



Masters (MAgrSc) in Agricultural Extension and Innovation

September 5th 2018 – August 31st 2020

Funded by the Teagasc Walsh Fellowship Scheme

Aim

On completion of this programme, students will be competent and professional agricultural advisors, committed to on-going reflective practice and seeking for more effective ways to support farmer decision making. On completion of this programme students will:

- Be able to develop and deliver appropriate agricultural advisory and educational programmes that serve the needs of farmers and farm families who are their clients
- Critically reflect on their practice as agricultural advisors and educators and be able to identify and exploit needs and opportunities for improved practice.

Programme

The curriculum is designed to ensure that students develop the necessary facets for a Masters level degree. Modules will be delivered through a blended format and will require students to build the skills for working autonomously, for independent research, in depth analysis, and abstraction. Assignments will be based on real life case studies relating to their professional work environment that will be complex and unpredictable, reflecting the norms of practice in advisory and education services. Professionalism will be gained from placement in a professional organisation (e.g. Teagasc) with mentors to guide the development of skills and modules on reflective practice that allow the development of a professional portfolio.

Programme Organisation and Structure

This is a 2 year taught Masters programme with students on professional placement for the full duration and completing modules for 90 credits (ECTs). Programme modules are designed to support traineeship type learning with assignments and projects focused on student's professional placement / real life problems and challenges.

The structure of the programme modules is outlined in the diagram below

SCHEDULE / STRUCTURE

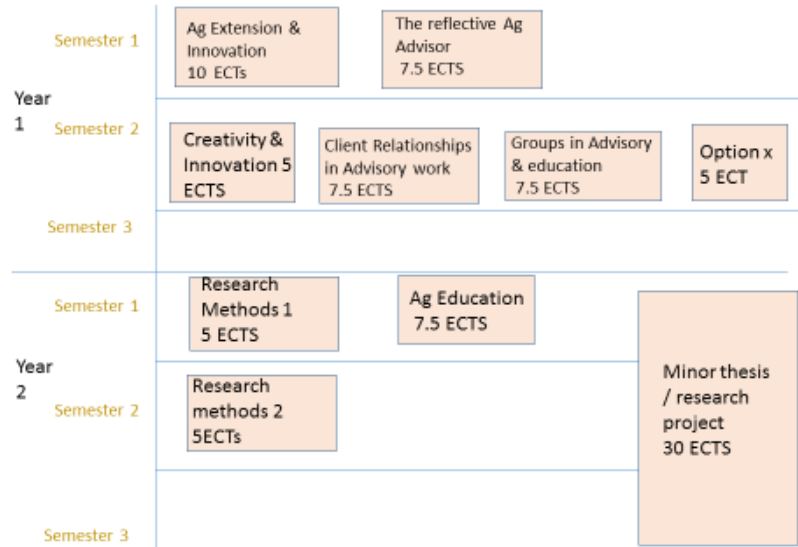


Figure 1: Visual presentation of programme module structure

In the first year of the programme students would be expected to complete 5 core modules:

- Agricultural Extension and Innovation: Introducing students to the range of theories and approaches in agricultural extension and education, adult learning and behaviour change.
- 3 Work based Reflective Practice Modules that allow the student to build their portfolio of advisory skills and approaches and reflect critically on these skills and how they can continuously improve their practice. Modules include a) Developing my role and relationships as an Advisor; b) Working with Groups; c) Working with Individual clients.
- Creativity and Innovation: This module (run in conjunction with the Innovation Academy in UCD) will challenge students to develop creative thinking approaches for farm innovation.
- One module selected from options

In the second year of the programme, students will complete 3 core modules:

- Research methods I and II introducing the student to a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods and basic data analysis (using SPSS) and understanding statistics.

- One reflective practice module on developing and delivering agricultural education programmes.

Students will also have to complete a minor thesis or project and this will be a negotiated assignment to ensure it complements the professional placement circumstances of the student.

All assessment will be assignment based in support of learning outcomes.

Figure 2 below shows how the students would progress through the programme and also the options for exiting with either a postgraduate certificate or diploma if the student left the programme early.

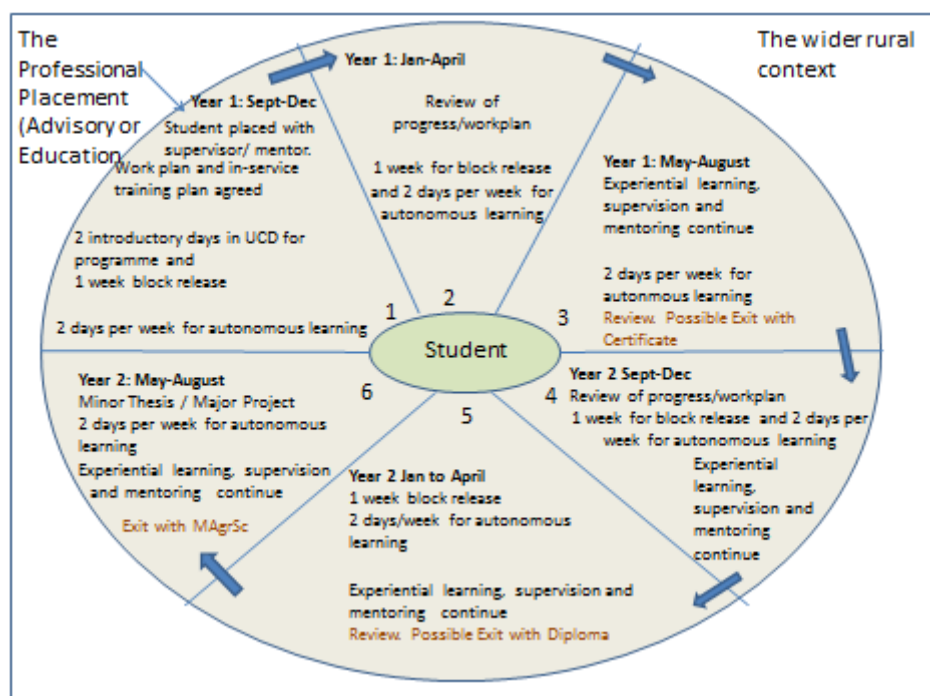


Figure 2: Programme Pathway and Possible Exit Routes

Payment

The value of the Walsh Fellowship is €22,000 per annum out of which the recipient pays college fees. Students are paid monthly and are exempt from income tax. No PRSI or pension deductions are made. Travel expenses are paid at reduced rates. Subsistence, where eligible, is on the basis of approved and vouched receipts only. Students participating in this Fellowship Programme will be paid for a maximum of 24 months.

Application Requirements and Form

Applications are invited from graduates with a minimum 2.2 Honours BAgrSc (or equivalent) degree. Applications from graduates with pass level degrees coupled with

significant and appropriate work experience in the sector will also be considered. Application Forms are available by e-mailing agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie. The deadline for receipt of completed application forms is 5pm on 30th May, 2018. Completed Application Forms should be submitted in electronic form to: agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie **or** by post to: Henna Kinsella, School of Agriculture & Food Science, Room G.05 Agriculture & Food Science Centre, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.

Interviews

Interviews will take place early-mid July 2018. Where short listing is required, only applicants called for interview may to be contacted.

For further information on this programme contact:

Dr. Monica Gorman, School of Agriculture & Food Science, UCD – monica.gorman@ucd.ie

Professor Tom Kelly, Teagasc – tom.kelly@teagasc.ie