

## Summer Undergraduate Research Programme 2021

Project Number & Title:	<p><b>Project 9</b></p> <p>H<sub>2</sub>O Heroes: Transitioning a science outreach programme to online delivery in the era of COVID-19</p>
Project Details	<p>This study proposes to build upon and enhance an ongoing Environmental Education (EE) science outreach programme ‘H<sub>2</sub>O Heroes’, which uses a catchment-based framework to explore collaborative approaches to water (Gilleran Stephens et al. 2021). H<sub>2</sub>O Heroes brings primary school students and their teachers on an interactive 2-hour classroom-based tour of a water catchment - with a clear focus on the link between human activity and water quality - while ensuring that learning remains fun.</p> <p>COVID-19 presented many challenges for science outreach programmes and the cancellation of all in-school visits created significant limitations for environmental education. In response to the COVID-19 restrictions, in 2020 the H<sub>2</sub>O Heroes programme was re-focused and efforts were initiated to transition the programme to a virtual format that still included interaction with nature and a hands-on experience for the participants. This study aims to assess participant responses to these changes using surveys and ecological data generated by the participants to evaluate and compare satisfaction and outcomes to workshops offered prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Comparison between student pre-assessments, which highlight the baseline of each measured component, with the student post-assessments will reveal the student</p>

	<p>outcomes from participating in the workshop and attitudes towards water conservation. We will also examine logistical challenges and key programmatic elements that facilitated the transition of the H<sub>2</sub>O Heroes programme to increased reliance on online education.</p>
Profile of Candidate	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year science student with strong academic record.</p>
Project Supervisors	<p><b>Research Centre:</b> Centre for Freshwater &amp; Environmental Studies</p> <p><b>Supervisory Team:</b> Dr. Caroline Gilleran Stephens &amp; Dr. Suzanne Linnane</p> <p>All enquiries to <a href="mailto:suzanne.linnane@dkit.ie">suzanne.linnane@dkit.ie</a></p>
Duration	<p>6 weeks</p>
Number of Positions Available	<p>1</p>
Amount Awarded (per candidate)	<p>Weekly stipend of €150 (tax free)</p>
How to Apply	<p>Each applicant should submit the following documents by email to <a href="mailto:mary.matthews@dkit.ie">mary.matthews@dkit.ie</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CV including academic transcripts</li> <li>• A 300 word statement as to why you are a suitable candidate for this project.</li> </ul> <p>Please state clearly in the subject line of your covering email the abstract title and project reference number.</p> <p><i>An applicant may apply for more than one programme, but each application must be made separately.</i></p>

