



National University of Ireland Galway

**COLLEGE OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND CELTIC STUDIES
GALWAY DOCTORAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES**

Peatland Conservation and Restoration Research Project

in collaboration with
CARE-PEAT
(Funded by INTERREG NWE)

Introduction

A Doctoral (PhD) Scholarship is available for three years (with the possibility of extension) to further best practice conservation strategies for peatland restoration within the discipline of Geography at NUI Galway and a one-year stay at University College Dublin.

Context

The majority of Irish peatlands exist in a degraded state with only 10% considered of conservation value. This results in large net carbon emissions from a landscape that should be a natural carbon sink and increases the difficulty of meeting national and international emissions agreements. Further, differences in land ownership limit effective peatland management and leads to ineffective methods and policies to combat degradation and promote recovery.

The Research Project

This PhD research will be in cooperation with an INTERREG NWE funded project, Care-Peat that will demonstrate innovative technologies that achieve net emissions savings from novel restoration and carbon-accounting techniques and at developing new policies and methods for managing and monitoring carbon reduction from peatlands. It involves collaborators from the UK, France, Belgium and the Netherlands and the successful candidate will be able to develop professional networks with leading academic and professional organisations. Specifically, the project will monitor and follow peatland restoration activities in the Irish midland regions. The candidate will be required to measure greenhouse gas emissions from intact and degraded areas, link these emissions to aerial imagery, help coordinate volunteer citizen groups to assist in restoration efforts, and assist with new trials demonstrating rewetting techniques in degraded bogs. The ability to identify and map peatland flora/biomes is highly desired.

The successful candidate will be based at NUI Galway for the full duration of the scholarship, within the discipline of Geography. During Year 1 of the scholarship, the candidate will be required to attend specific training at University College Dublin under the supervision of Dr. Florence Renou-Wilson to study state of the art peatland greenhouse gas monitoring techniques. The remainder of the scholarship time will be spent based at NUI Galway with travel to local and interregional field sites. The project ends 10-June 2022, with possibilities of further funding. The successful candidate will be expected to apply for additional external funding opportunities.

Galway Doctoral Research Scholarship Scheme 2019/20

As part of the research project the successful candidate will be tasked with:

1. Monitoring environmental changes, including greenhouse gas exchanges, of peatlands along various degradation states and restoration trajectories.
2. Assisting with onsite peatland restoration activities and demonstrate the applicability of alternative restoration techniques for Irish peatlands.
3. Assisting in the development of landscape conservation strategies that focus on carbon sequestration potential including use of satellite or UAV data.
4. Assisting other project partners in local and regional outreach and education to develop socio-economic incentives related to peatland use.

Essential Selection Criteria

- A Masters degree (with a first-class or 2:1 grade) in a relevant discipline (e.g., environmental science, conservation, botany, earth or physical sciences, or similar degree).
- Demonstrated GIS experience and data management skills with the ability to perform spatial analysis.
- Ability and experience identifying and mapping peatland (or similar) habitats and experience with field monitoring and data collection.
- Full-Irish or EU driver's license.

Desirable Selection Criteria

- Experience with greenhouse gas sampling and analysis.
- Computer literacy in data management, data manipulation, and statistical analysis (knowledge of the R programming language preferred).
- Understanding of EU directives and policies and national legislation regarding natural areas.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday, 2 October 2019 @ 5pm.

Queries in relation to the scholarship may be sent to Dr. Terry Morley terry.morley@nuigalway.ie

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 2019/20

The College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies (CASSCS) at NUI Galway is pleased to offer this scholarship to support full-time PhD research within the PhD programmes of the CASSCS.

The scholarships will be awarded in line with the objectives and criteria as laid out above.

Applicants are advised to carefully read these Terms and Conditions in advance of submitting an application to ensure their eligibility under the Scheme. Applications that do not comply with the Terms and Conditions will be deemed ineligible.

1. Duration

The scholarship will be awarded for a maximum period of three with the possibility of further funding thereafter.

2. Value

The maximum value of an individual Scholarship award is €21,250 per annum, from which a student levy and fees of €5,250 will be paid. The balance of €16,000 will be paid in a monthly stipend of €1333.33. The scholarship of the awardee whose fees are paid by an external funding body (e.g. a Local Authority) will be reduced by the relevant fee amount. A successful candidate from a non-EU country will be entitled to apply for an International Merit Scholarship to cover the non-EU portion of their fee.

3. Classification of Scholarship Payments

Scholarships are officially classified as a 'scholarship' and hence do not attract Tax or Social Insurance. The recipient is not an employee of the University.

4. Eligibility

The minimum qualification for the award of a scholarship is a first class or higher second class honours masters degree or the equivalent from a recognised institution in a relevant discipline.

Applicants must have an established proficiency in English or in Irish. For applicants whose first language is not English or Irish, a language proficiency assessment may be required.

