



University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University



## MSc Agricultural Extension and Innovation

## MSc Agricultural Innovation Support

### Knowledge Transfer Programmes

The UCD Teagasc MSc Agricultural Extension and Innovation and MSc Agricultural Innovation Support are collaborative funded programmes delivered by UCD and Teagasc for graduates with an interest and ambition to work in advisory and education roles. These programmes involve placement within Teagasc advisory and educational services where the student gets the opportunity to learn from experienced mentors.

Over the past decade there has been a resurgence in interest in agricultural knowledge and innovation systems as we grapple with challenges of farm incomes, climate change and sustainable development. A lot of this interest is directed to the skills and competencies required by agricultural advisors to facilitate and support farmer learning and innovation.

With more emphasis on participatory methods of knowledge exchange, the farm advisor has to be able to support peer to peer learning among farmers as well as take on the role of knowledge broker.

On completion of these programmes, graduates will be competent agricultural advisors, committed to on-going reflective practice and seeking out more effective ways to support farmer decision making.

Places on these funded programmes are sponsored by Teagasc. Approximately 10 places are available each year. Students receive a monthly stipend for the duration of the programme and all tuition fees are funded by Teagasc. Application opens in spring each year and is directly through the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science. Places are highly competitive.

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Global community

Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD



### Global careers

Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa



### Safety

Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

## MSc Agricultural Innovation Support

A research masters programme. Students will research critical issues assigned by Teagasc around the role of knowledge transfer in supporting farmer decision making and technology adoption.

Research Masters

20 Months, Full Time

3-month (Trimester 1) in UCD followed by 14 month placement in a Teagasc advisory office or agricultural college education centre

Research topics assigned by Teagasc staff

UCD & Teagasc supervisors

Taught modules 25%

Action research & thesis 75%

## MSc Agricultural Extension and Innovation

A taught masters programme involving full time mentored placement in a Teagasc advisory office while completing modules using reflective and blended learning.

Taught Masters

24 months, Full Time

Entire masters completed in a Teagasc advisory office

Mentored by experienced Teagasc advisors

Taught modules – 33%

Minor thesis – 33%

Reflective practice modules – 33%

Distance / blended learning

Assignments and projects relate to the work placement

Emphasis on self-reflection and professional development



## Career Opportunities

The UCD Teagasc Knowledge Transfer programmes are designed to build the competencies required for careers in agricultural advisory and education services in the public or private sector.

Many former students are currently employed in advisory and education roles in Teagasc and many others are in key positions in public services and agri-food companies in Ireland and abroad.

### Apply Now

Applications to this programme open in April. Closing date 24th May. Application forms can be downloaded from [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie) or [www.ucd.ie/agfood](http://www.ucd.ie/agfood) or by emailing [agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie](mailto:agribus.ruraldev@ucd.ie).

This programme is funded by Teagasc. Places are limited and shortlisted. Candidates will be called to interview in late June.

### Entry Requirements

- Applicants must hold an upper second-class honours degree in agricultural science or equivalent discipline that meets the educational qualification requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and the Marine for the Farm Advisory System (FAS). Applicants with a pass degree coupled with significant and appropriate work experience may also be considered.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

### Contact Us

**Professor Jim Kinsella**  
School of Agriculture & Food Science  
University College Dublin  
e: [jim.kinsella@ucd.ie](mailto:jim.kinsella@ucd.ie)

**Liz O'Sullivan**  
Teagasc.  
e: [liz.osullivan@teagasc.ie](mailto:liz.osullivan@teagasc.ie)



## Graduate Profile

### Elaine Clifford Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy, Teagasc

I always wanted to work in the agricultural industry. After graduating from the BAgSc Animal and Crop Production programme in UCD, I knew I wanted to work in advisory services. The MSc Agricultural Extension and Innovation was the perfect opportunity for me. It allowed me to gain practical experience in an advisory role helping farmers run efficient, sustainable farming enterprises.

This programme allows you to develop many skills through working closely with experienced staff across a variety of areas while also encouraging you to use your own initiative. Combining professional work experience with the college modules enables you to focus your learning. Practical and theory experience enhances your overall learning. The modules are well delivered, practical and relevant as assignments are based on the tasks you are completing and your experiences during your professional placement.

I would highly recommend this MSc programme to anyone who wishes to pursue a career in advisory or education as it helped me develop the skill set I needed to secure my current position.