



## Energy, Behavioural and Experimental Economics PhD Fellowship

### Public acceptance of offshore wind farms

<b>College   Management Unit:</b>	Social Sciences and Law
<b>School   Unit:</b>	Economics
<b>Post Title:</b>	PhD Fellowship
<b>Post Duration:</b>	4 years
<b>Research Project:</b>	NexSys Programme
<b>Reports to:</b>	Dr Margaret Samahita

#### Position Summary:

##### Introduction to the NexSys project

The decarbonisation of the Energy System will play a vital role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and help mitigate the impacts of Climate Change. The technical and societal challenges inherent in decarbonisation are set to be enduring challenges of the mid-21<sup>st</sup> century and ones that will require a whole of society approach, encompassing academia, industry, government, and citizens.

NexSys is a newly established All Island SFI Strategic Partnership Programme focussed upon the transition to a net zero carbon energy system. It is a unique partnership bringing together a multidisciplinary research team, industry, and policy makers to tackle fundamental research questions to be addressed as part of the transition to net Zero. Hosted by UCD Energy Institute, NexSys brings together academics from nine institutions across the Island of Ireland (UCD, TCD, DCU, ESRI, Maynooth University, UCC, NUI Galway, Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast) to work together to meet the unprecedented scale and complexity of the challenges associated with the energy transition.

##### PhD project

The objective of the PhD project is to understand the behavioural determinants behind public acceptance of offshore wind farms and community benefits payment scheme. The development of offshore wind farms is often associated with negative externalities (ocean, fishing communities) and should be achieved in a way that supports the local economy. At the same time, local communities may display resistance to the development of wind farms. Behavioural economics research has demonstrated the existence of a willingness to accept-willingness to pay gap in relation to local environmental projects which is also expected to be present in coastal community settings. As such, the effectiveness of financial incentives/subsidies will need to be explored in light of behavioural factors which may hinder community acceptance of offshore wind farms. The task of the PhD student is to assess the behavioural determinants of public acceptance of offshore wind farms and the role of community benefit payment, using methodologies including (but not limited to) a field study in addition to economic experiments.

The candidate will be part of UCD School of Economics PhD programme and located in the research facility of UCD Geary Institute. The candidate will require skills in behavioural economics, experiments, microeconometrics, and an interest in climate change mitigation and conducting a field study.

##### **The PhD Fellowship includes:**

- Stipend of €18,500 per year for 4 years
- Payment of EU fees for 4 years (non-EU fees in exceptional circumstances)
- Some funding for conference travel and the purchase a PC/laptop

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**Selection Criteria:****Mandatory:**

- Masters degree in economics, or equivalent quantitative graduate degree with knowledge of economics, behavioural science, or social sciences
- Training in research methods, particularly quantitative and experimental methods
- Experience with social science statistical data analysis software (STATA/R)
- Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel)
- Analytical and critical evaluation skills
- Excellent English communication skills including report writing and presentation skills
- Attention to detail and strong organisational skills
- Ability to manage a complex workload and work to tight deadlines
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- An interest in climate change mitigation and conducting a field study

**Desirable:**

- Experience of social science research on energy/climate change
- Experience conducting experiments

**Application Process:**

Applications should be made to the Principal Investigator, Dr Margaret Samahita (Margaret.samahita@ucd.ie) by June 3rd 2022. The application must include:

- CV including the names of two referees. Please include letters of recommendation in your application if you have them but these may be supplied afterwards if it is difficult to obtain them in advance of the deadline.
- Diploma and Transcripts of records
- Application letter including a personal statement outlining research interests and suitability for the Fellowship.

Applicants will be assessed by an authorized Appointment Committee and will be notified about the Committee's final decision. The offer is subject to approval of the UCD Graduate Research Board. The successful applicant will then apply to the PhD programme via the UCD on-line system . For more information on the School of Economics PhD programme, please consult the School website:

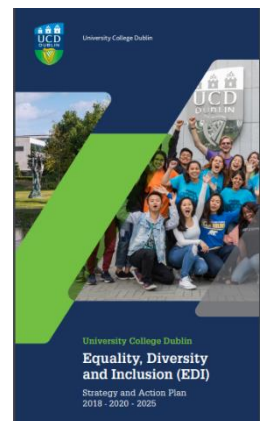
<https://www.ucd.ie/economics/phd/>

## **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) at UCD**

UCD is committed to creating an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated, and everyone is afforded equality of opportunity. Diversity is highlighted in the university's strategic plan as one of the core values of UCD, and its EDI commitment is further demonstrated through the strategic objective relating to the attraction, retention, and development of an excellent and diverse cohort of students, faculty and staff. We welcome applications from everyone, including those who identify with any of the protected characteristics that are set out in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy. The university adheres to a range of equality, diversity and inclusion policies. We encourage applicants to consult UCD's equality, diversity and inclusion policies here <https://www.ucd.ie/equality/>.

