



MSc Agricultural Extension and Innovation

MSc Agricultural Innovation Support

Knowledge Transfer Programmes

The UCD Teagasc MSc Agricultural Extension and Innovation (taught Masters) and MSc Agricultural Innovation Support (research Masters) are collaborative funded programmes delivered by UCD and Teagasc for graduates with an interest and ambition to work in advisory and education roles. These programmes involve placement within Teagasc advisory and educational services where the student gets the opportunity to learn from experienced mentors while studying and carry out their research.

Over the past decade there has been a resurgence in interest in agricultural knowledge and innovation systems as we grapple with challenges of farm

incomes, climate change and sustainable development. A lot of this interest is directed to the skills and competencies required by agricultural advisors to facilitate and support farmer learning and innovation.

With more emphasis on participatory methods of knowledge exchange, the farm advisor has to be able to support peer to peer learning among farmers as well as take on the role of knowledge broker.

On completion of these programmes, graduates will be competent agricultural advisors, committed to on-going reflective practice and seeking out more effective ways to support farmer decision making.

Course Highlight

Places on these funded programmes are sponsored by Teagasc. Approximately 10 places are available each year.

Students receive a monthly stipend for the duration of the programme and all tuition fees are funded by Teagasc. Application opens in spring each year and is directly through the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science. Places are highly competitive.

Programme Content and Structure

MSc in Agricultural Innovation Support (Research Masters)

20 Months, Full Time

A research masters programme. Students will research critical issues assigned by Teagasc around the role of knowledge transfer in supporting farmer decision making and technology adoption.

- Research topics assigned by Teagasc staff
- 3-month (Trimester 1) in UCD followed by 14 month placement in a Teagasc advisory office or agricultural college education centre
- UCD & Teagasc supervisors
- Taught modules 25% | Action research & thesis 75%

MSc Agricultural Extension and Innovation (Taught Masters)

24 months, Full Time

A taught masters programme involving full time mentored placement in a Teagasc advisory office or agricultural education centre while completing modules using reflective and blended learning.

- Entire masters completed in a Teagasc advisory office
- Mentored by experienced Teagasc advisors
- Taught modules 33% | Minor thesis 33% | Reflective practice modules 33%
- Distance / blended learning
- Assignments and projects relate to the work placement
- Emphasis on self-reflection and professional development

Why study at UCD?



Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs



Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland



Global Profile

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



Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries



Welcoming Campus

Modern parkland campus with 24 hr security. Wide range of facilities, clubs, societies and supports



Career Opportunities

The UCD Teagasc Knowledge Transfer programmes are designed to build the competencies required for careers in agricultural advisory and education services in the public or private sector.

Many former students are currently employed in advisory and education roles in Teagasc and many others are in key positions in public services and agri-food companies in Ireland and abroad.

Applicant Profile

- Applicants must hold an upper second-class honours degree in agricultural science or equivalent discipline that meets the educational qualification requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for the Farm Advisory System (FAS). 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.

Contact Us

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 UCD School of Agriculture & Food Science
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Graduates from these programmes are taking on exciting roles across the agricultural knowledge and innovation system (AKIS) from advisory and education services to government and policy roles as well as in the media, agri-business and the non-governmental sector. Career opportunities within the AKIS are increasing all the time as more recognition is given to the importance of facilitating farmer learning and innovation as we take on the challenges of climate change and sustainability.

Fees and Scholarships

These 2 Masters programmes are funded through Teagasc Knowledge Transfer Scholarships. Successful applicants / students will have their tuition paid as well as receiving an annual stipend of €25,000 per annum (paid on a monthly basis). Places on the programme are offered on a competitive basis and students on the programme are expected to meet key targets at different stages to ensure continuation.

Liz O'Sullivan | Teagasc
 e: KTMastersProgramme@teagasc.ie

Graduate Profile



John Mahon

Business & Technology Dairy Advisor,
 Teagasc

I've been involved in agriculture from a young age. After graduating from the BAgrSc Dairy Business programme in UCD, I knew I wanted to gain further exposure in agricultural education and advisory. The MSc Agricultural Extension Innovation Support Programme provided me with the perfect opportunity to get involved in these areas, working in Advisory and Education settings, gaining practical experience in real working environments while also progressing my education to the next level through research.

I have developed many skills throughout the programme, from the modules undertaken in UCD to the responsibility assumed in professional and practical environments under the guidance of experienced staff. The modules undertaken contributed to my ability to design and complete my research. The support and backing of both Teagasc and UCD staff helped focus my learnings in the completion of my study, write up of my thesis and enhanced my overall learning experience.

I would highly recommend this MSc programme to anyone who wishes to pursue a career in agricultural advisory or education, as it helped me develop the skill set I needed to progress my career in agriculture.

Apply Now

Applications open in April. Closing date 26th May 2025. Application forms can be downloaded from www.teagasc.ie or www.ucd.ie/agfood or by emailing agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie.