

**Dundalk Institute of Technology invite applications for the following position:  
PhD postgraduate Scholarship (Full-time: 36 months)**

**Project overview**

**Title:** MULTISPEC: Ensiling multi-species swards

**Supervisor:** Dr Joseph Lynch (DkIT) and Dr Siobhan Jordan (DkIT)

**Position Reference:** 03STEM2020

**Keywords:** Multi-species swards, silage, fermentation, ruminants

*This project will evaluate the ensilability of MSSs and determine the potential benefit that currently available technologies may have on maximising the quality of preserved feed for Irish ruminant systems.*

Farming methodologies that allow for reductions in the use of artificial fertilisers and other chemical inputs have gained increased attention commercially in recent years. One aspect of ruminant production that could contribute to these goals is the use of multi—species swards (MSSs) in grassland systems. Through the incorporation of legumes and herbal species into these swards, N fixation may be increased, reducing fertiliser demand, along with other potential system benefits. However, it is important to investigate if challenges exist in relation to preserving these forages for winter feeding (ensiling) in comparison to the standard PRG-dominated swards in Ireland, and to determine how any associated risks associated with these challenges can be mitigated.

**Dundalk Institute of Technology**

Dundalk Institute of Technology is a dynamic, world class Institute that has developed an international reputation in both basic and applied research through its Research Centres. This PhD Scholarship is offered through the Centre for Freshwater and Environmental Studies, within the School of Health and Science at DkIT. The successful applicant will be registered as a full time postgraduate research student in the DCU-DkIT Graduate School. The PhD position will be located on the DkIT campus and the Degree will be awarded by Dublin City University.

## Funding

This project is co-funded by the HEA Technological Universities Transformation Fund and DKIT.

The successful candidate shall receive a postgraduate stipend of €16,000 per annum, plus fees and a contribution to their direct research project costs up to a maximum of €5,000 per annum. The duration of this PhD studentship is 36 months. Terms and conditions will apply.

## Eligibility

| Eligibility Criteria: | Essential   | Desirable  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Qualifications        | 2:1 Honours Degree (or equivalent) in <b>Agriculture, Agricultural Science, Biology</b> or other relevant <b>Life Science</b> disciplines.        | A <b>MSc</b> degree in an <b>Agricultural</b> or <b>Life Science</b> discipline.   |
| Experience/knowledge  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-motivated and ambitious</li><li>• Full drivers license</li><li>• Lab/Field-work experience</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good knowledge of grassland management.</li><li>• Knowledge of feed/silage composition analyses.</li></ul> |

It is also a requirement that any applicant whose first language is other than English must have a certified English language proficiency of at least IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

## Application process

Please send a copy of your CV and a 1-page cover letter to [orla.lynch@dkit.ie](mailto:orla.lynch@dkit.ie) no later than **4.00 pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021**. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

Please use the position reference **"03STEM2020"** in the subject title.

Short listed candidates will be invited to interview.

Informal inquiries should be sent to; [joseph.lynch@dkit.ie](mailto:joseph.lynch@dkit.ie)

Please note, canvassing will render an applicant ineligible.