

## TEAGASC PHD WALSH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“Adaptive management of grassland to improve farm level sustainability”

Walsh Scholarships Ref Number 2021003

### Background

Application of chemical nitrogen fertilisers to land has historically been a cornerstone of agricultural production. However, this activity has the potential to contribute to gaseous emissions and poses a risk to water quality and biodiversity loss. This is especially the case when application rates are in excess of crop requirements. The EU Farm to Fork strategy calls for a reduction in nutrient losses from agricultural land by at least 50% and promotes the reduction of the use of chemical fertilisers by at least 20% by 2030.

There is a growing awareness of the potential of additional forage species to improve the performance of grazing systems and simultaneously reduce the application of chemical nitrogen fertilisers. However, despite research and extension efforts to promote the uptake of clover and multi-species swards, the prevalence of these remain low.

This scholarship aims to understand and support grass-clover and multi-species sward implementation by (1) exploring farmers’ behavioural and knowledge constraints in the adoption of these swards, (2) modelling environmental and economic sustainability outcomes of grass-clover and multi-species sward use. It is envisaged that findings will directly inform knowledge transfer strategies to support widespread uptake of grass-clover and multi-species swards.

### Requirements

- Strong honours degree (minimum 2.1) in an appropriate discipline. A masters degree in an appropriate discipline would be a distinct advantage (e.g. Agricultural, Environmental or Behavioural Economics).
- Strong quantitative skills
- Good communication skills, both written and verbal
- English language (where English is not the first language)

### Award

The Ph.D. Scholarship is a joint research project between Teagasc, Rural Economy and Development Programme, Athenry, Co. Galway and the Department of Economics, NUI Galway. The student will work under the supervision of Dr. Doris Laepple (NUI Galway) and Dr. Cathal Buckley (Teagasc) and will be required to undertake coursework during year 1 and 2.

The scholarship funding is €24,000 per annum and includes University fees of up to a maximum of €6,000 per annum and is tenable for 4 years.

### Further Information/Applications

Dr. Doris Laepple, School of Business and Economics, National University of Ireland, Galway.  
Phone +353 (0)91 49 3164 Email: [doris.laeppl@nuigalway.ie](mailto:doris.laeppl@nuigalway.ie)

Dr. Cathal Buckley, Rural Economy and Development Programme, Teagasc, Athenry, Co. Galway.  
Phone +353 (0)91 845 294 Email: [cathal.buckley@teagasc.ie](mailto:cathal.buckley@teagasc.ie)

### Application Procedure

Submit an electronic copy of a curriculum vitae and a letter of interest simultaneously to:  
Dr. Doris Laepple ([doris.laeppl@nuigalway.ie](mailto:doris.laeppl@nuigalway.ie)) and Dr. Cathal Buckley ([cathal.buckley@teagasc.ie](mailto:cathal.buckley@teagasc.ie))

**Closing date:** Friday May 7th 2021 at 5pm