



PhD in Sustainable Agriculture

“Farm management strategies to protect the environmental and agricultural sustainability of Clare Island”

Ref 2018002

Applications are invited for a full-time, four-year PhD research position funded by the Teagasc Walsh Fellowship Scheme and University College Dublin.

Background

Clare Island, lies approximately 5 km off the mainland and is the largest island in Clew Bay. The island has a rich natural and cultural heritage, however, a reduction in land management over recent decades has become an increasing problem on parts of the island. The main threats to the habitats on the island include, land abandonment, under-grazing and other inappropriate management practices (e.g. low maintenance or abandonment of drainage network) together with loss of traditional farm knowledge and skills. Despite the wealth of information on the natural history of the area, there has been no targeted conservation effort to date.

Within this project we propose to map the extent of the problematic areas, and together with the farmers on Clare Island assess a range of measures for the enhancement of natural and cultural heritage associated with the problematic areas. Selected measures will be piloted on a subset of farms and aspects of implementation including impact on farm finances will be evaluated.

Requirements

Applicants should have a good primary degree (First or Second Class Honours) or M.Sc. in an appropriate discipline (Agricultural Science, Agri-Environmental Science, Environmental Science, Ecology etc.). The successful candidate should have a good working knowledge of techniques in habitat identification, classification and mapping, have a good understanding of agricultural systems, knowledge of economics, good dissemination skills and be highly self-motivated. A full EU driving licence is also required.

Award

The PhD Scholarship is a joint research project between the School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin and Teagasc, Johnstown Castle. The student will be based, in the first instance, at University College Dublin, but will subsequently move for at least 6 months each year for the duration of the project, to Clare Island. The successful candidate will be registered as a full time research student in University College Dublin, working under the supervision of Dr Helen Sheridan with Teagasc supervisors (Drs Daire Ó hUallacháin and Owen Fenton).

The fellowship funding is €22,000 per annum and includes University fees of up to a maximum of €6,000 per annum and is tenable for 4 years. The fellowship will start as soon as possible after 1st of October 2018 and/or when the most suitable candidate is identified thereafter.

Further Information/Applications

Dr. Daire Ó hUallacháin, Crops Environment and Land Use Programme, Teagasc, Johnstown Castle, Wexford

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Dr. Helen Sheridan, School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4

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Application Procedure

Submit an electronic copy of Curriculum Vitae and a letter of interest simultaneously to:

Dr. Daire Ó hUallacháin (daire.ohuallachain@teagasc.ie)

Dr. Helen Sheridan (helen.sheridan@ucd.ie)

Closing date

30th June 2018