

Post Doctoral Fellowship Programme Description

Post Title	Teagasc Post Doctoral Research Fellow Level 1 (PD1)
HR Reference	PD1/Agri/AY/0317
Research Area	Sociology, Anthropology, Agricultural Innovation
Eligibility	PhD in a relevant discipline with up to 3 years' (max.) relevant experience.
Project Title	AgriDemo:F2F: Building an interactive AgriDemo-Hub community: enhancing farmer-to-farmer learning
Project End Date	31/12/2019
Post Duration	The post has an indicative duration of 30 months, but not exceeding the above project end date, subject to contract
Location	Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway
Reports to	Project Leader or other nominated manager
Training Rate	<p>Appointment will be at the minimum point of the Post Doctoral Level 1 (PD1) scale (€33,975).</p> <p>The current PD1 scale is as follows: PD1: €33,975 (min.); €34,974; €36,003 (max.)</p> <p>Increments will be awarded annually* subject to performance and completion of the prescribed training plan.</p> <p><i>Note: Exceptional circumstances may apply for candidates with current or previous service in the public sector. *Remuneration and the annual cycle for the payment of increments may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government policy.</i></p>
Basic Function of the post:	<p>The Post-Doctoral Fellow will undertake sociological research on themes such as identity; social interfaces; knowledge; and learning. S/he will apply sociological theory to undertake desk-studies and field research on demonstration farms, with a particular emphasis on processes of 'knowledge brokering' in the context of agricultural extension. A key function of the role is to work collaboratively with actors in agricultural extension (advisers and specialists) and a range of other actors involved in the AgriDemo:F2F consortium. Analysis of desk-reviews, fieldwork and stakeholder interactions in social interfaces will be written up in the form of material for policy-makers and rural professionals; and journal articles. The successful candidate will be based at Teagasc's Department of Spatial Analysis & Agri-Food Innovation at the Rural Economy Development Programme, Athenry. S/he will work within the communities of the AgriDemo:F2F EU Horizon 2020 project consortium involving approx. 20 partners.</p>
Background:	<p>The AgriDemoF2F project is an inter-disciplinary, multi-actor project that aims to generate new knowledge on how farmer-to-farmer learning may be optimised in the context of agricultural demonstration farms. The project is impact-focused and include as active agents farmers, extension officers and other rural professionals. Further details are available at http://cordis.europa.eu/programme/rcn/700576_en.html</p>

The AgriDemo:F2F project is coordinated by the Dairy Knowledge Transfer Department at Teagasc's Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Moorepark, leading the knowledge exchange component of the project. The social science research component of the project is led by the Department of Spatial Analysis and Agri-Food Innovation at Teagasc's Rural Economy and Development Programme (REDP), Athenry.

The mission of the Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Moorepark is to generate new science and innovation to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of the Irish Agri-food industry. The mission of the Rural Economy and Development Programme (REDP) is to enhance the quality of life in rural Ireland, thus contributing to the achievement of Teagasc's key goals of Competitiveness and Innovation in the Agri-Food Sector, Sustainable Systems of Agriculture and Rural Viability. Currently, there are over 80 members of research staff and post-graduates students based at Teagasc's Athenry Campus. The successful candidate will work closely with EU-wide partners of the consortium, coordinated by EV ILVO, Belgium.

This is a research focused training role, the primary purpose of which is to provide early career scientists with the opportunity to develop their research skills and competencies.

The PD Fellow will, while working in conjunction with senior research staff, gain insight and experience into a variety of areas including the processes of project and budgetary management, the development of active collaboration with relevant national and international research communities, the development of communication and presentation skills and possible experience in the mentorship of students.

The PD Fellow will conduct a specified programme of research, supported by a modular training programme, which will include modules of relevance for the development of specific knowledge and research skills, professionalism and communication skills, leadership and management skills, and overall career development.

Modules will be conducted under the supervision and direction of Áine Macken-Walsh and Tom O' Dwyer in conjunction with the Head of Department.

Duties & Responsibilities specific to this project:

- To develop a theoretical framework to inform empirical work
- To undertake high quality desk-studies and field research
- To analyse data and write-up findings for publication in high ranking academic journals
- To represent Teagasc and be part of an inter-disciplinary and multi-professional team (AgriDemo F2F) and liaise directly with stakeholders and policymakers
- To liaise with Teagasc colleagues to ensure delivery of the requirements of the AgriDemoF2F project
- To present findings in a wide range of fora, including academic conferences and farming events.

Additional Duties & Responsibilities:

- To interpret research findings and prepare scientific and popular press publications.
- To disseminate research findings to a variety of audiences as appropriate.
- To assist Teagasc in meeting the commitments of the Quality Customer Service Charter and action plan.
- To comply with all relevant Teagasc policies and procedures.
- Fully co-operate with the provisions made for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of themselves, fellow staff and non-Teagasc staff and co-operate with management in enabling Teagasc to comply with legal obligations. This includes full compliance with the responsibilities outlined in the Safety Statement.

- To actively participate in the Teagasc Post Doctoral Fellowship programme and review processes, and to undertake all Post Doctoral fellowship training and associated duties as agreed in the Training & Development Plan.
- To take up additional duties as they may arise and be assigned by management.

Person Specification

This section outlines the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would be required to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post. Applications will be assessed on how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Essential

- ❖ PhD in sociology/anthropology or a related discipline
- ❖ Relevant research experience not to exceed 3 years' post-PhD
- ❖ Demonstrated research and technical expertise in qualitative methodologies
- ❖ Experience in agricultural or rural sociology / agricultural innovation studies
- ❖ Experience in working with stakeholders and policymakers
- ❖ Experience of teamwork and collaboration with diverse research partners
- ❖ Evidence of research activity (publications, conference presentations, awards) and future scholarly output (working papers, research proposals etc)
- ❖ Excellent project management, analytical, report writing and data analysis skills
- ❖ An ability to collaborate with team members and PhD students to help build research knowledge and skill and to guide professional development
- ❖ Excellent communication skills (oral, written, presentation) with an ability to enable effective knowledge and technology transfer
- ❖ Ability to generate new ideas, unique concepts, models and solutions

Desirable

Additional desirable criteria can be included by the PI as required

- Experience in communications methodologies
- Experience in co-design and knowledge-brokering processes

Further Information for Candidates

Candidates can access a Fellowship Programme Application form for this post on the Teagasc website at <https://www.teagasc.ie/about/opportunities/post-doctoral-opportunities/>. Teagasc do not accept Curriculum Vitae's as an application for a position. In order to apply for a post the relevant application form must be completed in order to be considered.

Completed application forms should be TYPED and saved in PDF format and submitted by email to teagascjobs@clark.ie no later than 12 midnight on Friday 7th of April 2017. You are required to submit two samples of written work/thesis/publications, at least one of which is sole-authored. Each sample document should be saved as a separate document in PDF format and clearly named. Both documents should then be attached to your application email along with your application form.

Teagasc is an equal opportunities employer. Canvassing will disqualify. The details contained above are subject to change without notice.