UCD DUBLIN

Teagasc
Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Professional Diploma in

Researcher Development (Teagasc)

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Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to this new initiative from UCD for Postdoctoral Fellows employed by Teagasc. This Professional Diploma is designed to equip you with the advanced knowledge and skills required for your future career. This booklet outlines what you can expect from the Professional Diploma and how we have brought the very best UCD has to offer to give you flexibility, support and creative ways of learning at every stage of your time with us.

Objective of this programme

We have designed this programme to develop your competencies and transferrable skills in reseach, professionalism and communication, leadership and management, and career development. It has been designed to fit into your current job in Teagasc, and so many sessions are available online for you to access at a time that suits you. To keep up your energy and motivation we have also developed live sessions that you will access online. You will be given a timetable well in advance so you can arrange your other work around these sessions.

How you will benefit

This is a new programme and as such has been designed with your specific needs in mind. UCD have about 300 postdoctoral fellows at any one time and so we are ideally placed to understand what you need in order to develop your competencies necessary to advance your career.

UCD – A Global University

UCD leads in first-preference applications in Ireland year after year as well as being the university of first choice for international students coming to Ireland. UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science (SAFS) is at the forefront of Education in Agriculture Food and Health on the island of Ireland. With world leading expertise in all areas of food, agriculture, environment, and nutrition, UCD was recently ranked as the number 1 University in the world with Thomas Reuters InCites™ on citations per paper in both Agricultural Science, and Food Science and Technology. As UCD students you will have full access to all that UCD has to offer including full use of the facilities (including sports centre) the Library, The Writing Centre, Careers Centre, IT support amongst many other supports found here www.ucd.ie/studentcentre/services/



Structure & Duration

All modules fit into one of the 4 pillars or themes which are delivered over one calendar year.

PILLAR 1	Research Skills
PILLAR 2	Professionalism and Communication
PILLAR 3	Leadership and Management Skills
PILLAR 4	Career Development

We have several options for your convenience to allow you to register in September or January and complete the Diploma over 3 or 4 Trimesters to be determined by Teagasc. Julie Dowsett the Programme Director will be your main point of contact during your time on the Diploma but you also have supports available to all UCD students.

Assignments - The assignments are designed to consolidate your learning so that by the end of the programme you will have honed your CV, developed your Professional Development Plan and extended your professional network.

Online Learning Environment - The majority of the programme will be held online, but where possible we will be meeting face-to-face at a Teagasc Centre. We will deliver the programme online through the virtual learning environment Brightspace. Teaching materials will be a variety of live and recorded lectures, webinars, discussion groups, workshops, tutorials and face to face sessions. A repository of resources will be available to support each stage of your learning.

Modules

There are 9 modules to complete. All modules must be completed and there is an assignment component to each module, but we are here to support you at every stage with assignment tutorials held every 2 months.

FDSC40790 Progression of Research Careers - This module will empower you to take control of your preferred career by understanding the skills and competencies required and be able to demonstrate these in a CV, cover letter and interview to maximise the chances of a successful outcome.

FDSC40800 Project Management - This module will demonstrate the importance of effective project management to deliver research projects on time, within budget and of the highest quality.

FDSC40810 Professionalism in Research - This module brings together essential components in research including innovation, intellectual property, commercialisation of research, research data management, getting published in high impact journals, research impact, research integrity and writing successful grant applications and getting funded.

FDSC40770 Supervision and Mentoring - The Research Supervisor Support & Development Programme is a collaborative series of webinars addressing common research supervisory practices and challenges and including panel discussions with experienced research supervisors, experts in the field, professional staff, and students. A live session with the Postdoctoral Developer will focus on the skill set of a mentor.

FDSC40780 Scientific Writing - During this Advanced Scientific Writing Module Fellows will work with experts in the Writing Centre in UCD to fine tune their writing skills and understand how to apply the rules of science writing to maximise their chances of getting published.

FDSC41000 Leadership and Team Management - This module will be delivered with a supporting online workbook to develop an overview of effective leadership and management skills.

FDSC40820 Science Communication - Public engagement is an increasingly recognised requirement for researchers, especially in agriculture, food and nutrition where misinformation in the media is rife. Sessions with a science journalist will reveal the very different skills required when writing for a lay, or non-expert audience.

FDSC40840 Managing your own CPD - The objective of this module is to support Fellows to manage their own continuing professional development and to reflect on their learnings of the programme, and to apply this to a Researcher Professional Development Plan.

FDSC40750 Statistics - The objective of this module is to support Fellows in their understanding and application of statistical tools to equip them with the ability to be in a position to manipulate, analyse, interpret and present qualitative and quantitative data and effectively communicate the significance of results.

OR

PSY40950 - Advanced Qualitative Design and Analysis - Qualitative research methods have the potential to make a significant contribution to research that aims to understand human behaviour. The objective of this module is to give an insight into the core principles of qualitative research and to enable students to critically evaluate common approaches to qualitative design and analysis with in-depth training on one widely used method of analysis.