

## **Historian in Residence Scheme Criteria 2025**

### **Wexford County Council**

Wexford County Council seeks applications for a Historian in Residence to support the Wexford County Council Commemoration programme. The Residency is supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport fund to support commemoration 2025.

This residency is a Contract for Service and the Historian in Residence will be required to provide 168 hours over a 3-4 month period (preferably 14 hours per week for 12 weeks or 12 hours per week for 14 weeks) commencing August/September 2025. Hours of work and time-frame can be discussed once role has been allocated.

### **Commemorative Programme for County Wexford:**

This residency will support community-led commemorative initiatives to mark the centenaries of locally significant historical events in 1925, and other notable anniversaries of key events in the early years of the State, as well as other significant anniversaries and associated themes. Suggested themes can be found at Appendix A. Additional details available by phone: 053-9196566 or e-mail: [libraryhq@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:libraryhq@wexfordcoco.ie)

### **Funding:**

The available funding is €5,000 inclusive of all expenses incurred. The fee includes time spent on development, research, writing, preparation of public events, attendance at meetings, reporting and administration. The fee will be paid in two instalments. Applicants must be Tax Compliant and provide a Tax Clearance Access Number (TCAN) and Tax Reference Number and hold their own insurance cover.

### **Brief: Historian in Residence**

There will be an expectation of regular contracted hours and regular public facing hours, totalling an average of 12-14 hrs per week. This includes the possibility of evening, daytime and weekend working, as may be needed to suit programming requirements. It also includes time spent on development, research, writing, preparation of public events, attendance at meetings, reporting and administration.

The Historian in Residence will deliver a programme of regular public talks/workshops/events to a diverse audience and will include innovative ways to encourage an interest in history, to spark reflection and understanding of key historical events in a local context.

All publications, reports, digital content and other outputs generated as part of the project will be the property of Wexford County Council, which will own copyright in such publications, reports, digital content and other outputs generated.

All programmes will be delivered with the co-operation and goodwill of the community at large and may involve outreach projects in libraries and communities across County Wexford. The Historian in Residence will demonstrate an ability to deliver and co-ordinate outreach events within the library and throughout the broader community, to facilitate an inclusive Residency Programme.

Successful applicants must be available to be in person in Wexford while working on the residency (c. three days per week). The schedule for the contracted hours and programme of work will be agreed with the successful applicant.

The Historian in Residence should have a proven track record in historical research and in engaging with a diverse audience. Evidence of a publishing output is desirable. A knowledge of the history of County Wexford within the period 1923 -1930 is essential.

The applicant should be familiar with the relevant local and national sources for the period. History topics and research covered in the project will generally focus on events within the relevant years. Utilising and promoting the collections of the Wexford Library Local History and Archive services will be a key component of the project. The intention is to create a legacy of research and/or cultural material for future generations.

The delivery of the programme should be inclusive, appropriate and sensitive, to take account of all aspects of life in County Wexford in the period 1923 -1930. The guidance of the Expert Advisory Group for the Decade of Centenaries that *'...local stories and experience will be very significant. Local research, scholarship and access to authentic local archival sources will support communities in exploring and reflecting upon these events...'* is still appropriate.

Examples of work under the scope of the project (but not confined to these) include research, outreach, communication, and liaison with community groups. All activities, outreach projects, etc. must conform to Wexford County Council policies and guidelines. The programme will take due consideration of the Irish language.

The candidate will be responsible for working with and under the direction of designated Wexford Library staff (Senior Executive Librarian, the Local Studies Librarian and Archivist) to:

- identify themes, events and notable figures
- co-ordinate research work and timelines
- arrange suitable and relevant events to promote the Commemorative Programme
- to promote interest and engagement in history among a non-academic audience

## Essential Criteria

The applicant must:

- Hold a qualification in history or a related discipline **or** have a demonstrable track record in published historical research and engagement.
- Demonstrate a good knowledge of primary sources relating to modern Irish history and particularly the period 1923-1930.
- Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and be able to work with local communities. The candidate must show evidence of the ability to communicate information in an accessible and engaging manner. The candidate must have a full clean driving licence.
- Be able to manage the residency effectively using their initiative while reporting regularly to the appointed team.
- Have experience in collaborating with community groups.
- Have excellent public speaking and presentation skills and the ability to design and deliver engaging and accessible content that can appeal to a diverse audience.

