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| **AQUABALANCE**  **POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP** |

**Department of Geography**

**Postgraduate Research Scholarship**

**2024-25**

Applications are now open for a Postgraduate Scholarship in Geography at the Department of Geography, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

The scholarship is for an award titled the ‘AQUABALANCE’ Postgraduate Scholarship. Award: Fees + €18,000 annual stipend Scholarships are confined to Doctoral (PhD) projects, with funding provided for up to three years and fees (only) for a fourth year if required. There will be no financial support beyond the fourth year. The deadline for applications is **14th June 2024**. Further information on this scholarship scheme is available on the Mary Immaculate College website.

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

The Department of Geography at Mary Immaculate College is a compact and dynamic department within the institution’s Faculty of Arts. The department has an excellent research profile with a strong record in securing external research funding and publishing research findings in leading international journals. Members of the department have held leadership roles in professional associations, including the Regional Studies Association, the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society, the Irish Quaternary Association and the Geographical Society of Ireland. All staff members are research active, and have successfully supervised postgraduate research at Masters and/or PhD level. Faculty members and postgraduate students within the department form a strong and mutually supportive community of scholars, into which new postgraduate students are integrated.

Further information about the department is available at: <http://www.mic.ul.ie/academicdepts/geography/Pages/default.aspx>

**THE AQUABALANCE PROJECT:**

*Balancing economic, environmental, and social sustainability in the European aquaculture industry’ Scholarship*

AQUABALANCE will identify barriers and drivers for ongoing transition processes, investigate dilemmas associated with rebalancing the economic, environmental, and social dimensions, analyse how the aquaculture industry can ensure legitimacy, and explore the role of policy for these transition processes. The project follows a pan-European perspective by focusing on different geographical locations and regions (North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean), and maps existing and promising solutions boosting the sustainability and viability of the aquaculture industry. Specifically, based on a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods, it will create new knowledge about how the European aquaculture industry can develop onwards in ways that are not environmentally harmful, and contribute to value creation and value capture both locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Department of Geography wishes to develop its research and postgraduate profile in this area, in keeping with existing themes and strengths within the department, including on sustainable development, social justice, low-carbon transitions and sustainable livelihoods. Through offering this PhD Scholarship, the Department of Geography plans to attract a strong field of applicants from leading research institutions in Ireland and around the world. The research will be supervised by Dr. John Morrissey.

The specific research questions will be decided following receipt of proposals brought forward by applicants for the scholarship. This PhD scholarship will feed into the wider AQUABALANCE project, comprising a 36-month consortium project with partners in Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, HVL, Norway, Università degli Studi di Verona, UNIVR, Italy, University of Copenhagen, UCPH, Denmark, The Seafood Innovation Cluster, TSIC, Norway and Mary Immaculate College, Ireland. The overarching project will provide pan-European and regional industry and policy advice and a policy roadmap that has a transnational perspective and also can be adapted to the regional specificities. Forthcoming recommendations will serve as a background for a more sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry, contributing to achieving the goals of the EU Farm to Fork strategy, solving grand challenges of climate change and social justice, and thereby generating significant value for the whole society. Further information on AQUABALANCE is here: <https://www.bluepartnership.eu/news/partnership-decides-first-batch-co-funded-projects>.

**APPLICATION**

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Dr. John Morrissey, PI of the AQUABALANCE project, at the earliest opportunity: john.morrissey@mic.ul.ie

To apply for this scholarship, please provide the following documentation:

* Completed AQUABALANCE PHD Application form
* Two electronic letters of reference from academic referees
* Transcript (s) of academic records

Please send your Application Portfolio to john.morrissey@mic.ul.ie by 14th June 2024. Applications must be completed electronically – handwritten applications will not be considered.