



**Two Research Masters Scholarships – Civil Engineering  
College of Engineering and Informatics, NUI Galway & Teagasc Forestry Development Dept.**

related to project

**‘Exploitation and Realisation of Thinnings from Hardwoods (EARTH)’**

**Project Description:**

Wood is widely recognised as a valuable and sustainable natural resource. The development of added-value wood products from Irish forests has until now been mostly focussed on softwoods. As our broadleaf forests are maturing, hardwood thinnings are becoming more widely available as a result of forest management activities. The primary objective of the proposed research is to maximise the value of Irish hardwood forest thinnings by identifying potential added-value products from the resource. A study of current status of the resource will be undertaken to quantify the available dimensions from first and second thinnings. The physical and structural properties of the material will be determined through experimental testing. A drying and durability study will be carried out. Based on the information arising out of these investigations, potential end-uses of the material will be identified.

This joint research project between the Timber Engineering Research Group, College of Engineering and Informatics, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG) and the Teagasc Forestry Development Department is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine’s Competitive Research Funding Programmes.

**Requirements:**

Applicants must have a good primary degree (First or Second Class Honours Grade 1) in an appropriate discipline (engineering, wood science, forestry or a related area). The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated, have excellent communication skills and be prepared for laboratory work and extended periods of field work with modern testing equipment.

**Award:**

Two Research Masters Fellowships, each comprising a €16,000 stipend plus fees for up to 2 years, are available. The students will be based at the New Engineering Building, NUIG and will be working under the supervision of Dr. Annette Harte (NUIG) and Dr. Ian Short (Teagasc). They will also work for extended periods on fieldwork.

Start date: Jan 2017

**Further Information**

Informal enquiries about the project may be made to Dr. Annette Harte at [annette.harte@nuigalway.ie](mailto:annette.harte@nuigalway.ie) or Dr. Ian Short at [ian.short@teagasc.ie](mailto:ian.short@teagasc.ie).

**To Apply:**

Applications to include a covering letter, CV, and the contact details of two referees should be sent via e-mail (in MS Word or pdf only) to [annette.harte@nuigalway.ie](mailto:annette.harte@nuigalway.ie).

**Closing date for applications:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016