**Masters by Research Scholarship Ad**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Opportunity In:</th>
<th>Department of Applied Social Sciences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of Proposed Research Degree Project:</td>
<td>An Assessment of the CCJ Model</td>
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<td>Description:</td>
<td>In recent decades, a significant restructuring of the rural economic base has led to significant job losses within traditional sectors (primarily in agriculture and manufacturing); and a loss of recreational, public and retail services. Consequently some locations have recorded a significant decline in population. In response to these challenges, Communities Creating Jobs (CCJ), a voluntary shared learning network was established in 2011, with the ambition of empowering local communities to self-generate sustainable employment. The model adopted by this organisation seeks to utilise latent and untapped assets within the communities, thereby acting as a stimulus for socio-economic rejuvenation, with a particular focus placed on employment generation (approximately 10 jobs within each participant community). To date, there has been no research on the socio-economic impacts associated with the implementation of the CCJ model. This research project seeks to ascertain and critically discuss the socio-economic impacts associated with this employment creation model within selected rural communities / market towns. Furthermore, it will be important to determine the ways in which this model is aligned to other approaches – community-led local led; social economy / enterprise; integrated area planning etc. A case study approach will be adopted in order to address the research questions. Semi-structured interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders will be the preferred methodological tools for the collection of primary data. This research will be completed under the supervision of LIT and facilitated by the voluntary members / board of CCJ. The evidence-based findings from this research will be disseminated to policymakers, with the aim of highlighting the strengths and challenges of initiating a community led employment generation model.</td>
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**Aim**

- To ascertain and critically discuss the socio-economic impacts associated with the jobs generation model adopted by Communities Creating Jobs within selected rural communities /
### Objectives

- To conduct a literature review on the employment generation (and associated socio-economic multiplier effects) within the context of key theoretical underpinnings in community, rural and economic development.
- To identify factors which have necessitated the adoption of the CCJ model by a particular community / communities vis-à-vis the compilation of community profiles.
- To chronicle and map the process of delivery of the CCJ model by selected communities.
- To gauge the perspectives of various community actors / stakeholders on the implementation of the CCJ model vis-à-vis semi-structured interviews and focus groups.
- To decipher the future potential of the CCJ model and to put forward recommendations to relevant stakeholders for its application.

### Scholarships

**Condition:** Funded by the Graduate Research Office – **Postgraduate Fees for a period up to two years full-time and a stipend**

### Requirements of Candidate:

- **Level 8 Honours Degree** in an appropriate field of study is essential (Grade 1:1 degree preferable, applications considered with a Grade 2:2 or higher with relevant experience),
- Experience of advanced research and relevant work experience
- Commitment to a 24-month programme of study and research full-time
- Self-motivated with an ability to be self-directed in much of their own work
- Able to plan work over longer periods and have strong writing and analytical skills
- Interest in pursuing a career in academia and/or research
- Interest in pursuing postgraduate studies in areas related to: Community Development; Rural Development; Human Geography; Sociology; Economics

### Contact:

Informal Research Enquiries should be directed to Dr. Shane O’ Sullivan, Email: [shane.osullivan@lit.ie](mailto:shane.osullivan@lit.ie)

### Deadline for applications:

27 September, 2019 (5:00pm)

### Application Process:

Application forms to be emailed to the Graduate Studies and Research Office, LIT. Email: [graduatestudies@lit.ie](mailto:graduatestudies@lit.ie)

For queries on application process please contact: [graduatestudies@lit.ie](mailto:graduatestudies@lit.ie)