

Postgraduate Scholarship Information Sheet

Scholarship Title	Thoroughbred Tales - Using mixed methods to develop a Mental Health in Equine Education Programme for the stud and thoroughbred breeding sector
Reference number	WD_2023_68_WSCH
Supervisor(s)	Dr Cíara Losty (SETU) Dr Sarah Jane Cullen (DCU) Dr Siobhan O'Connor (DCU)
Department /School/Faculty	Department of Sport and Exercise, School of Health Science
Duration	4 Years(48 months)
Status: Full-time / part-time	Full Time
Funding information	SETU Co-Fund Scholarship Programme
Value of the scholarship per year for four years	€ 18,500 per year Stipend € 3000 per year research expenses PG tuition fees are covered for 4 Years under this scholarship
Teaching requirement (if any)	N/A
Closing date and time	18th October @4pm
Interview date	26th October
PhD commencement date	6th November
P Code	To be confirmed *

Post summary

Despite Ireland's small size and population, it is the largest producer of thoroughbred racehorses in Europe and the third largest in the world behind the USA and Australia. There are over 6,000 employees in the breeding industry in Ireland. Limited knowledge on the challenges, stressors and mental health of staff working in the horse breeding industry is available, influencing the necessary supports available to them. This study aims to investigate the mental health, well-being and coping strategies within the Irish thoroughbred breeding industry to develop a bespoke Mental Health in Equine education programme. Mental health and well-being will be investigated through use of a survey with stud farm staff and breeders. Following this, interviews will be conducted with stud farm staff and breeders to explore their unique stressors, coping strategies, and their perceptions of the available mental health supports. Based on this information, a bespoke, evidence-based mental health in equine education programme will be developed, implemented and its effectiveness examined. Establishing the well-being and mental health of this understudied population is key to understanding and support stud farm and breeding staff,

developing bespoke programmes, and increasing staff retention within the thoroughbred industry. please enter a description of the project.

Person specification

Qualifications

Essential

- Essential. Applicants should hold or expect to attain, as a minimum a 2:1 Honours degree, or equivalent, in Psychology or Sport and Exercise Science OR a related discipline
- OR
- Hold a taught MSc degree in one of the above disciplines

Desirable

- Work or research experience within National Governing Bodies of Sport
- Interest in the Horse Racing Industry
- Experience undertaking or delivering sport psychology or mental health workshops
- Statistical analysis using appropriate software
- Conduct and analysis of qualitative interviews
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Knowledge & Experience

Essential

- Very strong interpersonal skills
- Very high level of academic writing
- Motivational skills
- Personal organisational skills
- Ability to work as part of a larger team
- Applicants whose first language is not English must submit evidence of competency in English, please see [WIT's English Language Requirements](#) for details.

Desirable

- Good verbal communication skills

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.
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Further information

For any informal queries, please contact Dr Cíara Losty on email ciara.losty@setu.ie
For queries relating to the application and admission process please contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office via email researchadmissions@setu.ie or telephone +353 (0)51 302883.

For queries relating to the funding programme, please email research.wd@setu.ie University Website <https://www.setu.ie/>

Application procedure

Download the [Research Postgraduate Application Form from here](#) and return the completed application to researchadmissions@setu.ie quoting **advert reference code from the above table WD_2023_68_WSCH** 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 available, to be the most suitable, in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the post.

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