

TU RISE PhD Scholarship

Project Title: Negotiating structures: the agency of immigrant entrepreneurs

**Department of Marketing and International Business and Hincks
Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence, School of Business.**

About the Project

We invite applications for a fully funded 4-year PhD project as a full-time programme of study.

This PhD titled “Negotiating structures: the agency of immigrant entrepreneurs” is funded by MTU and supported by TU RISE funding.

The PhD will focus on the interplay between migration and entrepreneurship on vibrant immigrant communities in Ireland’s South-West region. The successful applicant will add to the scope of the research bringing their experience and knowledge to the project.

Entrepreneurship has often been studied as one of the crucial ways in which immigrants can reinvent themselves in migratory contexts and one of the stepping stones towards integration and empowerment (Ram et al., 2017). However, research has also illustrated how new immigrant business owners oft-times experience structural disadvantages (Kloosterman, 2010). These include concentration in traditional occupations confined mostly to lower skilled work.

Ireland as a member of the EU and with an ever-growing economy has become receptor of an unprecedented number of economy and refugee immigrants over the past two decades and some are opting to set up their own businesses. Despite the significance of tailored support programmes (for instance the online “Start Your Own Business Programme to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers”), efforts do not reach out to all immigrant communities or all locations across the country.

The PhD aims at filling this gap and will examine the structural barriers and enablers immigrant entrepreneurs face in the process of venture creation and the initiatives and tailored supports in place to support them in Ireland’s South-West region. Moving beyond the analysis of barriers, this PhD will also examine how immigrants use their own capabilities to manoeuvre structural barriers and succeed in different ways, oft-times within but also beyond economic success.

The data for this PhD will be based primarily on in-depth interviews.

Requirements:

Applicants must have achieved at least a second-class higher level (2H1) classification or equivalent in an appropriate discipline area relevant to the research field from a recognised degree awarding body OR possess a Master's Degree in an appropriate discipline area relevant to the research field from a recognised degree awarding body.

The successful candidate should be self-motivated with enthusiasm to carry out interviews with immigrants and other stakeholders. They should have an interest in and an aptitude for critical thinking, publishing and collecting and analysing qualitative data.

For applicants whose first language is not English, the English language requirements accepted by MTU for entry into postgraduate studies are:

- IELTS Academic 6.0 (No less than a 5.5 in any one band)
- PTE Academic 51 (Minimum 45 in each component)
- TOEFL IBT 80 min (score of 18 in each component)
- B2+ in CEFR (common European framework of reference for languages)

Please refer to: <https://www.mtu.ie/international/eu-applicants/>

General terms and conditions of this PhD scholarship award

Start date & location: This PhD starts no later than **1st Jan 2025**. The student will be registered as an MTU PhD candidate, will be based primarily at the Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence and will be supervised by a multidisciplinary team of supervisors. The PhD Scholar is required to spend **at least 12 weeks on placement with an enterprise partner** within the four-year term of their doctoral programme. This placement will be organised in collaboration with the student and supervisors.

Funding: The scholarship funding is tax free and includes payment of University PhD fees (EU or non-EU) and a student stipend at a flat rate of €25,000 per annum which is tenable for 4 years.

To Apply:

Please send a **single PDF file** consisting of the following to ana.cruzgarcia@mtu.ie and helen.mcguirk@mtu.ie with 'TU RISE PhD Application' in the subject heading:

1. Resume/Curriculum Vitae (CV), including:
 - Education History
 - Relevant skills
 - Research projects/publications
2. A cover letter (2-pages max) including a description of the applicant's research interests and reasons for applying for the position. The cover letter must clearly indicate how the applicant's profile and skills fit the requirements of this PhD position.

3. Scanned copies of relevant academic transcripts and English language certificates.

If **shortlisted and invited for interview**, the candidate will also need to present:

1. A minimum of two recommendation letters and/or contact information for referees.

Further information or queries please e-mail ana.cruzgarcia@mtu.ie

Closing date for applications: 31st October 2024

Interviews (online) anticipated to be held early/mid November 2024

PhD commencement date latest by 1st January 2025.

<https://www.mtu.ie/>

<https://hincks.mtu.ie/>

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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an Aontas Eorpach
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