



## THE FDC GROUP SCHOLARSHIPS

As a decentralised multi-disciplined professional services provider, we espouse the unique values of rural Ireland and continue our delivery of a full service offering via a local presence to the farming and business communities we serve. FDC is committed to having a strong presence where our clients are located as is evidenced by our office network.

There are four core values that underpin the services delivered by FDC Group:

**Independence:** As independent service providers, it is important that we provide advice without the constraint or influence of commercial partners.

**Integrity:** We value honesty, integrity and transparency in our staff and clients.

**Integration:** We offer the highest value to clients through the diversity of our expert team's working together.

**Innovation:** We provide innovative, flexible and practical solutions for all of our clients.

## REASONS FOR ESTABLISHING SCHOLARSHIP

Although the group now employs in excess of 300 people across 30 different locations nationwide, we remain true to our core values of delivering a quality service and total business solution to our clients proportionate to their need and partnering other service providers to this end as appropriate.

FDC fosters an environment of endeavour and enterprise enabling the delivery of a quality service to our clients. Our staff are qualified, ambitious and driven by a desire to provide an excellent commercial service

to our clients. With our unique integrated approach, we are the only entity in rural Ireland that can meet all of the needs of our clients under the umbrella of the FDC Group.

As we continue to expand our geographical network and client base nationwide, we are looking to grow our teams of talented people. Building long-term rewarding careers for key talent is the cornerstone of our growth strategy.

In 2018 we established and launched a formal FDC Group undergraduate recruitment programme. As part of our continuous support of students in the development of their careers, we now wish to put in place a scholarship programme for Postgraduate students and with this in mind have launched the FDC Group Scholarship.

## THE FDC GROUP SCHOLARSHIPS: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**PURPOSE:** To support up to six students participating in the **MSc in Co-operatives, Agri-Food and Sustainable Development** and/or the **MSc in Management and Marketing**.

**VALUE :** € 12,500. Successful applicants must complete the placement element of the MSc programme with the FDC Group.

**CRITERIA:** To be considered for a competitive Scholarship, the following criteria must first be met:

- Students must secure a minimum Second Class Honours Grade 1 in an approved primary degree or equivalent.
- Students must have applied for one of the two applicable programmes via the Postgraduate Applications System (PAC), have received an offer and have accepted a place on either programme to qualify to apply for the Scholarship.
- This Scholarship is open to all EU students.

For more information about the FDC Group visit their website [www.fdc.ie](http://www.fdc.ie)

## APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Scholarships must be made on the official application form and include name, contact details and qualifications with graduating institution(s). Applications for the Scholarship must be submitted in hardcopy directly to **Niamh Kiely**, Department of Food Business & Development, O’Rahilly Building, University College Cork.

Applications must include a short personal statement in response to the following (max 500 words per question):

1. Identify an important issue facing Rural Ireland at present and propose a concise strategy to address this issue.
2. Outline in what way you could contribute to the development of Rural Ireland given the challenges identified in question 1 above.
3. Finally, outline
  - Your reason for applying and academic background.
  - Your previous achievements (academic or other notable achievements).
  - Your future career ambitions.

Applicants must name at least two referees – one academic and one professional.

## CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:

**Friday 23rd August 2019.** A short list of candidates will be sent to the FDC Group on or before Monday 26th August 2019 for review. Interviews will be scheduled for Tuesday 3rd September 2019 and will take place at University College Cork. Once the Scholarships are awarded, successful candidates will be afforded three days to accept the Scholarship.

**SHORTLISTING AND INTERVIEWS:** Applications will be shortlisted by the Programme Directors to ensure all applications meet the necessary criteria. The Selection Committee will then interview the shortlisted candidates and award the Scholarships. Members of the Selection Committee will comprise of:

- Dean, Cork University Business School or their nominee.
- Two representatives from the FDC Group.

Applicants will be asked to meet the Selection Committee as part of a formal interview. Interviews will be conducted at University College Cork over one day; however, in exceptional circumstances SKYPE interviews will also be permitted.

All correspondence with regard to the administration of the Scholarship should be addressed to Niamh Kiely as above.

## ADDITIONAL TERMS FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

The FDC Group Scholarship can only be awarded to successful applicants who are self-funded.

- Scholarship recipients will pay the Semester 1 fee for the programme to UCC in September of the year of registration. The Semester 2 fee will be paid by the FDC Group Scholarship on behalf of the recipient subject to full payment of the first half of the programme fee by the recipient in Semester 1. On successful completion of the MSc programme, the recipient will be reimbursed for the Semester 1 fee by the FDC Group Scholarship.
- The remaining Scholarship monies, after allowing for programme fees, will be paid in 5 equal monthly instalments on commencement of the practice-based research project. In all cases, the practice-based research project will be undertaken at FDC Group offices.
- The Scholarship is only valid in the year for which the applicant applies for the Scholarship and registers for the MSc programme, that is, it cannot be deferred to another year other than in exceptional circumstances and wholly at the discretion of the FDC Group.
- Scholarship recipients will be required to complete a feedback form at the end of their MSc programme and, where appropriate, will be asked to provide a written testimonial and profile picture for promotional purposes.

**THE FDC GROUP SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATION FORM**

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Surname: ..... First name: .....

Title: Mr [ ] Ms [ ] PAC application number: .....

Current address: .....  
 .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

**THIRD LEVEL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS**

(Feel free to continue on a separate page if necessary and/or feel free to attach your CV.)

Degree or other third level qualification .....

Awarding institution ..... Result .....

Primary area of study ..... Date of completion.....

**REFEREE 1 (ACADEMIC)**

Surname: ..... First name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

**REFEREE 2 (PROFESSIONAL)**

Surname: ..... First name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Please write a statement in response to the following (max 500 words each for 1, 2 and 3; total 1,500 words max):

1. Identify an important issue facing rural Ireland at present and propose a concise strategy to address this issue.
2. Outline in what way you could contribute to the development of rural Ireland given the challenges identified in your response to 1. above.
3. Finally, outline
  - a. Your reason for applying and academic background.
  - b. Your previous achievements (academic or other notable achievements).
  - c. Your future career ambitions.