## 1. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please note applications should be made by sending the information required below:

- An up-to-date CV, including the names and contact details for two professional references.
- A written submission of interest which outlines approaches and plans for the residency, (1,000 words maximum) to include examples of previous similar and relevant work in the area of history. Please also refer and include information as per selection criteria listed below.

## 2. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR HISTORIAN IN RESIDENCE

### **Required**

- The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate suitable skills including IT competencies, writing style, enthusiasm and must provide evidence of relevant achievement. Previous relevant work experience which involved facilitation and engagement with mixed audiences should be included.
- The resident should have experience, and provide examples, of research assignments and programmes.
- An excellent knowledge of history and heritage both local and national.
- A creative and innovative approach to the delivery of the Historian in Residency programme.

### 3. CONTRACT AWARD

- Only applications that contain all the information specified above will be considered.
- In the event of more than one application, applicants may be shortlisted, and a competitive interview process may take place.
- Evaluation will be based on the information supplied in accordance with the following criteria and scoring:

Criteria	Scoring
Previous relevant work experience	40
Experience and examples of research projects to date. Experience in the area of hosting public talks / workshops for all age groups.	30
Approach to the Residency in the areas of innovation and creativity	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

- All parties will be informed of the outcome of their proposals following evaluation and of any necessary clarifications.
- A panel of suitable candidates may be formed from which any future opportunities may be filled.

### 4. APPOINTMENT, EXTENT AND TERMINATION

The successful applicant will be expected to take up this project no later than **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025** or another earlier date as agreed with the local authority.

Further to Wexford County Council's obligations under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012, engagement will be subject to Garda Vetting to be completed in advance.

The residency shall be for the services described in this brief only. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to engage with other service providers for additional services in connection with the project and shall be under no obligation to extend the contract for services.

### 5. DEADLINE

Please send completed application with a current CV marked 'Historian in Residence' by email to: [libraryhq@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:libraryhq@wexfordcoco.ie)

**The closing date for completed applications is 5pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

## Appendix A

### Suggested themes:

**Community-led commemoration and reflection;** Remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events, and themes that had particular significance for counties and communities in 1925 and in the early years of the State. Exploring local connections with nationally important events and how these events were experienced or received locally.

**Ireland and the Wider World;** Exploring the international dimension, including local connections, emigration, and the role of the Irish Diaspora in the events that occurred during the early years of the State. Exploring how events in Ireland were received and reported abroad.

**Experiences of Women;** Exploring the experiences of women during the early years of the State and their contribution to the events that occurred, including their changing role in society.

**Democracy and Politics;** Exploring the prominent personalities and local issues associated with elections during this period.

**Establishing a New Order;** Exploring the evolution of political and administrative structures at national and local government level; Exploring the establishment and development of the various institutions of the State; Exploring the development of new infrastructure, e.g. transportation, communications, postal services, energy, etc.

**Re-building a Nation;** Reflections on healing, repairing and re-building in the context of the traumatic legacy of the Civil War.

**The partitioning of Ireland;** Exploring the impacts and legacies on communities living along the newly established border and further afield.

**A changing society during the early years of the State;** Exploring the themes below in the context of the early years of the State.

- Popular social, cultural, and civic movements;
- Social class and gender;
- The Irish language;
- Social policies and welfare;
- Education;
- Family life and children in the early years of the State;
- Labour and employment;
- Land and rural life;

- The role of religion and faith;
- The significance of sport in communities;
- Experiences of people in Ireland during this period who would today identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community;
- Experiences of immigration to the Local Authority area, and of minority ethnic groups in Ireland;
- Innovation and developments in the fields of industry, agriculture, science, commerce, health and medicine, communications, technology, recreation.

**Emotions, experiences, and expectations;** Exploring what was felt and what was hoped for following the Civil War and in the developing Irish State.

**Creative thinking and the arts;** Exploring poetry, literature, music, theatre, and other art forms from 1925 and the early years of the State.

**Other significant anniversaries, events and themes;** Exploring other historical events and related themes, and their significance for the local authority area.



**An Roinn Cultúir,  
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt**  
Department of Culture,  
Communications and Sport