



**WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, CULTURE ARTS,
THE GAELTACHT, SPORTS AND MEDIA**

Historians in Residence 2023 - Grant Criteria

Introduction:

As part of the Westmeath County Council Decade of Centenaries programme, applications are invited for the Historian in Residence Grant Scheme 2023. The Residency is supported by the Decade of Centenaries Programme, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media in partnership with Westmeath County Council¹.

The Commemorative Programme will align with national policy and national commemorative projects, but it will ultimately focus on County Westmeath and environs. The aim of the programme in Westmeath is to mark the centenaries within the county in the most appropriate fashion. The intention is to create a legacy of research and/or cultural material for future generations which can be accessed online.

The delivery of the programme should be inclusive, appropriate and sensitive.

Grant:

It is anticipated that two Residencies will run in 2023, each for 4 months (c.15hrs per week). The first residency will run from April to July and the second from August to November inclusive. The total grant available to each residency is €8,000 and will be paid in monthly instalments to include all expenses. A budget will be made available to each residency to cover costs such as speakers' fees and to facilitate the production of digital outputs. Such expenditure must be agreed in advance with the Culture Team, or their representative, from Westmeath County Council.

Applicants must be Tax Compliant and provide a Tax Clearance Access Number (TCAN) and Tax Reference Number and hold their own insurance cover, including Professional Indemnity.

Applicants may apply for one or both residencies.

¹ Subject to confirmation of funding via Decade of Centenaries Programme, Department of Tourism, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media 2023.

Brief: Historian in Residence

The Historian in Residence should have a proven track record in historical research and creation of digital content. It is essential that the applicant is experienced in digital media and can provide examples of their work to date.

The Historian in Residence will develop a comprehensive programme for consideration, with final approval by the Westmeath Culture Team.

In order to ensure continuity of programming and continued engagement with community groups. There will be a clear handover between the two historians as one residency ends and the other commences.

The successful applicants should be familiar with the relevant local and national sources for the period of the Decade of Commemorations era (1912 – 1923), with a particular emphasis on events relating to 1923.

The Historian/s in Residence will co-ordinate research work and timelines; identify themes, in line with key themes outlined by Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media (see below), events and notable figures; engage with community groups, local historians, historical societies and schools. He/she will promote interest and engagement in history among a non-academic audience. The Historian/s in Residence will collaborate with Westmeath Libraries and Archives to promote local history sources, including newspapers, County Council Minute Books and other relevant material. Where relevant, he/she shall liaise with the Decade of Centenaries Creative Community Practitioner in Westmeath, to ensure historical accuracy and complimentary programming. The Historian/s in Residence will provide creative solutions to engage communities and make the history of 100 years ago, relevant and a source of inspiration and education. There will be an opportunity for the Historians to meet with school groups and others across the County in 2023 and the budget for the residencies allows for travel.

Essential requirements for candidates:

- A third level qualification in a relevant subject area or Recognised Prior Learning to a standard that demonstrates their capacity to deliver the required programme.
- Experience of working with the community.
- A proven track record in historical research.
- Familiarity with the history of County Westmeath within the period. Applicants should be familiar with the relevant local and national sources for the period.
- Proficiency in the use of social media and digital technologies.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to work with a wide cross section of the local community and demonstrate evidence of same.

The Role of the Historian in Residence:

- Responsible for working with the Decade of Centenaries Coordinator, and Sub Committee to identify themes, events and notable figures and co-ordinate research to present to local communities.
- Liaise with local historians and historical societies to develop a comprehensive programme.

- Liaise with Decade of Centenaries Creative Community Practitioner in Westmeath, the coordinator of the Centenary Programme for the Howard Bury led Everest Expedition and the Culture Team of Westmeath County Council.
- The Historian in Residence will be required to abide by all relevant Westmeath County Council policies and guidelines.

Westmeath County Council shall retain the right to publish material generated as part of the programme without additional remuneration or permission and will acknowledge the author of research published.

All programmes will be delivered with the co-operation and goodwill of the community at large and involve outreach projects online and/or in schools, libraries and communities across County Westmeath. 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 Commemorative Programme.

Applications should be made by sending the above information as **ONE single attachment** (either in PDF or word format) incorporating all of the below required information:

- An up-to-date CV, including the names and contact details of two professional references;
- A written submission of interest which outlines approaches to the residency. (1,000 words maximum) to include examples of previous similar and relevant work in the area of history.
- **Applicants should indicate their availability for Residency 1 (April - July) and/or Residency 2 (August – November).**

Please send completed application and a current CV marked ‘Historian in Residence’ by email to: heritage@westmeathcoco.ie

The deadline for completed applications is 12 noon on Wed 29th March 2023.

Westmeath County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates and interviews may be held with selected candidates prior to the final evaluation.

Applications will be assessed under the following criteria:

Qualifications/Recognised Prior Learning.	10 Marks
Experience/proven track record in historical research and capacity to deliver the required programme	20 Marks
Demonstrate familiarity with the history of County Westmeath within the period and familiarity with the relevant local and national sources for the period.	20 Marks
Demonstrate proficiency in the use of digital technologies and social media.	25 Marks
Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and be able to work with a wide cross section of the local community and be able to demonstrate evidence of same.	25 Marks
	Total: 100 Marks

Suggested themes and initiatives set out by Dept. for consideration by local authorities in 2023

Broad themes are set out below. This is not an exhaustive list.

