TUS
Technological University of the Shannon
Midlands Midwest
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Project Title: GENIE: Generative AI for Creative & Artistic Design and Sustainability

Short Project Description: This PhD Scholarship is aligned with the EU AIDEA project (Artificial Intelligence for a New Design Education Approach), which seeks to modernize European design education by harmonizing technological advancement with traditional craftsmanship and ethical responsibility. The title reflects the foundational conceptual framework, which requires a delicate balance between three core pillars: "Artificial Intelligence" (technological acceleration and generative tools), the "Intelligence of the Hand" (material-based creativity and tactile craftsmanship), and "Social Intelligence" (ethical awareness, sustainability, and responsible practice), while simultaneously applying these educational advancements to solve critical environmental challenges like circular economy integration, eco-design, and sustainable material lifecycle management. The successful AIDEA Scholar will operate at the exact intersection of artificial intelligence, creative pedagogy, and environmental stewardship, directly contributing to the modernization of design curricula and the future-proofing of the European creative economy.

Type of Degree Offered: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) / Postgraduate Researcher. This position offers a fully funded, four-year Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree, designated for a Postgraduate Researcher operating within the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, and the IDEAM Research Institute (www.ideam.ie).
The AIDEA Scholar will benefit from the connection with National and International partners, from Limerick School of Art & Design, and from the Technical University of Liberec (Czech Republic), as well as consortia partners including the Accademia Italiana (Italy), Wittenborg University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), Know-Center (Austria), and CIAPE (Italy). These collaborations will expose the researcher to a pan-European network of designers, technologists, and sustainability experts, actively shaping the future of global creative education.

Duration of Project: 48 Months

Funding Agency: Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) – Strategic Research Fund (SRF) The scholarship includes fees of €5,500, annual stipend of €16,000, a materials/consumables budget of €1500 per annum, and a one-off payment of €1000 towards a laptop.

Minimum Qualifications/Experience Necessary/Any Other Requirements:
Candidates must have a primary degree in a field related to Design Technology, with a Minimum classification of 2.1 honours or equivalent. The successful candidate must possess knowledge and expertise in Computer Science and Information Technology, Design and Creativity, particularly in the national and regional context. The project will require hands-on proficiency with AI-assisted design tools, DPP/ LCA tools and qualitative data analysis software. The scholar will investigate not just the technical integration of these tools, but also their profound ethical dimensions, addressing systemic algorithmic bias, intellectual property challenges, and the potential erosion of human-centric design values. Furthermore, an interest in Digital Engineering and AI is essential to navigate the complex methodologies and generative models that form the core of the project.
International applicants must have a minimum of 6.5 with no component score less than 6.5 on IELTS [International English Testing System] or equivalent, ensuring the high level of communicative proficiency required for extensive qualitative fieldwork, stakeholder interviews, and academic publishing.
Throughout the degree, the PhD candidate will undergo comprehensive professional development to acquire a robust blend of expert knowledge and transferable skills. The scholar will complete mandatory institutional researcher training covering qualitative and mixed-methods research design, General Data

Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance, research integrity, and ethical data handling. Technical upskilling will be a continuous component of the degree, with access to advanced training in AI ethics, prompt engineering, and the utilization of generative design platforms.

Project Lead Supervisor: Dr John Cosgrove, Director – IDEAM Research Institute

For further information, please contact:
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Closing date for receipt of completed application form is Friday 26th June 2026. Interviews will take place within subsequent weeks.

Download TUS Scholarship application form below, put project title in the subject line and email to - pro@tus.ie:
https://tus.ie/rdi/research/office/funded-research/