TEAGASC PHD WALSH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“VistaMilkDigest TP8 – Milk variations and their effect on in vitro gastro-intestinal digestion”
Walsh Scholarship Ref Number 2019211

Background

The VistaMilk SFI Research Centre aims to be an agent of growth for the Irish dairy industry by being a world leader in fundamental and translational research for precision pasture-based dairying. VistaMilk represents a unique collaboration between Agri-Food and ICT research institutes and leading Irish/multinational food and ICT companies. The Centre is hosted by Teagasc, the national agency with responsibility for agriculture and food research, in partnership with the Tyndall National Institute, Ireland’s national microelectronics institute, the Telecommunications Software & Systems Group (TSSG) at Waterford Institute of Technology and the Insight Centre for Data Analytics (at UCD, NUIG, DCU). VistaMilk is funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

This PhD research project aims to study the fate of dairy products during digestion. State-of-the-art in vitro gastro-intestinal (GI) digestion methods will be employed to investigate the digestive behaviour of dairy products. Milks with (i) different lipid composition (controlled on farm level) and (ii) protein composition (controlled by bovine genetics) and their downstream ingredients and products will be examined. Biochemical breakdown, gastric restructuring, rate of digestion, microstructure and bio-accessibility of nutrients will be monitored throughout the GI transit.

Requirements

To be eligible to apply for a PhD, you must have an Honours degree with at least Second Class Honours Grade I in an approved primary degree (such as Chemistry, Biochemistry, Nutritional Science or Food Science). Applicants with a relevant Master’s degree (of any grade) are also eligible to apply. Refer to:

The successful candidate should be self-motivated with enthusiasm to develop wet-lab technical skills across a range of disciplines. They should have an interest in and aptitude for laboratory-based research. All applicants, whose first language is not English, are required to have an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of >6.5 or a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test score of >90 (internet based). More details regarding English requirements can be found at http://www.ucc.ie/en/study/postgrad/how.

Award

This PhD starts no later than 1 Sept 2020 and is a joint research project between Teagasc Food Research Centre Moorepark (www.teagasc.ie) and University College Cork, Ireland (www.ucc.ie). The student will be based primarily at Teagasc Food Research Centre Moorepark and will be registered at University College Cork, working under the supervision of Dr André Brodkorb (Teagasc) in association with Dr Seamus O’Mahony (University College Cork).

The Scholarship funding is €24,000 per annum and includes University fees of up to a maximum of €5,500 and student stipend at a flat rate of €18,500 per annum and is tenable for 4 years.

Further Information/Applications

Submit an electronic copy of Curriculum Vitae and a letter of interest to:
andre.brodkorb@teagasc.ie

Please include ‘VistaMilkDigest TP8’ in the subject line

Closing date

20th May 2020