

Postgraduate Scholarship Information Sheet

Scholarship Project Title	Field2Flour Ireland: Cultivating a sustainable future
Advert Reference number	WD_2025_13_SPONS
Supervisor(s)	Dr Anastasia Ktenioudaki (SETU Waterford) Dr Ultan Mc Carthy (SETU Waterford)
Research Group	EIRC Sustainable Agriculture and Food Research Team
Department	Department of Land sciences
Duration	4 Years/48 Months
Status: Full-time / part-time	Full Time
Funding information	Irish Department of Food Agriculture and the Marine
Value of the scholarship per year for four years	Stipend: € 25,000 per annum Fees of €5,750 per annum
Closing date and time	Friday, 12 June at 4pm Irish Time
Interview date	<i>To be confirmed</i>
PhD commencement date	1 September 2026

Project Key Words: *Food, agriculture, sustainability*

Post summary

The SETU Department of Land Sciences is looking for a PhD student to work on their FIELD2FLOUR Ireland project. Funded by the Irish Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine, FIELD2FLOUR Ireland aims to highlight the potential of re-establishing a sustainable wheat milling sector in Ireland. Collaborating with Irish grain merchants and farmers, the project team will trial new international spring wheat varieties at selected sites across the country. The FIELD2FLOUR Ireland team will investigate agronomic performance, grain quality, milling characteristics and food innovation in selected spring wheat cultivars.

SETU will conduct climate-resilient modelling/stress testing under future climate projections. The successful PhD candidate will be part of SETU's team investigating the effect of abiotic stress on the wheat varieties and future proof the selection of spring wheat varieties for milling wheat in Ireland. The varieties will be grown in SETU's facilities in West Campus Carriganore under controlled temperature, relative humidity, light and irrigation. Main project tasks involve but not limited to:

- Monitoring plant growth under multiple meteorological condition scenarios and evaluating the impact on grain quality;
- Examining the impact of extreme meteorological events (heatwaves, dry spells, heavy rainfall) and the stress induced on the plants' life cycle;
- Identifying stress and predicting wheat growth and quality traits using digital technologies.

The student will be part of the wider national team and collaborate with other researchers and students in Teagasc, UCC, UCD and Irish food and agricultural companies. The successful candidate will be expected to fulfil the following tasks:

- Undertake research project and carry out project tasks
- Carry out administrative work associated with a programme of research
- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of his/her research group
- Undertake any other duties as assigned by the Principal Investigator
- Publication or high impact peer reviewed publications (Where possible)
- Dissemination of research findings at national and international conferences (where possible)

The PhD will be fully funded for 4 years and the scholarship will cover University fees and a stipend of €25,000 tax free per year.

Person specification

The successful candidate should be enthusiastic, self-motivated and able to manage own workload. She/he should demonstrate problem solving qualities and excellent organisational and administrative skills including an ability to work to deadlines. They should also demonstrate excellent communication skills and an ability to interact well within a larger research team.

Qualifications

Essential

- Honours Degree (minimum 2:1) in the specific area or related area including agriculture, food, horticulture, forestry, or environmental sciences.

Desirable

- Strong academic background in plant and/or crop science
- Strong academic background in food analysis
- Postgraduate diploma/ MSc in related areas including agriculture, food, analytical and or environmental sciences

Knowledge & Experience

Essential

- Knowledge of food production systems
- Experience in field or lab-based research relevant to agri-food systems or environmental sciences
- Experience in working independently in field or laboratory environments
- Experience in collecting, recording, and analysing field or lab data
- Experience in communicating research findings and preparing scientific reports
- Evidence of teamwork skills

Desirable

- Knowledge of plant physiology
- Experience with wheat cultivation, cereal crop management, or field-based agricultural research
- Familiarity with laboratory analytical techniques relevant to plant or grain quality assessment

- Familiarity with sustainable crop production and climate adaptation strategies
- Knowledge of plant responses to climatic stresses
- Familiarity with statistical analysis and interpretation of experimental data

Skills & Competencies

Essential

- Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate on application that they meet SETU's English language requirements and provide all necessary documentation. See Page 7 of the Code of Practice
- In order to be **shortlisted for interview**, you must meet the SETU English speaking requirements so please provide evidence in your application.
- Computer skills including the use of Microsoft office (Excel, Access, Word, PowerPoint), Zoom / MS Teams / OBS and or similar.
- Competence in scientific writing, data presentation, and preparation of technical reports, thesis or publications

Desirable

- Ability to apply statistical methods and data analysis tools to experimental datasets using software such as R, SAS, SPSS, or similar platforms
- A full driver's licence

Further information

For any informal queries, please contact Dr Anastasia Ktenioudaki on email Anastasia.ktenioudaki@setu.ie

Application procedure

Complete the online Application Form from the [SETU website](#) quoting the advert reference code from above.

Please ensure that you upload all supporting documents as part of your submission.

Please note that applications must be submitted by this route.

For queries relating to the application and admission process please contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office via email researchadmissions@setu.ie or telephone +353 (0)51 302883.

University Website: <https://www.setu.ie>

The University will short-list and interview those applicants who provide the most suitable information in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements relevant to the post.

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