

## Teagasc PhD Opportunity

### “Heifer mastitis: Exploring risk factors and control measures in Irish dairy herds”

Walsh Scholarship Ref Number: 2024011

#### About the project

Mastitis in pregnant, pre-calving heifers and first lactation cows represents a very serious problem that potentially threatens milk production and udder health in the first and subsequent lactations. This is a relevant issue in many dairy herds in Ireland.

This project will study the risk factors associated with mastitis in pre-calving heifers and first lactation cows and evaluate management strategies before and after calving to reduce the level of intramammary infection in this group of cows.

#### Why Apply?

You will join a dynamic and supportive research environment where you can grow your skills and contribute to significant advancements in the dairy industry. This opportunity is perfect for motivated individuals looking to make a real impact in sustainable agriculture and animal health.

#### Requirements

The candidate should be highly self-motivated with proven abilities in problem solving and data analysis. Applicants should have a primary degree (minimum 2.1) in an appropriate discipline (Agricultural or biological engineering, dairy or animal science or veterinary medicine). A Master's degree would be a distinct advantage. Experience of statistical software and data analysis would be an advantage. Prior experience of working in the dairy industry is desirable. The candidate must be highly proficient in both written and spoken English (see specific requirements [here](#)). A full driving licence is required.

#### Award

This PhD is a joint research project between Teagasc Moorepark and University College Dublin (UCD), with the additional collaboration of the University of Copenhagen. The successful candidate will be registered as a PhD student in UCD but based in the Teagasc Research Centre at Moorepark, Co. Cork, Ireland. The candidate will be required to travel to UCD on occasion to accomplish both their academic and research objectives. The PhD will commence as soon as possible after 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.

The project funding provides a flat rate stipend of €25,000 per year, for 4 years, plus a maximum of €6,000 per year for university fees.

Additional funds for student development will be available for attendance to national and international conferences and registering for courses contributing to enhance the candidate's skills and knowledge. Other resources necessary for the student to develop their work (such as laptop, transport for conducting the studies) will be provided.

#### Application Procedure

Submit a letter of interest and your CV to Dr. Pablo Silva Boloña ([pablo.silvabolona@teagasc.ie](mailto:pablo.silvabolona@teagasc.ie)) and Dr. Eoin Ryan ([eoin.g.ryan@ucd.ie](mailto:eoin.g.ryan@ucd.ie))

#### Closing date

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2024.