5. Conditions of Tenure

- a. Successful applicants to this scheme will be designated as a *Galway Doctoral Research Scholar* and will register in the Structured PhD programme of the CASSCS, National University of Ireland, Galway before the Scholarship can be drawn down. For further information on the programme, see [here](#).
- b. Registration will take place as soon as possible after the offer is made. If registration is not completed as soon as possible thereafter, the scholarship offer may be withdrawn.
- c. Scholarship will be awarded for three years, according to the original date of the applicant's registration for the PhD degree, and based on satisfactory progress being confirmed each year by the student's GRC.
- d. The scholarship will automatically cease on the submission of the Scholar's PhD thesis, if this occurs within the three year period.

- e. The scholarship is valid for the year in which it is awarded or renewed. Under general circumstances the scholarship may not be deferred or otherwise interrupted, without reasonable cause. Where particular situations arise that necessitate temporary leave of absence, they shall be verified and notified to the GRC, and approved by the Dean of the CASSCS.
- f. Should a Scholar be unable for any reason (including medical reasons) to pursue studies in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the scholarship, the Scholar and/or his/her supervisor is required to inform the Dean of the CASSCS within two weeks of such a situation coming to the Scholar's attention. The Dean of the CASSCS, on appropriate advice, reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the Scholarship.
- g. A Scholar may wish to terminate the scholarship for personal, professional or other reasons. This should not be done without prior consultation with the GRC and Dean of the CASSCS, as it may involve reimbursement by the Scholar to the CASSCS if the Scholar is unable to justify the funding received up to the date of termination.
- h. All publications, presentations and publicity associated with or arising from the research undertaken by the Scholar while in receipt of the Galway Doctoral Research Scholarship must contain the following acknowledgement **'Funding received from the Galway Doctoral Research Scholarship Scheme (Peatland Conservation and Restoration CARE-PEAT) of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies, National University of Ireland Galway'**.
- i. The completion of the research, which is central to the PhD degree, remains the primary purpose of the scholarship. However, as part of their doctoral graduate formation, and with a view to assisting Scholars in the acquisition of skills in the transfer of knowledge and the assessment of students, the Scholar will be expected to engage in teaching, or other academic work, that normally will not exceed three contact hours¹ per week, or the equivalent in other duties, per week. (See 5.7 of the [University's Guidelines For Research Degree Programmes](#)).
- j. At the earliest possible opportunity during the tenure of a scholarship, the Scholar will be required to prepare one, or if necessary two, application(s), under the guidance and advice of the supervisor, for external research funding under the Irish Research Council (IRC) Post-Graduate Scholarship Scheme, if eligible to do so.
- k. The holder may not be the holder simultaneously of any other scholarship or fellowship.
- l. Galway Doctoral Research Scholarships will be awarded only to full-time registered students who will engage full-time in research during the period of the scholarship. The recipients of the scholarships are expected to be normally present in the university for the duration of the programme. Should Scholars wish to take a prolonged absence from the university, s/he must apply for permission using Form GS 090, which is available on the [Graduate Studies website](#).
- m. The Galway Doctoral Research Scholarship is held subject to these Terms and Conditions. If any of the above is breached by a scholarship holder, the CASSCS will suspend or terminate the Scholarship and/or will require the Scholar to reimburse the College for such payments that have already been made.
- n. The successful applicant will be required to sign a form of consent under the Data Protection Act 1988 in relation to records on data concerning his/her registration status, academic record and scholarship payment details.
- o. The award of a Galway Doctoral Research Scholarship is made subject to receipt of funding from various sources. In the event of such funding being reduced or being discontinued the CASSCS, the National University of Ireland Galway or their agents will not be under any liability to provide funding or to compensate a Scholar for any reduction or cessation of such funding.
- p. In cases where ethical issues may arise from the research, applicants will be asked to provide a written statement to the effect that full consideration has been given to the ethical implications of the research proposal. In such cases, the successful application will require the approval of the Research Ethics Committee of the National University of Ireland Galway prior to confirmation of the Scholarship

¹ 'Contact hours' refers to time spent in contact with students during tutorials or other classroom-based activities and does not include preparation time. The equivalent of '3 contact hours' therefore will normally be c. 6 hours per week during the teaching term.

Award.

- q. In accepting a Galway Doctoral Research Scholarship, successful applicants must also agree to accept the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme. Correspondence on this will not be entered into once an award has been accepted.
- r. In the event that a scholarship recipient fails to comply fully with the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme, the CASSCS reserves the right to revoke the Scholarship award.
- s. If a scholarship holder does not attend for a scheduled meeting with his/her GRC without reasonable cause, or if his/her GRC are unhappy with the progress being made on the research project, the GRC can recommend that stipend payments be suspended forthwith.

6. Application Process

Applicants are required to submit a Cover Letter and CV (including three named referees) to terry.morley@nuigalway.ie by **5pm, Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

7. Selection Process

The award will be made by the CASSCS on the recommendation of the Research Programme's Assessment Panel.

The selection process is strictly confidential, and representations may not be made on behalf of applicants.

Note:

Late or incomplete applications or applications that do not fully adhere to the Terms and Conditions of this scheme will be deemed ineligible.

The College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies at NUI Galway reserves the right to alter the Conditions of Tenure of the Scholarship at any time.