**Two fully funded PhDs in Marine Biology available at Trinity College Dublin**

As part of a new €1.3m project, *Beyond biofuel: Advanced seaweed cultivation for marine biodiscovery and climate change mitigation*at Trinity College, we will be appointing a **postdoctoral researcher, research assistant and two PhD students**. This multi-disciplinary project will test new methods for the cultivation of seaweed and develop new biomedical products while also quantifying the role of seaweed farming for mitigation of effects of climate change. The project is led by [Nessa O’Connor](https://www.tcd.ie/Zoology/research/groups/oconnor/) ([Zoology, Trinity College](https://www.tcd.ie/Zoology/)) and includes several collaborators including: [Conor Buckley](https://www.tcd.ie/biomedicalengineering/regenerative/buckleylab/) ([Bioengineering, Trinity College](https://www.tcd.ie/biomedicalengineering/)); [Trevor Hodkinson](https://www.tcd.ie/Botany/people/hodkinst/) ([Botany, Trinity College](https://www.tcd.ie/Botany/)); [Tasman Crowe](https://people.ucd.ie/tasman.crowe) ([University College Dublin](https://www.ucd.ie/) / [BiOrbic](https://biorbic.com/)); and [Jerry Murphy](https://www.ucc.ie/en/civileng/people/profjerrydmurphy/) ([University College Cork](https://www.ucc.ie/en/)/ [MaREI](https://www.marei.ie/)).

We are now seeking applications from highly qualified and ambitious postgraduate students to undertake two PhDs at the [School of Natural Sciences](https://www.naturalscience.tcd.ie/), [Trinity College Dublin](https://www.tcd.ie/).

PhD 1 will focus on applying ecological theory to develop improved methods for seaweed cultivation from hatchery cultures, out-growing of seaweed on long lines, harvesting and

processing of biomass. In addition, they will monitor potential effects (positive and negative) of seaweed cultivation on benthic ecosystems based on robust surveys at our

pilot and commercial seaweed farms.

PhD 2 will focus on profiling of all algal samples (from experimental treatments and native populations) including their eco-physiological properties, biochemical and genetic analyses. In addition, they will perform laboratory tests of seaweed derived hydrogels.

**NOTE: The deadline for receipt of 1st phase applicants is 31st July 2020.** Owing to current travel restrictions it now expected that both PhDs will start in January 2021.

These awards include:

* EU Fees for a PhD in Science at TCD
* Annual stipend: €18,500 for 4 years
* Access to experimental infrastructure at Trinity College including a mesocosm-based platform - Quantifying the Impacts of Multiple Stressors (QIMS), a suite of state-of-the-art environmental monitoring equipment (including boat, SCUBA equipment, underwater drone, *in situ* algal monitoring tools etc.), and a licensed experimental seaweed farm.

**Application Procedure**

You are applying for a highly competitive 4-year fully funded PhD project.

You must have a full, clean driving license, be able to work independently, be hard working and solution-oriented and willing to participate fully within a dynamic research team. The successful candidate will hold an Honours Degree (2.1 or higher) in a cognate discipline (e.g. Zoology, Botany, Environmental Science, Marine Biology). An MSc or equivalent research experience would be an advantage. Other highly desirable skills include previous experience of field-based skills in aquatic ecosystems for PhD 1 and molecular techniques for PhD 2, a good knowledge of R, and a demonstrated ability to communicate research findings.

**Phase 1:**

Send preliminary applications to: Dr O’Connor ([n.oconnor@tcd.ie](mailto:n.oconnor@tcd.ie) ). Please place *‘SFI Seaweed PhD 1’ or ‘SFI Seaweed PhD 2’* in the subject line of the email.

Attach a single PDF Document that contains the following:

* A cover letter: Your letter should clearly set out your suitability and motivation for this PhD with reference to your past relevant experience and achievements.
* A CV that includes your relevant experience, undergraduate results, postgraduate results (if applicable), any relevant publications and contact information for 2 academic referees.

**Phase 2:**

Successful Phase 1 candidates will proceed to Interview. It is expected that that interviews will take place in August. The successful candidate will then be invited to submit a full application to Trinity College Dublin.

*Funding Notes*

Candidates from outside the EU are eligible to apply but must provide evidence of sources of additional funds to cover excesses associated with Non-EU fees.

If English is not the applicant’s first language, a certificate of language ability is required. Further details can be found on the TCD Postgraduate [webpage](https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply/requirements/international.php).

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