

## PhD Project Advertisement

**Project title:** Pioneering Progress: Insights into Effective Animal Welfare Interventions

**Project No:** FBS2024-093-Carroll-qr

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### Project description:

Are you passionate about improving the well-being of animals and curious about the science behind it? Do you want to be at the forefront of innovative strategies that impact not only animal health but also influence policy?

In our modern world, animal welfare is a growing concern. Policymakers worldwide are striving to enhance animal welfare through various approaches, from regulations to education and incentives. However, the effectiveness of these strategies can vary significantly based on cultural, regional, and behavioral factors. We believe there is an exciting opportunity to bridge the gap between policy and practice using insights from human behavior change theory.

This PhD project offers a unique opportunity to:

1. Dive deep into understanding how cultural differences and implementation strategies affect the adoption of management practices that boost animal health and welfare.
2. Uncover patterns of success in animal welfare strategies across Europe, analyzing their underlying behavioral determinants and applicability to the UK context.
3. Conduct two pioneering farm animal welfare intervention studies, guided by human behavior change theory.

This PhD studentship is designed to be a collaborative and interdisciplinary journey. It offers an exciting chance to work at the intersection of biological and social sciences. You will be equipped with the tools and knowledge to tackle real-world challenges in animal welfare.

### Training opportunities:

This project provides an exceptional opportunity for the student to acquire a diverse set of skills and expertise. The key training opportunities include:

- **Animal Welfare Assessment:** You'll gain hands-on experience in assessing animal welfare, with a focus on pigs and dairy calves
- **Systematic Review:** You'll have the opportunity to receive training on how to conduct systematic reviews, a valuable skill for conducting rigorous and replicable reviews that provide new insights
- **Interdisciplinary Exposure:** This project provides unique international exposure, including visits to the University of Reading and University of Helsinki. These experiences will broaden your understanding of farming practices, legislation, and societal norms across different regions
- **Fieldwork:** As part of your research, you will engage in valuable fieldwork, which will provide hands-on experience in animal welfare assessments and interventions.

### **Student profile:**

Whether you hold a degree in veterinary medicine, biology, agricultural sciences, psychology, or a related field, we encourage you to apply. A 2.1 undergraduate degree is required.

The multidisciplinary nature of this project opens doors to a diverse range of backgrounds, from psychology to agriculture, veterinary medicine and beyond. We welcome high-caliber applicants from all walks of life to be a part of this journey.

We are looking for individuals who are enthusiastic about improving animal welfare and who are eager to contribute to research that bridges the gap between policy and practice. This project requires a willingness to explore multiple fields, making it ideal for candidates interested in crossing disciplinary boundaries. A willingness to work in a pig-processing environment would be of benefit because this hands-on experience is critical for understanding the real-world aspects of animal welfare.

A significant part of the research involves international exposure, so a willingness and ability to travel are desirable. Year two of this 4-year PhD will be spent at the University of Reading. If mobility is a concern, we are open to discussing alternative arrangements with candidates to ensure inclusivity and accommodate individual needs.

### **Stipend (Salary):**

FoodBioSystems DTP students receive an annual tax free stipend (salary) that is paid in instalments throughout the year. For 2023/24 this is £18,622 and it will increase slightly each year at rate set by UKRI.

### **Equality Diversity and Inclusion:**

The FoodBioSystems DTP is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), to building a doctoral researcher(DR) and staff body that reflects the diversity of society, and to encourage applications from under-represented and disadvantaged groups. Our actions to promote diversity and inclusion are detailed on the [FoodBioSystems DTP website](#).

In accordance with UKRI guidelines, our studentships are offered on a part time basis in addition to full time registration. The minimum registration is 50% FT and the studentship end date will be extended to reflect the part-time registration.

**For up to date information on funding eligibility, studentship rates and part time registration, please visit the [FoodBioSystems website](#).**