of opportunity. 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. Learn more about Diversity at <https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/>

Reasonable accommodations will be provided to any applicant during the interview process who discloses they have a disability or are neurodiverse.

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post. Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Mandatory:

- PhD in a subject that relates to relevant areas such as land/property management, urban economics, citizen participation, architecture, urban planning, geography, GIS, geomatics, smart cities, urban resilience, sustainability, urban heritage, data science or governance etc.
- A demonstrated commitment to research and publications.
- An understanding of the operational requirements for a successful research project.
- Evidence of research activity (publications, conference presentations, awards) and future scholarly output (working papers, research proposals, and experience of writing a funding application).
- Excellent Communication Skills (Oral, Written, Presentation etc).
- Excellent Organisational and Administrative skills including a proven ability to work to deadlines.
- Candidates must demonstrate an awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion agenda.

The PD1 position is intended for early stage researchers, either just after completion of a PhD or for someone entering a new area for the first time. If you have already completed your PD1 stage in UCD or will soon complete a PD1, or you are an external applicant whose total Postdoctoral experience, inclusive of the duration of the advertised post, would exceed 4 years, you should not apply and should refer to PD2 posts instead.

Desirable:

- Experience (research and/or practice) in areas such as land/property management, urban economics, citizen participation, architecture, urban planning, geography, GIS, geomatics, smart cities, urban resilience, sustainability, urban heritage, data science or governance etc.
- Experience with communications protocols, websites, social media etc.
- Experience in workshop design and facilitation.
- Experience in event management and coordination.
- Experience in stakeholder management and network building.
- Experience with monitoring and evaluation of projects and associated reporting.
- Experience working with diverse community groups.
- Experience working in a Local Authority or university setting.
- Experience and/or interest in relevant issues such as vacancy, dereliction, land/property management, urban revitalisation, GIS, data management and protection, social justice, climate adaptation, housing, heritage, and towns in Ireland etc.

- Demonstrated understanding of the value of academic and commercial information e.g. non-disclosure agreements.
- Knowledge of IP processes and how to protect findings.
- Experience in setting your own research agenda.

Supplementary information:

The University:	https://www.ucd.ie/
UCD Strategy 2020-2024: Rising to the Future	https://strategy.ucd.ie/
The College/Management Unit:	https://www.ucd.ie/eacollege/
The School/Programme Office/Unit:	https://www.ucd.ie/apep/
Equality Diversity and Inclusion at UCD	https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/
Other (Please specify):	https://www.sfi.ie/challenges/ourtech-challenge/team-vmi/

UCD offers a comprehensive **Research Careers Framework** in line with the Advisory Science Council Report '*Towards a Framework for Researcher Careers*'. This model provides a structured and supportive **Career and Skills Development** system designed to ensure that Post-docs in UCD are able to plan their careers and prepare for future opportunities in academia, industry or the public sector. For more information, please [click here](#)

Informal Enquiries ONLY to:

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