- Community-led commemoration and reflection; Remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events, and themes that have particular significance within counties, parishes, and communities.
- Respectful, sensitive, and non-partisan remembrance of all of those who suffered and died during the period from 1922-1923.
- The partitioning of Ireland – exploration of the impact and legacy of the events that occurred during this period on communities living along the newly established border and further afield.
- Ireland and the Wider World – exploration of the international dimension, including local connections, emigration, and the role of the Irish Diaspora in the events that occurred during the revolutionary period. Also, exploration of the evolution of all-island institutions following partition.
- The admission of the Irish Free State into the League of Nations in 1923.
- Experiences of women - exploration of the experiences of women during this period and their contribution to the events that occurred, including their changing role in society. <https://www.mna100.ie/> is the online, research platform led by the D/TCAGSM to highlight the role and experiences of women during this period. If local authorities have any initiatives, which could be publicised or supported in collaboration with Mná 100 (#Mna100), please contact the Mná team at commemorations@tcagsm.gov.ie.
- Establishing a New Order –
 - Exploration of the significance of local government reform and the evolution of new political and administrative structures at national and local level;
 - Including establishment of the various institutions of the Irish Free State (including Civil Service, the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, judiciary, and courts services);
 - Development of new infrastructure (transportation, communications, postal services); and
 - Becoming a member of the International Labour Organisation in 1923 – the first international organisation which the new State joined.
 - Continuing the parliamentary tradition – exploration of the prominent personalities and local issues associated with elections during this period, e.g. the 1923 general elections.
- The process of rebuilding a nation in the context of the traumatic legacy of the Civil War
 - reflections on healing, repairing, and rebuilding after the Civil War – of people, communities, and places
- A Changing Society during this period, including.
 - The labour movement and civil disobedience;
 - Popular social, cultural and civic movements;
 - Social class and gender;
 - The Irish language;
 - The Land Question;

- The role of religion and faith during this period;
 - The significance of sport in communities during this period;
 - The humanitarian response during the period 1921 – 1923;
 - The experiences of people in Ireland during this period who would today identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community;
 - The experiences of minority ethnic groups in Ireland during this period;
- Innovation and developments in the fields of agriculture, industry, science, commerce, health, medicine, and education.
 - Creative thinking and the arts – poetry, literature, music, theatre, and other art forms,
 - 1921 – 1923. For example, this year we will mark the centenary of the awarding of the 'Nobel Prize in Literature' to William Butler Yeats.
- The impact and legacy of the partitioning of Ireland on communities living along the newly established border and farther afield.
 - 'Ireland and the Wider World' – local connections with the international dimension, including the role of the Diaspora in the events of this period; an exploration of how these events were received and reported abroad.
 - Emigration from and immigration to the local authority area during this period – an exploration of personal accounts and memories, grounded in the rich material held in archival collections.
 - The social and economic consequences of the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War within the local authority area.
 - The contribution and experiences of women from the local authority area in all aspects of this transformative period in our history and their changing role in society (see above reference to <https://www.mna100.ie/>).
 - The impact of the revolutionary period on families and children.
 - The experiences of people during this period who would today identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community;
 - The experiences of minority ethnic groups during this period;
 - Land and rural life in the newly independent Irish State.
 - An exploration of the labour movement and associated issues of class and gender, to broaden our understanding of how people were mobilised in popular social, cultural and civic movements during this period – how local events resonated nationally.
 - The significance of local government reform and the evolution of new political and administrative structures during the revolutionary period at national and local level.
 - Elections during this period – the prominent personalities and local issues associated with the 1920 local elections and the 1921, 1922 and 1923 general elections.
 - The use of propaganda in the revolutionary period at home and abroad – including print media, cinema, and radio – particularly linkages to local events that occurred.
 - The role of local newspapers in a time of conflict and change – how were local events reported?
 - The evolution of all-island institutions following partition.
 - The handing over of barracks from the British Army to the new Free State Army; and the impact and legacy of this on the barracks towns, in terms of identity and practical ramifications (e.g. social and economic impacts).
 - Initiatives to explore the 'Big House' perspective on the events that occurred during the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War.
 - The aftermath of World War I and the experiences of those who were part of the war effort and returned home to their communities in a changing Ireland.

- Initiatives that explore this period from a humanitarian perspective, examining the contribution of movements such as The Irish White Cross Organisation.
- The Irish language during this period.
- Creative thinking and the arts, including poetry, literature, music and theatre (1912 –1923).
- Significant developments in the world of innovation, industry and commerce, science, health, agriculture, and communications, (1912 – 1923).
- The importance of sport to communities during the revolutionary period.
- The archaeology of the revolutionary period – an exploration of the imprint left by these events on the local landscape. Before finalising any initiatives on this theme, please consult and seek expert advice from relevant members of your local authority or the National Monuments Service, concerning the legislation and protocols pertaining to our archaeological heritage.
- Other significant events not mentioned above that were unique to the local authority area and were recorded from this period, e.g. natural disasters.