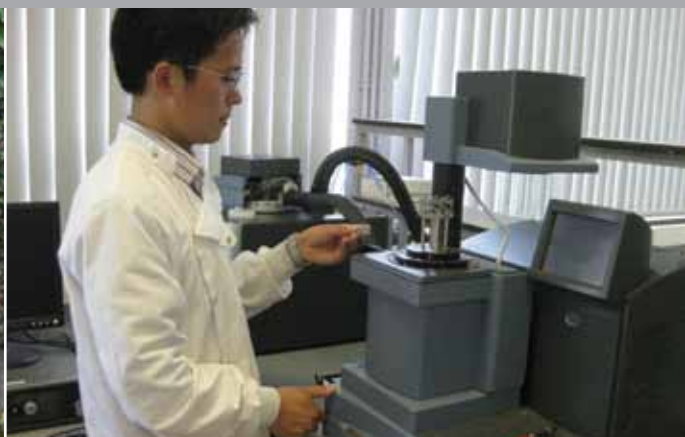


Walsh Fellowships Programme

Postgraduate Research Opportunities



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. Currently, there are 160 ongoing fellowships, with a turnover of up to 50 new ones each year.

Meet Some of our Current and Former Walsh Fellows



Dr Frank O'Mara

Director of Research, Teagasc

Dr O'Mara graduated from University College Dublin with a first-class honours BAgSc in 1987. He completed his PhD as a Walsh Fellow in dairy cow nutrition at Teagasc Moorepark. He then joined UCD, first as a Newman Scholar, and then as a lecturer in animal nutrition. His research

has been published in over 75 peer-reviewed papers; he has also published numerous technical articles and addressed many national and international scientific and industry conferences. Dr O'Mara joined Teagasc as Assistant Director of Agriculture Research in 2006 and was appointed Director of Research in 2009.



Collaboration

The Programme promotes closer liaison and collaboration between Teagasc and the universities on the island of Ireland, as well as with institutes of technology and universities in Europe, the US and the southern hemisphere. Postgraduates play a major role in facilitating a faster response by Teagasc to changing research priorities, particularly in 'new science' areas.

Stipend

Walsh Fellows receive an annual stipend which is linked to that of the Irish Research Council.

Overseas Training Awards

All Teagasc Walsh Fellows based in Ireland can apply for short-term overseas training awards on a competitive basis to spend a period of up to three months in an approved university or research institute outside of Ireland.

Location

Walsh Fellows are usually based in one of Teagasc's research centres. These centres are staffed by scientists and supporting technical and other staff working in well-equipped modern laboratories and field-based facilities. Students based at a Teagasc centre also attend all academic modules as required under their degree programme. An increasing number of our students are registered in overseas universities.

Application Procedure

Applications for Walsh Fellowships are made by academic staff in third-level institutes in co-operation with Teagasc researchers. Successful applicants select postgraduate students to conduct MSc and PhD programmes. Applications are not accepted from individual postgraduate students, and the Programme does not fund taught (non-research) postgraduate programmes.

A notice inviting applications for Fellowships is issued each June, with a closing date of early-September.

Applications are evaluated against the following criteria:

- Relevance to Teagasc's current research priorities
- Scientific merit and innovation content
- Researchability and feasibility of completion in proposed timescale
- Cost/benefit.

The award of Fellowships is notified to applicants in December and students are then selected. The Fellowships are awarded for the duration of MSc or PhD projects (1.5 to 4 years), subject to satisfactory progress and reporting. Fellowships are also awarded at other times during the year in response to receipt of externally funded research contracts.



Dr. Donagh Berry

Principal Investigator, Teagasc

Following his bachelor's degree in agricultural science at University College Dublin in 2000, Donagh undertook a Ph.D. in dairy cattle genetics as a Walsh Fellow based in Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Donagh is now a principal investigator in statistical genetics at Teagasc, Moorepark. He is responsible for research on genetics in dairy cattle and has more recently moved into beef and sheep. He has published over 130 peer reviewed publications and over 250 technical publications.



Dr Sean McNamara

Director ABC Nutrition Ltd.

Dr Sean McNamara was based in Teagasc Moorepark as a Walsh Fellow between 1998 and 2002. He subsequently founded ABC Nutrition Ltd along with Dr Willie Wixted. The company is engaged in manufacturing sports nutrition and health nutrition products. The team's background in nutrition and research development has been a key strength for the company.



Employment Of Walsh Fellows

Working on targeted applied research questions of relevance to the sector within teams with a high focus on disseminating results to relevant stakeholders, our students develop specific analytical skills, as well as more generic teamwork and communication skills. These skills are highly transferable, making our alumni of value in many different roles across the Irish economy and internationally.

Many former Walsh Fellows are currently employed in Teagasc and many others are in key positions in universities, public services, agri-food companies and financial institutions 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. The vast majority work in Ireland or for Irish companies.

Teagasc alumni have also been very successful in pursuing university academic careers, continuing to add to research output in the sector, as well as transferring knowledge to students. Many of our alumni working in the university sector now act as co-supervisors to our PhD students, continuing the collaborations started when they themselves were students.



Stephen Hynes

NUI Galway

Stephen Hynes was a Walsh Fellow from 2001-2004 and subsequently spent three years as a Research Officer in Teagasc, working on model development and environmental economics. In 2008, he moved to NUI Galway as Director of the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit. Stephen's main research interest is in microeconomic behaviour analysis and his work has been published by a number of the top-ranked journals in these fields, including *Ecological Economics*, *the American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and *Land Economics*.



Xavier Vollenweider

Xavier is a current Teagasc Walsh Fellow, based at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change at the London School of Economics, headed by Sir Nicholas Stern. His PhD focuses on the economics of risk in agriculture and he has developed econometric models for the Irish context to look at issues associated with market and weather risk and decision making in Irish agriculture. Xavier won Best Poster and was short-listed for Best Paper at the 2012 conference of the European Association of Agricultural Economists.

Walsh Fellowship M.Agr.Sc Innovation Support Programme

The programme aims to equip graduates with the skills and knowledge to be effective in building the capacity of farmers to adopt new practices and technologies. The experience gained on this programme will equip them well for future roles in advisory services, technical consultancy and education delivery. The Programme consists of taught modules, a research project on a particular knowledge transfer challenging/issue and practical experience in teaching and/or advisory work. The programme is 21 months in duration. Ten fellowships are awarded annually.

Annual Walsh Fellowships Seminar

The Annual Walsh Fellowships Seminar is held in the RDS, Dublin. Fellows are invited to present their findings at this public event and the Teagasc/RDS gold medal is awarded for the best student presentation.

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