



# TEAGASC PHD WALSH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“INFBar”

Walsh Scholarship Ref Number **2021007**

## Background

The INFBar project is funded by Teagasc and is a collaborative project involving Teagasc, University College Cork (UCC) Ireland and Technische Universität München (TUM) Germany. INFBar will deliver an *in vitro* model of the intestinal barrier in the infant gut. The digestive system of a newborn baby is immature with low activity of digestive enzymes, the absence of gut bacteria and a leaky gut barrier. A leaky gut barrier can allow bacteria and large food components to escape the gut. INFBar will develop an *in vitro* model of this leaky barrier using intestinal cell lines treated with various compounds. It will then use this model to select infant formula products that promote gut cells to form tight seals. Results will help design new and improved Infant formulae.

## Requirements

To be eligible to apply for a PhD, you must have an Honours degree with at least Second Class Honours Grade I in an approved primary degree (such as Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Cell Biology, Pharmacy, Nutrition or Microbiology). Applicants with a relevant Masters degree (of any grade) are also eligible to apply. Refer to: [https://www.ucc.ie/en/cacsss/grads/future\\_postgrads/research\\_courses/phds/](https://www.ucc.ie/en/cacsss/grads/future_postgrads/research_courses/phds/)

The successful candidate should be self-motivated with enthusiasm to develop wet-lab technical skills in cell culture. They should have an interest in and aptitude for laboratory-based research. All applicants, whose first language is not English, are required to have an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of >6.5 or a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test score of >90 (internet based). More details regarding English requirements can be found at <https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/comparison/english/postgraduate/>

## Award

This PhD starts no later than 1 Oct 2021 and is collaboration between Teagasc Food Research Centre Moorepark, UCC and TUM. The student will be based primarily at Teagasc Food Research Centre Moorepark Cork, Ireland and will be registered at UCC, working under the supervision of Dr. Linda Giblin (Teagasc) in association with Dr. Elena Arranz (UCC) and Dr. Eva Rath (TUM). The scholarship funding is €24,000 per annum and includes college fees of up to a maximum of €6,000 per annum and is tenable for 4 years.

## Further Information/Applications to

Dr. Linda Giblin, Teagasc Food Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co.Cork, Ireland  
email: [linda.giblin@teagasc.ie](mailto:linda.giblin@teagasc.ie)

## Application Procedure

Submit an electronic copy of Curriculum Vitae and a letter of interest to:  
Dr. Linda Giblin ([linda.giblin@teagasc.ie](mailto:linda.giblin@teagasc.ie))  
Please include '2021007-INFBar' in the subject line

**Closing date** 31 July 2021