

PHD GEOGRAPHY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“Transferability of resilience in informal settlements (TRIS): a model for assessing climate risk and empowering women as decision-makers”

Background

Currently, 1 billion dwellers live in informal settlements characterised by a lack of urban services, poorly constructed housing, no legal tenure, and are the most vulnerable to climate-related risk. Because of the lack of governmental support, the climate risk burden management falls entirely on these communities. Thus, the primary objective of this project is to establish a transferable and community-based Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) model for informal settlements in the Global South (GS). The project also proposes to transfer the GS knowledge on community-based adaptation measures and risk reduction to Ireland. We will implement a hybrid framework that integrates fieldwork, interviews, workshops, remote sensing, and geospatial analyses. The PhD student will be primarily responsible for investigating the role of women as key actors in developing a CCRA model and exploring gender dynamics and climate risk reduction in the GS and Global North. The PhD research will initially be focused in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with the expectation that fieldwork will be undertaken in the city. The project will support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), specifically SGD5, SDG11, and SDG13, by empowering women as key actors in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, enhancing community-led measures to upgrade settlements, and supporting the reduction of exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events.

This Geography PhD offers the Scholar an exciting opportunity to engage with an international network of researchers working in Climate Change, Risk Assessment, Informal Settlements and Gender Inequalities.

Requirements

Applicants must have a good primary degree (e.g., BA or BSc) in an appropriate discipline (e.g. Geography, Anthropology, Environmental Science). A MSc in Geography, Environmental Science, Social Science, or equivalent would be preferable, though not essential. A minimum level of competency in English is required as per UCC requirements; click [here](#) to see all UCC requirements. Other essential criteria include the following:

Essential criteria

- Advanced Portuguese language.
- Experience with co-creation and community-based approaches.
- Knowledge of Climate Change, Urban Climate, and Gender Inequalities.
- Ability to work in a team.
- Good communication skills in both written and oral formats in English and Portuguese.
- Experience in interviews.
- Availability to live in Sao Paulo (Brazil) for 10 months – expenses for the period will be paid by funding.

Desirable criteria

- MSc in a related discipline.
- Experience with GIS.
- Familiarity/experience with large databases.
- Empathy with socio-economic issues.

Award

The PhD scholarship is a joint research project between the University College Cork (UCC), University College Dublin (UCD), and the University of Sao Paulo (USP - Brazil). The student will be primarily located at University College Cork (UCC) and for 10 months at USP (from October 2024 to July 2025). The student will be working under the supervision of Dr Camila Tavares Pereira and Dr Paul Holloway of UCC, as well as other project team members. The Scholarship is available to start from **September 1, 2023**. The scholarship will cover EU fees of **€5,750** and a tax-free stipend of **€19,000** per annum for a period of four years.

Further Information

Dr Camila Tavares Pereira - email: ctavarespereira@ucc.ie

Dr Paul Holloway - email: paul.holloway@ucc.ie

Application Procedure

Submit an electronic copy of your Curriculum Vitae and a letter of interest simultaneously to:

Camila Tavares Pereira (email: ctavarespereira@ucc.ie) and Paul Holloway (email: paul.holloway@ucc.ie), quoting **TRIS PhD Application** in the email subject line.

Closing date

25 August 2023