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**Beacon: Bioeconomy Research Centre**

**4 Year PhD Studentship**

**€18,500 Per Annum + €5,500 fee contribution per annum**

**“Social Acceptance of the Bioeconomy”**

**Background**

In 2018 the EU updated its bioeconomy strategy so as to speed up the deployment of a sustainable European bioeconomy. They did this because they see its potential to contribute to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Agreement. The Irish government, led by the Prime Minister’s office, also recognises the potential of the bioeconomy; including significant economic benefits and opportunities to create additional natural bio-value, supporting the transition away from a fossil-resource economy, and addressing issues such as climate change and food security. However advancing a bio-based economy requires that policymakers are aware of citizen attitudes, perceptions and understanding of the bioeconomy; what the bioeconomy/bio-based economy means to people; their acceptance and concerns about risks arising from a shift to a bio-based economy; and how people would consider a bio-based economy as a future vision for developing the rural economy.

**PhD Research Study: “Societal understanding of the bioeconomy”**

The PhD study will primarily employ quantitative methods and includes the analysis of a large-scale attitudinal survey. This will contribute to gaining a better understanding of the factors influencing citizen acceptance/rejection of biologically-based advances in technology, and assist the development of a coherent policy framework that can support the advancement of the bioeconomy in Ireland and internationally.

**Requirements**

Applicants should have a good honours degree. A Masters in an appropriate discipline (e.g. Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Environmental Policy, Business or related Social Science background) is desirable. The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated, have a strong research capability for data analysis, and be prepared to undertake fieldwork using a range of data collection techniques.

**Fellowship Award**

This four year SFI PhD Fellowship forms part of a joint research project between the Earth Institute in UCD and the Department of Agrifood Business and Spatial Analysis, Teagasc. The Fellowship comprises an annual stipend of €18,500 and a €5,500 fee contribution per annum, and is tenable for 4 years.

**Further Information** is available from:

Dr Eoin O’Neill, UCD Earth Institute, UCD Planning & Environmental Policy, Richview, Belfield, Dublin 4

Phone: +353(0) 1 716 2674 email: eoin.oneill@ucd.ie

Dr Maeve Henchion, Dept. of Agrifood Business and Spatial Analysis, Teagasc, Ashtown, Dublin 15

Phone: +353 (0)1 8059515 email: maeve.henchion@teagasc.ie

**Applications**

Interested candidates are requested to submit an electronic copy of their CV and a letter of interest simultaneously to Dr. Eoin O’Neill and Prof. Maeve Henchion by **5pm Friday 24th January 2029**. Interviews will be held with potential candidates shortly thereafter.

**BEACON: Bioeconomy Research Centre**

BEACON is a newly established Science Foundation Ireland Research centre that will perform both blue skies and industry focused research to advance the development of a Bioeconomy in Ireland. It brings together a team of researchers from across a range of disciplines including *inter alia* biotechnology, systems and synthetic biology, chemistry, and agriculture, food, marine and social sciences. BEACON is funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and industry partners. The centre represents a collaboration between University College Dublin, Teagasc, Trinity College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Galway and University of Limerick and a variety of domestic and international industry partners.