**UCD's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2018-2020-2025 sets out the University's objectives aligned to UCD's ten equality grounds. [Link](#)**

**UCD's Vice President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion chairs the University EDI Group which works across UCD's ten equality grounds in collaboration with College Vice Principals for EDI and EDI School Representatives. UCD's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit supports the mainstreaming of EDI through the EDI Group and these roles and leads on the delivery of the EDI Strategy through a range of initiatives including policy development, awareness raising and training, internal and external relationship building, collation and analysing of data, establishing peer support groups and networks, attainment of accreditations such as Athena SWAN and supporting and promoting an environment of mental health and wellbeing and dignity and respect.**



**UCD has EDI staff networks which are a great opportunity to meet colleagues, network and engage with equality, diversity, and inclusion initiatives in UCD.**

**UCD's EDI Staff Networks include:**

- UCD staff disability network
- UCD LGBTI staff network
- UCD Women@STEM
- Multicultural Employee Network UCD (MENU)

**You can join UCD's EDI Staff Networks here: <https://www.ucd.ie/equality/groups/edinetworks/>**

**UCD is also engaged with the following initiatives:**



### **Athena SWAN at UCD**

University College Dublin has received its second Athena SWAN Bronze institutional award in recognition of the university's work towards gender equality. To achieve this accreditation, an institution must demonstrate that it has undertaken a thorough self-assessment of gender equality challenges and has developed a detailed action plan to tackle them. The [UCD Gender Equality Action Plan 2020-2024](#) was prepared by the [Gender Equality Action Group](#) and its Working Groups, in a process that involved external benchmarking, an EDI employee survey, focus groups and consultation across the university. It includes actions relating to recruitment, promotions, leadership, work practices, organisation and culture. The implementation of the Plan is already underway and includes mechanisms to track progress on each of the actions. This action plan includes the actions that arose from the review of the university's policy and procedures on Dignity and Respect.

### **Age-Friendly University**

University College Dublin is proud of its designation as an **Age-Friendly University** as part of the AFU Global Network. The principles of an Age-Friendly University are: To encourage the participation of older adults in all the core activities of the university, including educational and research programmes.

### **University of Sanctuary**

UCD was awarded **University of Sanctuary** status in 2018, (UoSI) is an Irish initiative to encourage and celebrate the good practice of universities, colleges and other education institutes welcoming refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants into their university communities and fostering a culture of welcome and inclusion for all those seeking sanctuary.

### **Open Doors Initiative**

UCD has joined a group of over 95 companies and NGOs, who work with government to create pathways to employment for marginalised people. These can be internships, scholarships, training courses, aiding entrepreneurs or full/part time employment, from a range of backgrounds and abilities.

These can be developed out on a bespoke basis with organisations to include specific projects. This group work with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, people with disabilities and disadvantaged youth (including those from a traveller background, LGBTIQ+ etc).

They offer online training, mentorships, assisted learning, seminars, inhouse training for existing employees on a range of subjects and can assist with funding for training courses you run. They have ongoing meet ups with other companies and supporting partners who are working to create diversity and inclusion within their organisations.

More details are available on our website here: [www.opendoorsinitiative.ie](http://www.opendoorsinitiative.ie)

### **Supplementary information:**

The University:	<a href="https://www.ucd.ie/">https://www.ucd.ie/</a>
UCD Strategy 2020-2024: Rising to the Future	<a href="https://strategy.ucd.ie/">https://strategy.ucd.ie/</a>
The School of Economics:	<a href="https://www.ucd.ie/economics">https://www.ucd.ie/economics</a>
UCD Energy Institute:	<a href="https://ucd.ie/energy">https://ucd.ie/energy</a>