



Seeking PhD candidates (2) for positions based at UCD Institute of Food and Health, School of Agriculture & Food Science, University College Dublin

About the research

The National Dietary Survey research team within the UCD Institute of Food and Health is seeking to recruit two PhD students to work on a national dietary survey of children in Ireland. This project is funded by the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and is a collaboration between University College Dublin, Munster Technological University and Technological University Dublin.

The National Dietary Survey research team in UCD investigates the dietary intake of the Irish population and its potential impact on nutrition and health in collaboration with other Irish Universities through the Irish Universities Nutrition Alliance (www.iuna.net). Since 1996, national databases of dietary intake and health status have been developed through national nutrition surveys of the population from age 1 to 90 years. These databases are used widely for research related to food safety, nutrition and public health. Research topics include obesity prevention, healthy eating guidelines, benefits and safety of food fortification and food supplements, and safety of intakes of food additives and contaminants. The research also supports the work of agencies that are responsible for food and nutrition policy and regulation in Ireland and the EU.

About the current positions available

We are currently seeking 2 full-time PhD students (3.5 year duration) to join our team for this research project. The two positions will be based on site at UCD and will be supervised by Associate Professor Breige McNulty. Successful applicants will be enthusiastic graduates in Human Nutrition (or equivalent) with a minimum of a 2.1 honours degree or an MSc. The roles will involve participant recruitment, dietary intake assessment, biofluid collection, database construction and analyses and will be both field and desk-based.

The fieldwork phase is expected to be completed within one and a half years and would be a significant part of the PhD. Full training will be provided on all aspects of the PhD; however, experience of dietary intake assessment methodologies and/or working with food consumption databases would be a distinct advantage and a high level of initiative is expected. In addition, this position will involve travel and a **full driver's licence and own transport is essential**.

The scholarship is funded by the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine and includes a stipend of €25,000 per annum for 3.5 years (exempt from income tax) and PhD registration fees of €6,000 per annum for EU students (fees only available at the EU rate).

Further information: Enquiries can be made to Associate Professor Breige McNulty (breige.mcnulty@ucd.ie)

Application Procedure: Please send a current CV and motivational statement outlining your relevant qualifications, and skills for this position and motivations for applying (in one PDF document) to breige.mcnulty@ucd.ie with the words Dietary Survey PhD application (followed by your name) in the subject line.

Closing date for applications: Friday 1st May 5PM