



PhD Opportunity Teagasc Walsh Fellowship

Physiological responses of underplanted broadleaf tree species to thinning intensity

Teagasc and UCD are collaborating in a major new research project, funded by COFORD (National Council for Forestry Research and Development; see www.coford.ie) and Teagasc, to examine establishment methods, species mixture types, underplanting and thinning on tree growth responses. The PhD study will be an important part of this larger research project, focussing on the potential implications of thinning on the growth and physiological responses of underplanted broadleaf tree species. A controlled shade (simulating different canopy densities) experiment will form the main part of the study. The phenology of growth, photosynthetic rates, water-use efficiency, leaf area, growth and biomass allocation, root growth interactions and nutrient uptake will be studied. Less intensive measurements will be carried out on trees growing in conventional field trials.

The main controlled experiment will be established at the Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Ashtown, Dublin 15. This will also be where the PhD student will be based, but some travel between Ashtown and UCD and to other field sites, will be required. The project will be supervised by Dr Conor O'Reilly (UCD) and Dr Nuala Ní Fhlatharta (Teagasc).

The PhD position is being funded mainly by a Teagasc Walsh Fellowship (<http://www.teagasc.ie/research/postgrad/>), with additional funding being provided by COFORD.

Essential requirements for this position are:

- A degree in Plant Science area (e.g. Forestry, Botany, Plant physiology, Plant ecology) with a good background in ecophysiology and silviculture
- A strong interest and understanding of plant tree responses to light and competition
- Good writing and communication skills

Desirable skills are:

- Experience of conducting fieldwork
- A full, clean driver's licence
- Post-graduate qualification in plant physiology or ecology
- Understanding of forestry in Ireland

The PhD scholarship is €21,000 pa, minus tuition fees (€5,800 in 2009/10 for EU students). The position will be funded for three or four years, commencing 1 November 2010.

You can apply for this position by sending a CV (including the names and addresses of two people willing to provide references) and a letter explaining why you feel qualified for the PhD position and scholarship.

The deadline for the receipt of applications is 5.00PM, Friday 17th September 2010.

For enquiries, contact Dr Conor O'Reilly at (01) 716 7191 or conor.oreilly@ucd.ie.

