**PhD Scholarship Advertisement**

Fully Funded PhD Scholarship in Helminth miRNA biogenesis

School of Biological and Chemical Sciences

Application(s) are invited from suitably qualified candidates for full-time funded PhD scholarship(s) starting on 1st September 2025 affiliated to the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences at the University of Galway.

**University of Galway**

Located in the vibrant cultural city of Galway in the west of Ireland, the University of Galway has a distinguished reputation for teaching and [research excellence](https://www.universityofgalway.ie/our-research/)

For information on moving to Ireland please see [www.euraxess.ie](http://www.euraxess.ie)

**Detailed Project Description**

The miRNA biogenesis pathway and the associated regulation of gene expression has been highly characterised in the free-living worm *C. elegans*. Our evidence to date suggests that the same pathway in parasitic worms (helminths) is more similar to that found in mammalian cells, suggesting an adaptation to mediate the long-term survival of helminths in their hosts. Through bioinformatics, recombinant technology, enzyme cleavage assays, miRNA characterisation, and cellular analysis, this project seeks to advance understanding of the miRNA biogenesis pathway in helminths and explore how components of this pathway are involved in cross-communication with host immune cells.

The successful candidate will work under the primary supervision of Dr Sheila Donnelly with additional supervision from Prof. John Dalton (University of Galway) and A/Prof Nham Tran (University of Technology, Sydney).

**Living allowance (Stipend):** €25,000 per annum, [tax-exempt scholarship award]

**University fees**: Covered by scholarship

**Start date**: 1st September 2025

**Academic Entry Requirements:** Applicants should have a primary degree (First or upper Second Class Honours) or M.Sc. in an appropriate discipline (e.g. microbiology, biological science, biochemistry, biotechnology, or similar). The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated and be prepared for a combination of laboratory-based studies for cellular, molecular and biochemical analyses and the application of bioinformatics for the analysis of ‘omic’ data sets. International applicants require a minimum score of IELTS 6.05 in English for entry into postgraduate programmes.

**To Apply for the Scholarship:** Applications should include a cover letter explaining your motivation to pursue a PhD in this area and highlighting the reasons for your suitability, as well as short CV summarising your qualifications and relevant experience. Please also include the contact details of two referees. Informal enquiries about the PhD are welcome. Please put the reference descriptor **miRNA-PhD** in the subject line of any email communication.

**Contact Name:** Dr Sheila Donnelly

**Contact Email:** sheila.donnelly@universityofgalway.ie

**Application Deadline:** 20th June 2025 at 17:00 (Irish time 24hr format)

**Primary Supervisor name** : Sheila Donnelly