



# Teagasc PhD Walsh Scholarship Opportunity

**Optimisation of upland/lowland resources within farming systems to deliver a range of ecosystem services across multifunctional agricultural landscapes**

**Ref Walsh Scholarship Number 2020005**

## Background

Managing and sustaining farms in a rapidly changing world requires adaptive management approaches that consider the farm in its entirety as interacting components rather than focusing on individual farm areas or a single product or service. Integrated land use management considers the capacity of an area to produce a range of goods and services and manages this production cognisant of their interactions and trade-offs. It takes into account the characteristics of the ecosystems that make up a farm and its political and social setting, integrating socio-economic and biophysical information and explicitly considering the provision of human needs.

This project will utilise the Burren agricultural landscape as a living laboratory to investigate the potential for the development of an integrated agricultural system matching the capacity of the land to the production of a range of ecosystem services. The Burren context presents a unique opportunity to investigate the potential for improved integration where a system for payments for ecosystem services exist alongside developed agricultural markets. It is expected that the land use management framework developed can be replicated in similar farmland landscapes across Ireland and internationally. It is proposed to take an ecosystem services modelling approach combined with farm-level bio-economic models to investigate optimal farming systems.

## Requirements

Candidates should hold an Honours Degree (minimum 2:2, but 2:1 or higher is desirable) in environmental science, ecology, agricultural science, environmental economics or related discipline. An MSc or equivalent experience in relevant discipline would be desirable. The candidate should hold a full clean driver's license, be highly motivated and be able to work in a team environment.

## Award

The scholarship funding is €22,000 per annum and includes academic fees of up to a maximum of €6,000 per annum. It is expected that the student will be based jointly between GMIT and Teagasc Athenry.

**Project Duration: 36 months**

**Please Note:** Candidates from outside the EU are eligible to apply, but will be expected to provide evidence of sources of additional funds to cover excesses associated with Non-EU fees.

If either English or Irish is not the applicant's first language, a certificate of language ability in either language is required. IELTS level 6.0 or equivalent is mandatory for those presenting with English as a foreign language.

## Application Procedure

Applicants should submit their Curriculum Vitae (to include 2 referees) and a one-page Personal Statement to:

ResearchOffice@gmit.ie

Applications must be submitted to this e-mail address only.

The Personal Statement should not exceed 1 page and include:

- How you meet the requirements of the position
- Why you would like to pursue this PhD research programme

For further information, please email Dr James Moran (GMIT) Email: james.moran@gmit.ie and Dr Cathal Buckley (Teagasc) Email: cathal.buckley@teagasc.ie. Email queries to both addresses to ensure a response during annual leave etc.

**Closing date: 30 June 2020.**