

PhD Opportunity - Low Impact Silvicultural Systems in Ireland



The Low Impact Silvicultural Systems in Ireland (LISS) research project aims to expand the knowledge base on sustainable forest management in Ireland. The project is run by University College Dublin, the forest management research company Purser Tarleton Russell Ltd. and the semi-state forestry company Coillte Teo, and is funded by COFORD, the National Council for Forest Research and Development in Ireland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The project is directed by the Project Coordinator, guided by the Project Steering Group consisting of the Project Coordinator and representatives of the participating companies and national and international experts.

The LISS Project is seeking a **PhD Student** for 46 months. **The research will consist of the following tasks:**

- familiarisation with the existing (international) research on: LISS; thinning systems used in transformation of stands to LISS; and the economics of LISS.
- development of a database of stands in the Republic of Ireland currently being transformed to LISS in collaboration with project partners, and an evaluation of the methods used to transform the stands.
- field experiment investigating different thinning interventions that are likely to be used in transforming stands to LISS.
- desktop study of economics of LISS and clearfell systems.

Mandatory requirements for this position are:

- Honours Degree in forestry or relevant discipline.
- Ability to combine field work with office-based activities.
- Good writing and communication skills.
- An understanding of, and interest in, low impact silvicultural systems.

Desirable skills are:

- A full, clean driver's licence.
- An understanding of forestry in Ireland.
- A Masters Degree in forestry or relevant discipline.
- Knowledge of experimental design and statistical analysis.

The project starts in July 2010 and will end in June 2014. The starting date of the PhD research position is flexible, but preferably close to 1 September, 2010. Closing date for applications is July 30th, 2010 at 5 pm.

The PhD scholarship will have a value of circa €17,000 per year. Tuition fees sufficient for an EU student are available.

To for more information or to apply, please send a cover letter and CV, along with the names and addresses of two referees, to the Project Coordinator, Dr Aine Ni Dhubhain - aine.nidhubhain@ucd.ie or phone 00353 1 716 7755

<http://www.ucd.ie/research/people/agriculturefoodvetscience/drainenidhubhain/>

