

Postgraduate Scholarship Information Sheet

Scholarship Project Title	Comhar Comaraigh - Stronger together: A Model of Community-Led Rural Village Regeneration
Advert Reference number	TURISE_2024_202
Supervisor(s)	<i>Dr Sharon O' Brien, Prof Felicity Kelliher, Dr Arthur Kearney (SETU Waterford), Dr Senan Cooke, Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd</i>
Research Group	<i>BRIM-RIKON Centre</i>
Department /School/Faculty	<i>Business</i>
Duration	4 Years/48 Months
Status: Full-time / part-time	Full Time
Funding information	TU Rise Scholarship Programme
Value of the scholarship per year for four years	Stipend: €19,000 Fees of €5,750 per annum Research costs- €5,000 per annum with an additional €1,650 awarded for the purchase of a laptop in year 1
Closing date and time	Wednesday Sept 11th at 4pm Irish Time
Interview date	<i>Week commencing 16 Sept 2024</i>
PhD commencement date	1st November 2024

Project Key Words: (enter 3 to help advertise on online platforms) *social enterprise, rural communities, rejuvenation, social networks*

Post summary

Underpinned by social network theory, this research seeks to develop a community-led rural regeneration model, guided by rural social enterprise (RSE) literature. Informed by international Wealth Building programmes, Waterford Area Partnership and the rural social enterprise eco-system Waterford (Kelliher, Cooke, et al., 2024), the TU Rise scholar will track the Comhar [Cooperation] Comaraigh (CC) project, involving a cohort of 12 villages in the Comeragh mountains, Waterford. This community are working together to create a collective rural village regeneration model, informed by a six-stage development process, and guided by the Dunhill Rural Enterprise team as a leading example of a successful rural social enterprise community. The TU Rise Scholar will embed themselves in the CC community, guided by the industry partner, Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd. This longitudinal interpretive case will use observation, individual interviews, focus groups and researcher reflections to explore the social impact of the CC programme. A key theoretical contribution is a community-led rural village regeneration model, a tool that will offer guidance to RSEs and their communities, as well as rural stakeholders and practitioners interested in RSE social networks. This model can inform policy makers, and the rural futures team and the social enterprise team at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland.

Knowledge & Experience

Essential

- An interest in and some knowledge of academic research and what it entails for the researcher.
- Demonstrable knowledge and experience in at least one of the following: social enterprise, social networks, rural rejuvenation models, interpretive case study method, small business management and/or sociology.

Desirable

- Relevant professional experience in rural communities, rural rejuvenation, social enterprise.
- Experience and understanding of qualitative methods of data collection.
- A demonstrable competence in academic theory in social enterprise, social networks, rural rejuvenation models.

Qualifications, Skills & Competencies

Essential

- Applicants should hold, as a minimum, a 2.1 Honours degree, or equivalent, in Business or Social Science related areas at undergraduate or professional level.
- Applicants should have demonstrable experience in conducting research at either undergraduate or postgraduate level.
- 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.
- Aptitude for project planning and management.
- Ability to build rapport with project stakeholders.
- Communication and presentation skills (written and verbal).
- Teamwork and group facilitation skills.
- Self-motivation, time management skills and focus to fulfil the research process.

Desirable

- Applicants should hold or expect to attain a Master's Degree in Business, Social Science or related discipline.
- Applicants who have relevant postgraduate research experience.
- Experience and/or training in qualitative research methods.

Further information

For any informal queries, please contact Dr Sharon O' Brien on email @Sharon.m.obrien@setu.ie

For queries relating to the application and admission process, please contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office researchadmissions@setu.ie or telephone +353 (0)51 302883.

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 **TURISE_2024_202** 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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