



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

Historian in Residence 2024 - Grant Criteria

Introduction:

As part of the Westmeath County Council commemorative initiatives in 2024, applications are invited for the Historian in Residence Grant Scheme. The Residency is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media in partnership with Westmeath County Council¹.

The aim of the initiative is to mark significant historical commemorations within the county in the most appropriate fashion. The intention is to build on the existing legacy of research and cultural material, that has been generated under the Decade of Centenaries Programme and to make this accessible online, with the possibility of including print material.

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

Grant:

It is anticipated that the Residency will run for a 10-week period (c.15 hrs per week) between the months of June to October (inclusive), with the exact dates of the residency to be agreed between the successful applicant and the Heritage Officer. The total grant available for the residency is €5,000 and will be paid in monthly instalments to include all expenses. A budget will be made available for the 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.

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.

¹ Subject to confirmation of funding via Commemorations Initiative, Department of Tourism, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media 2024.

The successful applicant should be familiar with the relevant local and national sources.

The Historian 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. The Historian in Residence will promote interest and engagement in history among a non-academic audience. The Historian 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/they shall liaise with the Creative Community Practitioner working on the Commemorations initiative in Westmeath, to ensure historical accuracy and complimentary programming. The Historian in Residence will provide creative solutions to engage communities. There will be an opportunity for the Historian to meet with school groups and others across the County in 2024 and the budget for the residency 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.
- 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 Heritage Officer, and/ or other representative/s of the Westmeath Culture Team 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 Creative Community Practitioner working on the Commemorations initiative in Westmeath, 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.

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

The deadline for completed applications is 5pm on Tues 7th May 2024.

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 in 2024

Community-led commemoration and reflection; Remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events, and themes that had particular significance for counties and communities in 1924 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 1924 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 (e.g. the Great Famine; the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829; the 75th anniversary of the Republic of Ireland Act).