MASTERS BY RESEARCH
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

[GMIT Letterfrack and GMIT Research Office in Partnership]

A FULL TIME TWO-YEAR MASTERS BY RESEARCH PROJECT

Ref Number:

TITLE:

“The Application of Circular Design Principles to Irish Furniture Manufactured Products – a case study analysis”

Background:

Multiple economic, environmental, and regulatory challenges have led to the need for the Irish Furniture manufacturing sector to adapt how they approach product design. In response to these challenges a move away from the traditional linear to circular economic model is taking place. This represents a move away from what is known as the take-make-dispose production model to one where value is extended to multiple product life cycles, and waste is designed out of the product and its associated supply chain. An IBEC (2018) survey of 217 Irish organisations, one third of which are involved in manufacturing, found there is currently limited engagement with circular economy initiatives in the industry. There is however a recognition of its importance in developing a sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive society.

There is potential for the Irish wood and Furniture Manufacturing sector to transition to the circular economy by improving the value utilisation and waste reduction of resources through circular product design.

Proposal:

The research project will investigate the application of existing circular design principles to Irish furniture manufactured products. It will facilitate an in-depth look at the circular economy in the context of the Irish wood and Furniture Manufacturing sector, and how circular design principles could be used to transition from a linear to a circular manufacturing system.

Through the use of a number of case studies, this project will establish the current performance of existing furniture designs in terms of circular design principles. It will explore the value and waste associated with these designs. The research project will establish if the redesign of these products using established design principles improves the impact of their value and waste on the circular economy.

Outcomes will include case examples of how circular design principles may be applied by the Irish Furniture Manufacturing sector to move towards a circular economy. The outputs and results from this
research will help to inform programme design and delivery within GMIT’s furniture-related programmes.

**Applicant Requirements:**

The successful candidate will hold an Honours Degree (minimum 2:2, but 2:1 or higher is desirable) in a cognate discipline e.g. Furniture Design, Furniture Technology or a related discipline. A demonstrated ability to communicate scientific research findings will be viewed favourably.

**Award:**

This is a fully funded Masters research programme, supported by the Department of Creative Education and the GMIT Research Office. The following funding allocation applies:

1. €18,000 student stipend per annum for two years;
2. €1,500 towards ICT equipment required;
3. A travel and subsistence budget of up to €2,400 for data gathering and attendance at relevant conferences and seminars;
4. A waiver of GMIT postgraduate fees for two years (The awardee will be required to develop their academic capacity through participation in 2 hours per week of teaching support, tutorial, and/or demonstrating activities).

**PROJECT START DATE:** October/November 2020

**DURATION:** 24 months

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

Applicants should submit

- Curriculum vitae (to include the contact details of 2 referees)
- Copy of transcript of results
- Personal Statement.

The Personal Statement should not exceed one page and should explain:

- How you meet the requirements of the scholarship?
- Your motivation for pursuing this Masters Research Programme?

These documents must be sent to ResearchOffice@gmit.ie

- Applications must be submitted to the Research Office e-mail address only. Please ensure all documents are emailed as a single Word or PDF file.
- **CLOSING DATE:** Tuesday August 4th, 2020 at 12 noon IST (GMT + 1)
- Applications received after the closing deadline will not be evaluated.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Candidates from outside the EU are eligible to apply but will be expected to provide evidence of close familiarity with the Irish system of education and sources of additional funds to cover excesses associated with Non-EU fees.
- If either English or Irish is not the applicant’s first language, a certificate of language ability in either language is required. IELTS level 6.0 or equivalent is mandatory for those presenting with English as a foreign language.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT PLEASE CONTACT:

Dr Kate Dunne, Lecturer, GMIT Letterfrack. Email: Kate.dunne@gmit.ie

Data Protection Statement

GMIT takes very seriously its legal obligations as set out in the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and the Irish Data Protection Act 2018 to safeguard and protect your personal information in our possession. The personal information which you disclose to us in this form will only be used to assess your suitability; administer and register you for this scholarship. We will not keep your personal information for any longer than is necessary for those stated purposes. For more details, please refer to GMIT's Student Privacy Statement: http://www.gmit.ie/general/student-privacy-statement