

Postgraduate Scholarship Information Sheet

Scholarship Title	Using integrated weed management techniques to minimise reliance on herbicides for dock control during renovation of multispecies grassland
Reference number	WD_2023_73_Spons
Supervisor(s)	Dr Imelda Casey South Eastern Technological University, Dr. James Humphreys Teagasc Animal and Grassland Innovation Centre Moorepark Fermoy Co. Cork
Research Group/Centre	Eco-innovation research centre
Department /School/Faculty	Department of Land sciences School of Science and computing. SETU.
Duration	4 Years(48 months)
Status: Full-time / part-time	Full time
Funding information	The scholarship is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine 2023 research call project number 2023RP921; Low-emissions dairy production without fertilizer N or herbicides.
Value of the scholarship per year for four years	€25,000 tax free per annum to the student. €5,750 per annum for SETU fees
Closing date and time	17th of July at 4pm Irish Time
Interview date	31/07/2024
PhD commencement date	September 2024
P Code	P2637

Post summary

The Food Vision 2030 Strategy sets out a vision for Ireland to become a world leader in Sustainable Food Systems over the next decade. Clover-based and multispecies grassland can improve the environmental performance of farms in terms of, for example, lowering greenhouse gas emissions. However, the presence of clover and herbs such as chicory and plantain greatly restricts herbicide options for weed control, and in particular dock control, in grassland. Lack of good options for dock control during grassland renovation is an important disincentive for the adoption of multispecies grassland on farms. This project will investigate sustainable practices such as use integrated weed management (IPM) techniques and non-herbicide weed control of multi-species grassland with a focus on grassland renovation. Practices to be investigated will include deep ploughing to replace glyphosate for the destruction of the existing sward and the use of rapidly establishing cover crops to minimise weed seedling establish in the re-sown sward.

The Ph.D student will be part of the team at Solohead Teagasc Co. Tipperary under the guidance of Teagasc supervisor Dr. James Humphreys and Dr.Imelda Casey at South Eastern Technological University. They will also have the support and guidance of Dr. Imelda Casey and her team at the South East Technological

University, Waterford. Some academic modules will be undertaken at SETU.

Person specification

Qualifications

Essential

Applicants should have a good primary degree (First or 2.1 Honours) or M.Sc. in an appropriate discipline (Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Earth Sciences, etc.). The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated and be prepared for field and laboratory work with modern analytical equipment.

Desirable

They will conduct both field and laboratory work. Field sampling and laboratory experimental and analytical skills are highly desirable. A good practical knowledge of Irish agricultural production systems is essential.

Knowledge & Experience

Essential

- A good practical knowledge of Irish agricultural production systems is essential. Applicants must be fluent in English (spoken and written) and must hold a full EU driving licence.

Desirable:

- Experience in laboratory research and/or field trials.
- Experience with statistical packages would be an advantage.
- The applicant has conducted an undergraduate research project or trial and/or has fulfilled work placements at a relevant agri- research centre

Skills & Competencies

Essential

- Applicants whose first language is not English must submit evidence of competency in English, please see SETUs English Language Requirements for details.
- The applicant must be highly motivated, be able to think and work independently, and have good communication and teamwork skills.
- Competent in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint
- Applicants whose first language is not English must submit evidence of competency in English, please see [SETU English Language Requirements](#) for details.

Desirable

- Scientific writing skills.
- Use of referencing software and statistical packages

Further information

For any informal queries, please contact Dr. Imelda Casey imelda.Casey@setu.ie or james.humphreys@teagasc.ie

For queries relating to the application and admission process please contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office via email rpgadmissions.wd@setu.ie or telephone +353 (0)51 302883.

University Website: <https://www.setu.ie>

Application procedure

Download the [Research Postgraduate Application Form](#) and **return completed applications** to rpgadmissions.wd@setu.ie quoting **WD_2023_73_Spons** in the email subject line.

Please note that paper submissions will not be accepted.

The University may decide to interview only those applicants who appear from the information available, to be the most suitable, in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the post.

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