



Social Policy PhD Fellowship Opportunity

Energy Justice: addressing transport & residential energy deprivation

College / Management Unit:	Social Sciences and Law
School / Unit / Institute:	Social Policy, Social Work & Social Justice
Post Title:	PhD Scholarship
Post Duration:	4 years
Research Project:	NexSys Programme
Reports to / Principal Investigator:	Dr Nessa Winston

Position Summary

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-21st 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.

The PhD candidate will work on a NexSys Work Package entitled ‘Energy Justice: addressing transport & residential energy deprivation’. A just transition requires poverty-proofing next generation energy systems to address residential & transport energy deprivation. Current measures of poverty in Ireland fail to capture both residential & transport energy deprivation so the extent of vulnerability in these sectors is unknown. The carbon intensity of household energy use has not been located within a multiple deprivation framework so the impact of strategies which increase fossil fuel costs are also unknown. Rising costs may detract from the ability to pay for other essential goods. They may also exacerbate social exclusion &/ inequalities. Building on existing poverty, deprivation & energy research, the project will involve designing a new multidimensional poverty framework to include both residential & transport energy and assessing energy deprivation in Ireland along with its impacts on other forms of deprivation. It will adopt an energy justice framework to address social exclusion & inequalities. The scientific objectives are to reduce energy poverty by highlighting social groups who experience or are at risk of energy poverty; estimate the likely effects of decarbonisation strategies on these groups; identify possible redress mechanisms and contribute to residential and transport energy poverty strategies. The project will involve both qualitative and quantitative research, but expertise in quantitative data analysis is essential. We welcome applications from candidates from a range of Social Science backgrounds including Sociology, Economics, Social Policy, Public Policy, and Public Administration.

Closing date for applications: 5pm on Friday April 22nd.

Start date: May 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

UCD is committed to creating an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated, and everybody is afforded equality of opportunity. To that end the university adheres to a range of equality, diversity and inclusion policies. We encourage applicants to consult those policies here <https://www.ucd.ie/equality/>. 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 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.

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate they have to complete the PhD. Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Mandatory

- A primary degree and (preferably) a master's degree in a relevant social sciences subject (e.g. BSocSc/BA **and** MSocSc/MA in Social Policy, Sociology, Economics, public policy/administration)
- Experience with social science statistical data analysis software (SPSS/SAS/STATA)
- Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel)
- Training in research methods, particularly quantitative methods
- 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.

Desirable

- Experience of social science research on poverty/deprivation/transport/energy
- Experience with household surveys (e.g. Household Budget Survey, EU SILC)
- Analysis of qualitative data analysis software (Nvivo or similar).

Applications should be made to the School Manager, Elizabeth Hassell (elizabeth.hassell@ucd.ie). The application must include:

- Proof of English proficiency (6.5 IELTS minimum)
- 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 (e.g. BSocSc/BA **and** MSocSc/MA)
- Application letter including a personal statement outlining 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 about the structure of the PhD programme please consult the School

website: www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/study/graduateprogrammes/phdsocialpolicysocialworkandsocialjustice

Further Information for Candidates

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

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, (UoS) 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

Supplementary information

The University:	http://www.ucd.ie/
UCD Strategy 2020-2024: Rising to the Future	https://strategy.ucd.ie/

UCD Energy Institute

www.ucd.ie/energy

