

**TUS**

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

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Project Title: Humanitarian Operations Theory: Decision-making practices in sustainable humanitarian logistics

Short Project Description A successful humanitarian operation is one that mitigates the urgent needs of a population with a sustainable reduction of their vulnerability in the shortest amount of time and with the least amount of resources” (Tomasini and Wassenhove, 2004). Unfortunately, delivering successful humanitarian operations is difficult due to challenging physical and bureaucratic environments and a need for collaboration amongst distinct autonomous organisations and stakeholders. Academic research in the field of humanitarian operations (HO) is noted to be growing but with limited use, or development, of associated theories. The scarcity of theory in the HO field is suspected to be due to the emphasis on practical relevance in emergencies and difficulty in collecting data in areas of disaster or conflict (Oloruntoba, Hossain and Wagner, 2019). This research, through a mixed methods approach, aims to thoroughly explore past and current academic work in this space, garner the real-world experiences of humanitarian practitioners (through the professional network of the enterprise partner) and assess how theory can be extended in this field. Modern approaches to developing operational excellence rely heavily on technology. Unfortunately, ICT infrastructure is often much compromised where humanitarian aid is delivered (Kumar Tarei et al., 2024). Therefore, this research will need to recognise this constraint and consider what is possible with, for instance, mobile technology, AI, data analytics and edge computing. It is envisaged that this contribution to knowledge will have a practical application in the continued operations of the enterprise partner and other similar organisations working in difficult situations.

Duration of Project: 48 months

Funding Agency: TUS RISE Scholarship comprises of a monthly stipend, materials budget and postgraduate fee for the duration of the award only.

Type of Degree Offered: PhD

Minimum Qualifications/Experience Necessary/Any Other Requirements:

Candidates with primary degrees in Business, Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (or similar programmes with strong numerate content) should possess sufficient quantitative skills to be considered. Minimum classification of *2.1 honours or equivalent in a NFQ Level 8 degree is required.*

IELTS [International English Testing System] Applicants must have a minimum of 6.0 with no component score less than 6.0.

Research Supervisors:

Principal supervisor: Dr Paul Liston, Faculty of Business and Hospitality, Technological University of the Shannon.
Co-supervisor: Dr James Byrne, DCU Business School, Dublin City University.

For further information, please contact:

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AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

TU RISE is co-financed by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-27 and the Northern & Western Regional Programme 2021-27



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Closing date for receipt of completed application form is 5pm on Tuesday, 4th June. Interviews will take place within subsequent weeks.

Download TUS RISE application form here:

<https://tus.ie/rdi/research/office/funded-research/>



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