TEAGASC PHD WALSH FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“Population dynamics of Pyrenopeziza brassicae under Irish field conditions”

Ref 2017069

**Background**

The potential to significantly increase the area sown to winter oilseed rape in Ireland has been identified as a key to the success of improving the success of rotations in Irish arable production systems. If this is to be achieved it is essential to ensure cropping practices are optimized to Irish growing conditions. These growing conditions are largely determined by the cool Atlantic maritime climate that prevails. Unfortunately these conditions provide the ideal environment for the development and spread of light leaf spot caused by *Pyrenopeziza brassicae*. Light leaf spot control methods currently implemented include; cultivation of resistant varieties and the application of fungicides in late autumn and early spring. However, as limited information is available on the epidemiology of the Irish *P. brassicae* population it remains unknown if such practices are the best means of control the disease under Irish conditions. To provide further insights in the biology of *P. brassicae* in Irish fields and identify potential means of future control the proposed project will quantify the role of *P. brassicae* ascospores in the development of the disease throughout the growing season. In addition detailed analysis into the diversity of Irish *P. brassicae* populations will identify if control should focus on a field, region or national basis.

**Requirements**

Applicants should have a good primary degree (first or second class honours) or M.Sc in an appropriate discipline (Plant Science, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Pathology etc). The successful candidate should be highly motivated, have a willingness to learn and have a good knowledge of plant pathology. A full EU driving licence is also required.

**Award**

This research is to be conducted collaboratively between Teagasc Crop Science Department (under supervision of Dr. Steven Kildea), the University of Hertfordshire (under supervision of Prof. Bruce Fitt and Dr. Yong-Ju Huang) and ADAS (under supervision of Dr. Faye Richie). The applicant will be based in the Crops Science Department of Teagasc at Oak Park Carlow. This is a three year funded PhD with the student awarded a stipend of €22,000 per annum, from which the university fees must be paid. The expected start date for this fellowship is 5th November 2018.

**Further Information/Applications**

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Prof. Bruce Fitt, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfiled, Hertfordshire, U.K.
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**Application Procedure**

Submit an electronic copy of Curriculum Vitae and a letter of interest simultaneously to:
Dr Steven Kildea ([stephen.kildea@teagasc.ie](mailto:stephen.kildea@teagasc.ie)) and
Prof. Bruce Fitt ([b.fitt@herts.ac.uk](mailto:b.fitt@herts.ac.uk)).

**Closing date**

12th October 2018.