



## **Masters (MAgrSc) in Agricultural Innovation Support**

**September 2018 – June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**

**Funded by the Teagasc Walsh Fellowship Scheme**

### **Aim**

To equip graduates with the skills and knowledge to be effective in building the capacity of farmers to adopt new practices and technologies. The experience gained on this programme will equip them well for future roles in advisory services, technical consultancy and education delivery. The experience and learning will be of value to Teagasc and the agriculture industry in advancing the specific knowledge required for modern and effective innovation support systems.

### **Programme**

1. Taught Modules 25%
2. Action Research and Thesis 75%

**Phase 1: Taught Modules.** In the first phase of this programme, students will register as MAgrSc students in the School of Agriculture & Food Science at University College Dublin and spend the period September to December 2018 based at UCD undertaking a combination of practical and theoretical training on a range of topics relevant to their chosen study. Students will complete 3 to 5 modules (comprising a maximum of 30 credits) including modules in: agricultural extension, research methods and statistics. Other modules appropriate to the study being pursued may be chosen by the student with the approval of their academic supervisor. Students will be assessed in all modules undertaken. Students will also participate in a series of roundtable sessions during the September - December 2018 period on Research and Innovation Support and will develop their detailed research proposals during this time.

**Phase 2: Action Research and Thesis.** This phase of the programme begins January 2019 and the students will be based at a Teagasc centre / advisory office location. During this phase they will be expected to undertake their research work as well as carrying out specific advisory and education activities as agreed with their Teagasc and UCD supervisors. All participants are expected to work a standard working week.

### **Schedule**

**Phase 1:** Sept. 2018 to Dec. 2018 Taught modules and workshops - UCD

**Phase 2:** Jan. 2019 to June 2020 Action research, field work and thesis write up

### **Research Topics for 2018-2020 Programme**

Ten Walsh Fellowships will be funded for the 2018-20 programme in support of an overall research strategy on knowledge transfer. The suggested topics for this year are listed below.

<b>Topics for Research in the 2018-20 MAIS Programme</b>	
1	The implementation of supports and materials to improve advisor/farmer engagement in OHS (occupational health and safety) adoption.
2	Top down Knowledge Transfer (KT) or Co-creation - how to support innovation better
3	Observations on the CPD (continuous professional development) initiatives supporting farm advisors - a case study in Teagasc
4	A study of the role and effectiveness of local led KT initiatives examining the "Grass on the By-Pass" project.
5	Can on-farm use of a decision support tool improve nutrient management - A case study of the slurry hydrometer
6	To Develop and pilot a Teagasc Agri-pod app
7	Examining the use of whatsapp groups as a method of knowledge transfer
8	Support for increased use of Digital information by farmers and the impact of User Experience (UX) through a co-creation approach
9	Capacity building for Commonage Groups in the Wicklow Sustainable Uplands Agri-Environmental Scheme
10	The role of Knowledge Transfer and farmer engagement in halting the decline of threatened farmland species
11	Effective advisory supports for farming in an archaeological landscape
12	Perfecting the Message on Silage Quality
13	A qualitative approach to developing guidelines for employment of drystock farmers on dairy farms

14	Development of a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for farmers including graduates of Teagasc Educational Programmes and Host Farmers.
15	KT - based appraisal and learning from rollout of forestry Knowledge Transfer Groups (KTGs)
16	Equipping Teagasc Teachers to Teach Using a Problem Based Learning Approach
17	Integration of Technology on the College Farm and in Practical Training Programmes
18	Innovative teaching methods for Teagasc Distance Education courses
19	Integrating the apprenticeship model into the existing Teagasc education framework
20	Determining technical and human factors parameters for optimal rollout of online assessment across the range of Teagasc education courses

These topics have been identified in consultation with education and knowledge transfer specialists and farm advisors within Teagasc. Prospective applicants are requested to indicate on their application their top three areas of interest from these topics.

### **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 21 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 from Henna Kinsella by e-mailing [agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie](mailto:agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie). The deadline for receipt of completed application forms is 5pm on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Completed Application Forms should be submitted in electronic form to: [agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie](mailto: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](mailto:monica.gorman@ucd.ie)

Professor Tom Kelly, Teagasc – [tom.kelly@teagasc.ie](mailto:tom.kelly@teagasc.ie)