

Postgraduate Scholarship Information Sheet (Advert)

Scholarship Project Title	'On Feirm Ground': Promoting positive mental health and cultivating a community of practice response to suicide prevention in the farming sector in Ireland
Advert Reference number	SETU_2024_116
Supervisor(s)	<i>Dr Noel Richardson (SETU Carlow Campus)</i> <i>Dr Shane O'Donnell (SETU Carlow Campus)</i> <i>Dr Paula Carroll (SETU Waterford Campus)</i>
Research Group	<i>healthCORE</i>
Department /School/Faculty	<i>Department of Health & Sport Sciences</i>
Duration	4 Years/48 Months
Status: Full-time / part-time	Full Time
Funding information	SETU 2024 Presidents Scholarship Programme
Value of the scholarship per year for four years	Stipend: €18,500 per annum Fees of €5,750 per annum Research costs- €2,000/€3,000 per annum
Closing date and time	August 14th @4PM Irish Time
Interview date	To be confirmed
PhD commencement date	To be confirmed

Project Key Words: *suicide prevention, farmers' health, health behaviour change*

Post summary

Introduction: Despite being a 'high-risk' group for poor mental health and suicide, farmers often struggle to seek help when distressed. 'On Feirm Ground' was developed to train frontline agricultural advisors as 'Connectors' to support and signpost farmers in distress to support services. Positive evaluation outcomes have prompted extending this network of support to other agricultural professionals.

Aim: Examine the acceptability and effectiveness of a refined 'Connector' programme to build agri-sector capacity to promote mental health and respond to suicidal behaviour.

Study Design: Mixed method design underpinned by the Behaviour Change Wheel (BCW), and social constructionist theories on masculinities.

Objective 1: Conduct focus groups with the wider agri-sector to inform adaptations to the existing programme.

Objective 2: Map these findings to the BCW in order to elucidate key mechanisms of change.

Objective 3: Conduct a survey (pre, post, 6 months) with programme recipients to determine its effectiveness.

Objective 4: Conduct focus groups with participants and facilitators to explore programme acceptability, informed by the Theoretical Framework for Acceptability.

Objective 5: Conduct an in-depth process evaluation to capture the mechanisms of programme development/implementation.

Findings can inform the development of a 'community of practice' approach to mental health promotion

and suicide prevention among farmers.

Knowledge & Experience

Essential

- *A minimum 2:1 Honours degree in a relevant area (health-related, social science, agriculture)*

Desirable

- *Experience of qualitative research methods*
- *A Masters degree in a relevant area*
- *Knowledge of behaviour change theories*

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.

Further information

For any informal queries, please contact Dr Noel Richardson on email at Noel.richardson@setu.ie

For queries relating to the application and admission process, please contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office researchadmissions@setu.ie or telephone +353 (0)59 9175203

For queries relating to the funding programme, please email scholarships2024@setu.ie

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

Application procedure

Download the Research Postgraduate Application Form from the SETU website and return the completed application to researchadmissions@setu.ie quoting **SETU_2024_116** in the email subject line.

Please note that paper submissions will not be accepted.

The University may decide to interview only those applicants who appear from the information they provided, to be the most suitable in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the post.

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

scholarship.

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