



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University



MAGRSc Agricultural Innovation Support (22 Months Full Time) Funded by the Teagasc Walsh Fellowships Programme

This unique programme aims to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to be effective in building the capacity of farmers to adopt new practices and technologies.

This programme contains a blend of taught modules and independent research (25:75 respectively), and includes a 15-month placement in a Teagasc office or education centre. Students will be assigned a research

topic on which to base their research and each candidate will be supported by a Teagasc and UCD based thesis supervisor.

The experience gained on this programme will equip participants for future roles in advisory services, technical consultancy and education delivery.

Key Fact

Many former Walsh Fellows are currently employed in advisory and education roles in Teagasc and many others are in key positions in public services and agri-food companies at home and abroad. The large numbers of alumni from the Programme working in industry highlights how public research expenditure can facilitate capacity building within Irish industry.

Why study at UCD?



Tradition

Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence



Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



Global community

Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD



Global careers

Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa



Safety

Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

Course Content and Structure

Taught modules
25%

Action Research and Thesis
75%

Phase 1 Taught Modules

Students will spend one semester at the School of Agriculture & Food Science at University College Dublin undertaking a combination of practical and theoretical training on a range of topics relevant to their chosen study. Students will complete 3 to 5 modules (comprising a maximum of 25 credits) including modules in knowledge transfer, research methods and statistics. Other modules appropriate to the study being pursued will be chosen by the student with the approval of their academic supervisor. Students will also participate in a series of roundtable sessions on research and innovation support and will develop their detailed research proposals during this time.

Phase 2 Action Research and Thesis

Students will be based at a Teagasc centre / advisory office during this phase, and will be expected to undertake their research work as well as carrying out specific advisory and education activities as agreed with their Teagasc and UCD supervisors.





The Walsh Fellowships Programme

Through the provision of high quality research training, the Walsh Fellowships programme aims to contribute to the Teagasc objective of generating and applying new knowledge for the sustainable development of the agriculture and food processing industry, enable it to respond profitably to consumer demands and contribute to a vibrant rural economy and society.

The programme offers a unique opportunity to young graduates to undertake postgraduate research in Food, Animal (including pigs) and Grassland Production, Crops, Environment and Land Use, Rural Economics and Development, and other related disciplines.



Graduate Profile

Méabh O'Hagan
Education Officer,
Teagasc

After completing my level 8 degree in Animal Science at UCD, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in the agricultural sector. I was highly interested in both research and advisory and that is why I decided to complete the Masters in Agricultural Innovation Support (MAIS) programme. The combination of carrying out a research thesis while also gaining hands on experience in an advisory role provided me with the opportunity to pursue a career in either field.

I would highly recommend the MAIS programme to anyone who would like to pursue a career in agricultural advisory, education or research as they will have the opportunity to work off their own initiative while also benefitting from the guidance of knowledgeable staff and supervisors along the way. The programme's use of practical modules delivered by highly experienced and supportive tutors in conjunction with the professional placement provided me with the skill set I needed to secure my current position as an Education Officer with Teagasc.

Apply Now

Applications to this programme open in early April. Application forms can be downloaded from www.teagasc.ie or www.ucd.ie/agfood or by emailing agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie.

This programme is fully funded by the Walsh Fellowships Programme and there is expected to be 10 places available on the programme. Shortlisted candidates will be called to interview early-mid July.

Entry Requirements

- Applicants must hold an upper second class honours degree in agricultural science or equivalent discipline. Applicants with a pass degree coupled with significant and appropriate work experience may also be considered.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

Careers

This Programme is designed to build the competencies required for careers in agricultural advisory and education services whether in the public or private sector. This programme will suit students interested in understanding more about the processes of learning that underpin change and development.

Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- MAgSc Agricultural Extension and Innovation

Contact Us

Dr. Monica Gorman, School of Agriculture & Food Science, University College Dublin. Email: monica.gorman@ucd.ie
Dr. Tom Kelly, Teagasc. Email: tom.kelly@teagasc.ie

MAgrSc Agricultural Innovation Support Research Topic Preferences

(to be completed if you have indicated interest in the Masters in Agricultural Innovation Support by research)

	Topics for Research in the 2017-19 MAIS Programme
1	Development of a blue print for the disseminating best management practices for rush control to improve the productivity of grassland and minimise herbicide loss to water
2	The role of Knowledge Transfer and farmer engagement in halting the decline of threatened farmland species.
3	KT supports for upland farmers in relation to collaborative farming and vegetation assessment
4	Effective advisory supports for farming in an archaeological landscape
5	Using Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) to deliver soil fertility advice under GRASS10
6	How can agricultural extension services support Irish dairy farmers using AMS Systems?
7	Dairy farm employer and employee characteristics
8	The implementation of NMP recommendations by a targeted Dairy Discussion Group
9	Improving profit on winter milk farms - use of a co-design approach to enhance knowledge transfer packages
10	Engaging the 'middle third' of Dairy Farmers - Teagasc Glanbia joint programme
11	Recognition of prior learning (RPL) assessment for adult learners
12	Evaluation of the alignment of education planning and choices to longer term business and succession needs on dairy farms
13	An evaluation of the future role of and support for practical learning
14	Integration of technology on the College farm and in practical training programmes
15	Designing a process of engagement aimed at vulnerable farmers
16	The perception of horticulture as a potential career among school leavers
17	Multi-actor co-development of co-operation agreements for equine (sport horses)
18	Enrichment - focused appraisal and learning from pilot forestry Knowledge Transfer Groups (KTGs)
19	Supports and materials needed to support Advisor/farmer engagement in OHS Adoption.
20	Dependencies, interdependencies and independencies in adviser client relationship - what's good and not so good