



## **Our Shared Ocean Research Masters Scholarship at University College Dublin (UCD) School of Veterinary Medicine**

### **Exploring the role of leatherback turtles as sentinels of marine ecosystem health**

#### **Background**

Rapid decline in the ocean's health challenges the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals and threatens the life of humans, animals, and plants worldwide (Ryabinin et al., 2019; Guan et al., 2023). To reverse the trend, the UN declared the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to engage relevant stakeholders under a common framework that can facilitate science-based joint actions and promote the sustainable development of the ocean globally (Guan et al., 2023). The restoration of ocean's health and its sustainable management requires science-informed policies hence a better understanding of the marine ecosystem is required. Our project will assess the health of the marine ecosystem by evaluating sentinel species (bio-indicators) like turtles, whose health mirrors the health of their ecosystem (Aguirre and Tabor, 2004; Pace et al., 2019).

#### **Requirements**

Applicants should have a good primary degree in Veterinary Medicine or Microbiology (First or 2.1 Honours or the international equivalent). The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated and be prepared to work in multidisciplinary and multicultural settings in Ireland and the Caribbean. Experience with molecular biology and/or pathology is also an advantage. Fluent spoken and written English is required. We especially welcome applications from candidates from an eligible SIDS (i.e. national with passport from a Small Island Developing State).

For more information on the English language requirements please see the link below:

<https://www.ucd.ie/registry/prospectivestudents/admissions/policiesandgeneralregulations/generalrequirements/minimumenglishlanguagerequirements/>

## **Award**

The Our Shared Ocean Programme is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs through Ireland's development cooperation programme, Irish Aid. The scholarship for this fully funded 24-month research Master's degree includes €25,000 for student's stipend per annum. The MSc student will be supervised by Dr. Ana Vale, at University College Dublin, Ireland and Dr. Rod Suepaul, at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago for the duration of the Masters Scholarship.

For further information/applications please email Dr Ana Vale ([ana.vale@ucd.ie](mailto:ana.vale@ucd.ie)), School of Veterinary Medicine, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

## Application Procedure

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

Dr Ana Vale ([ana.vale@ucd.ie](mailto:ana.vale@ucd.ie))

## Closing date

27<sup>th</sup> of December 2024