

The Commemorations Programme 2025, Culture Division, Donegal County Council is supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport

Donegal County Council Archives Service & County Museum

Brief for Historian in Residence 2025

For more information see <https://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/archives/>

Introduction:

Since 2012, the Archives Service and County Museum have engaged in several projects relating to the Decade of Centenaries in County Donegal. -As we continue to commemorate significant events from the past, Donegal County Council proposes to appoint an Historian in Residence to support Donegal County Council's Commemorative Programme in 2025. This will be a Contract for Service and there is a budget of €5,000 available, inclusive of all travel and other costs associated with the residency, funded by the Department of Community Culture and Sport under the 2025 Commemorative Programme.

1. Objectives and aims

The Culture Division of Donegal County Council will now commemorate the centenary of the third decade of the twentieth century and the first years of life under partition and in the new Irish Free State.

In recent years, Donegal County Archives and County Museum (Culture Division, Donegal County Council) have produced two books of essays about Co. Donegal's history in the 19th-20th centuries. <https://www.donegalculture.ie/media/fxmbnhfc/120781-english.pdf>

<https://www.donegalculture.ie/media/xsqljnar/final-the-great-famine-a5-english.pdf>

It is proposed to publish a third book in this series. We propose to appoint an historian to carry out research, based on our own local and national archival collections, which will result in a booklet of four essays.

The historian will carry out historical research on the decade subsequent to the Decade of Centenaries in County Donegal, from c.1922– 1932. Research will be carried out on Donegal County Council's Archives Collections, including County Council and Rural & Urban District Councils and the Donegal Board of Health and Public Assistance, 1922 – 1932; on relevant school records; and on other relevant public and private sources.

The historian will produce four essays of c. 1500 words pertaining to a variety of aspects of Co. Donegal's political, military, social and economic life at this time. Each essay will be c. 1500

words. The essays will be of academic standard but accessible to the general public and second/third level students.

Themes to be covered in the essays will include the following:

- Life in the border areas of Donegal after partition in Donegal;
- National and local politics;
- Social and economic history in Donegal.
- Women, children and health in Donegal.

The researcher appointed will liaise with the Archives Service and the other sections of the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council where relevant.

- The essays will include footnotes and a list of sources consulted.
- The researcher will have two images from the collections consulted chosen to be included with each essay.
- Each essay will be c. 1500 words.
- The essays will be of academic standard but accessible to the general public, leaving certificate, undergraduate students etc.

2. RESPONSE TO PROJECT BRIEF

Proposals in response to this brief should set out how the research project will be approached. The proposal should include:

2.1. Required Skills

Proposals should contain clear details of the skills of the researcher, including academic qualifications and range of relevant professional skills which would be brought to bear, and the CV of the researcher.

2.2. Proposed Work Plan & Timetable

The proposal must include a work plan and timetable for the delivery of services.

2.3. Breakdown of Costs:

A detailed breakdown of the estimated costs of carrying out all activities.

2.4. Extent of professional indemnity and public liability cover.

3. Outputs

The outputs of this research project:

- 1) To have researched the relevant collections from 1922 – 1932
- 2) To have written four essays and have sourced 8 suitable images from the collection for a publication.

All the above aspects of the project must be completed by **30 September 2025**

4. GENERAL ISSUES

4.1. Timescale

This successful candidate must be ready to commence the project as soon as is practicable on notification of appointment and to have the project as outlined above completed by 30th September 2025

4.2. Project Management

The researcher will report directly to the Archivist, and will submit an interim report on progress with the project by the end of July as well as a final report on 30 September 2025

Following submission of the essays and report, the booklet will be sent to the successful graphic designer by the Archivist.

4.3. Budget

The maximum budget available for this research project will be €5,000 (including % VAT, travel, subsistence and all other expenses).

4.4. Insurance

Evidence of professional indemnity and public liability cover will be required.

4.5. Copyright and Confidentiality

The researcher will be required to assign copyright of the work undertaken to Donegal County Council. Copyright for any illustrations or other material used should be cleared by the researcher. The work may be made available for public use by Donegal County Council and will be accessible to view freely on the Council's website.

4.6. Freedom of Information

Donegal County Council operates under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and all information held by the Council (including proposals submitted in response to this brief) may be subject to requests under the Act.

5. RESPONSE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proposals in response to these terms of reference should set out how the project will be approached, methodology and any other relevant matters. The proposal should include:

Required Skills and Experience

Proposals should contain clear details of the qualifications, skills and experience of the researcher and the CV of the researcher.

Methodology and Timetable

The researcher shall furnish a method statement and timetable regarding the delivery of the work.

6. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS & SELECTION OF RESEARCHER

6.1 Evaluation

A selection and award assessment process will be used to evaluate proposals.

Interviews (by phone or video link) may be held with selected candidates prior to the final evaluation. The contract will be awarded on the basis of quality and cost evaluation as assessed by the Contracting Authority. The allocated **total** budget for this project is **€5,000 inc. VAT**. The Contracting Authority is not obliged to accept the lowest or indeed any quotation. No person making a submission will be remunerated for any trouble or expense incurred in preparing a submission.

Award Criteria – Marks will be awarded depending on the ability of the researcher to deliver the outputs detailed above. The following criteria will be applied:

At least a primary degree in history or a history related subject, including modern Irish history (i.e. from 18 th – 20 th centuries). Post graduate studies in Irish history of the relevant period and geographical region (Donegal/border area) may be an advantage.	35
Proven experience of undertaking research into modern Irish history (i.e. 18 th – 20 th centuries) and evidence of appropriate written skills	30

A clear approach to the achievement of the aims and outputs of this project in the proposed methodology	25
Value for money	10

Note 1: Only those bids achieving a score of 60% or above will be considered for award of contract.

Note 2: A valid tax clearance certificate will be needed when contract awarded and should remain in date throughout the contract.

Note 3: The supplier shall effect and maintain insurance necessary to cover their liabilities under this contract for the duration of delivery.

Note 4: The decision of the Evaluation panel will be final.

6.2 Closing Date

Submissions can only be accepted by e-mail to archivist@donegalcoco.ie

Please mark all submissions clearly as: 'Donegal Commemorative Programme 2025 Historian in Residence'

Any queries regarding this brief must be submitted to archivist@donegalcoco.ie by Monday 7th July at 4.30.

The closing date for receipt of all proposals is **4.30pm on Wednesday 9th July**

This project must be completed by **30 September 2025**