



PhD Scholarships in Data Analytics & Artificial Intelligence
for Smart Agriculture @ UCD

Funding for several PhD positions (stipend plus fees) is available at UCD to be held in the VistaMilk SFI Research Centre (see <https://vistamilk.ie/>). The VistaMilk SFI Research Centre represents a unique collaboration between Agri-Food and information communications technology (ICT) research institutes and leading Irish/multinational food and ICT companies; it is funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM).

The overarching objective of the VistaMilk SFI Research Centre is to generate and deploy innovative basic and applied science and technologies to better understand and monitor the complex interactions across a highly inter-dependent food-production chain. The objective will be achieved by exploring 3 inter-dependent thematic areas (i.e., Pasture, Cow and Food) bringing together expertise in the biological sciences, sensor-systems, communications and networking, data analytics, and food processing.

Hence, the scholarships holders will work at the interface between Data-Analytics/Artificial Intelligence and a variety of problem areas of interested to the centre from sustainable agriculture, to precision pasture-based dairying, to animal health to aspects of human nutrition. The datasets are many and varied from many sources:, including novel sensors, MIR/NIR, genomic data, microbiota data and time-series measurements. The supervisors are drawn from researchers in the *School of Computer Science* at UCD (<https://www.cs.ucd.ie/>) and in the *Insight Centre for Data Analytics* (www.insight-centre.org).

Applicants should have :

- 2.1 grade (or equivalent) in an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in computer science, maths, engineering or cognate disciplines (e.g., technical aspects of agriculture)
- Strong programming ability.
- Non-native English speakers require at least IELTS 6.5 (with at least 6 in all components) or equivalent (further details on equivalence of tests are available [here](#)).
- Machine learning experience is desirable but not mandatory.

Each student in the centre will receive a generous scholarship valued at over €100,000. This includes a tax-free stipend of €18,000 per year, full coverage of tuition fees, funds for conference travel, and an equipment allowance. Students will also have the opportunity to earn extra income within UCD through teaching activities.

The centre is committed to diversity in its named supervisor group and its student body and so applications from international students and from under-represented groups are strongly encouraged.

All enquires to mark.keane@ucd.ie (see <https://people.ucd.ie/mark.keane>)