



## Teagasc PhD Opportunity

***“Exploring management practices around dry-off and the dry period to assist in the implementation of selective dry cow therapy”***

Walsh Scholarship Ref Number: 2023274

### About the project

Mastitis treatment accounts for a significant portion of antibiotics used on dairy farms, especially at dry-off. With new EU regulations aiming to reduce preventive antibiotic use, there is a need to find alternative solutions for cows without infections at the end of lactation. Teagasc research has highlighted how farm-specific data, mastitis trends, treatment selection criteria, and management practices impact the success of non-antibiotic dry cow therapy.

This PhD project aims to understand the management factors that influence the success of non-antibiotic dry cow therapy. You will contribute to predict the impact of dry cow therapy on mastitis and antibiotic use at farm level through stakeholder engagement in research design and development. These actions will contribute to meet EU targets on antimicrobial use, facilitate the implementation of EU regulation and help farmers improve the health of their cows.

### Why Apply?

You will join a dynamic and supportive research environment where you can grow your skills and contribute to significant advancements in the dairy industry. This opportunity is perfect for motivated individuals looking to make a real impact in sustainable agriculture and animal health.

### Requirements

The candidate should be highly self-motivated with proven abilities in problem solving and data analysis. Applicants should have a primary degree (minimum 2.1) in an appropriate discipline (Agricultural or biological engineering, dairy or animal science or veterinary medicine). A Master's degree would be a distinct advantage. Proficiency in statistical software and data analysis would be an advantage. Experience in the dairy industry is desirable. The candidate must be highly proficient in both written and spoken English (see specific requirements [here](#)). A full driving licence is required.

### Award

This PhD is a joint research project between Teagasc Moorepark and University College Dublin (UCD), funded by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine. The successful candidate will be registered as a PhD student in UCD but based in the Teagasc Research Centre at Moorepark, Co. Cork, Ireland. Travel to UCD will be required for academic and research purposes. The PhD will commence as soon as possible after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

The project funding provides a flat rate stipend of €25,000 per year, for 4 years, plus a maximum of €6,000 per year for university fees.

*Note: University fees for non-EU students (15,440 euros) exceed the maximum covered by this scholarship.*

Additional funds for student development will be available for attendance to national and international conferences and registering for courses contributing to enhance the candidate's skills and knowledge. Other resources necessary for the student to develop their work (such as laptop, transport for conducting the studies) will be provided.

### Application Procedure

Submit a letter of interest and your CV to Dr. Pablo Silva Boloña ([pablo.silvabolona@teagasc.ie](mailto:pablo.silvabolona@teagasc.ie)) and Dr. Catherine McAloon ([catherine.mcaloon@ucd.ie](mailto:catherine.mcaloon@ucd.ie)).

**Closing date:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of July.