

## TEAGASC PHD WALSH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### Human health advantages of pasture feeding derived milk fat rich products

#### 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 programme has two primary research aims. Firstly to determine the effect of dairy and milkfat derived products from pasture vs. indoor TMR feed on the gut microbiota and health in early life and secondly to demonstrate the role of milkfat-containing ingredients to mediate against cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, and atherosclerosis.

The student will join highly successful international research groups, and lively graduate training communities, and will also receive training in a range of skills including molecular biology, microbiology bioinformatics and statistics.

#### 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 Microbiology Biochemistry, Nutritional Science or Food Science). Applicants with a relevant Master's degree (of any grade) are also eligible to apply. Refer to: [https://www.ucc.ie/en/cacsss/grads/future\\_postgrads/research\\_courses/phds/](https://www.ucc.ie/en/cacsss/grads/future_postgrads/research_courses/phds/). The successful candidate should be self-motivated with enthusiasm to develop wet-lab technical skills across a range of disciplines and bioinformatics analyse. The student will also be expected to participate in wider VistaMilk activities including attendance to annual conference, relevant Masterclasses and workshops, as well as participation into Education and Public Engagement activities.

Fluency in English is essential. Please refer to <https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/comparison/english/postgraduate/> for more information.

#### Award

This is a joint research project between Teagasc Food Research Centre Moorepark ([www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)) and University College Cork, Ireland ([www.ucc.ie](http://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 Prof. Catherine Stanton (Teagasc) and Prof. Paul Ross (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.

The student should be available for PhD registration in October 2020

#### Application Procedure

Submit an electronic copy of Curriculum Vitae and a letter of interest to:  
[Catherine.stanton@teagasc.ie](mailto:Catherine.stanton@teagasc.ie)

#### Closing date

28/09/2020