

## Post Title: PhD Studentship in Data Governance of Companion Animal Clinical Surveillance Data

**Location:** UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

**Anticipated Start Date:** September 2026

**Closing Date:** 17th April 2026

**Apply:** via email (see application process below)

### Why ADAPT?

- **Contribute** to the ADAPT research agenda that pioneers and combines research in AI driven technologies: Privacy & data governance, Natural Language Processing, digital engagement & HCI, semantic modelling, personalisation.
- **Work** with our interdisciplinary team of computer scientists and leading experts from the complementary fields of, Social Sciences, Communications, Commerce/Fintech, Ethics, Law, Health, Environment and Sustainability.
- **Leverage our success.** ADAPT's international research leadership, research excellence, industry collaborations, multidisciplinary outlook, strategic national position and the opportunities arising from its scale, make our researchers highly sought after for collaboration and highly competitive in international funding programmes and has competitively won over 40 European Research Projects.

**As an ADAPT funded PhD researcher, you will have** access to a network of 85 global experts and over 250 staff as well as a wide multidisciplinary ecosystem across 8 leading Irish universities. We can influence and inform your work, share our networks and collaborate with you to increase your impact, and accelerate your career opportunities. Specifically we offer:

1. Opportunity to build your profile at international conferences and global events
2. A solid career pathway through formalised training & development, expert one-on-one supervision and exposure to top specialists
3. A fully funded, 4 year PhD postgraduate studentship which includes a stipend of (€25,000 per annum - non taxed)
4. An annual budget is available to support research costs, publications and conference attendance.
5. Funding for annual student tuition fees

### Context

This PhD will study using routinely collected veterinary clinical data to support companion animal health and welfare surveillance in Ireland. Companion animal ownership is common in Ireland, however, there is limited data about the health and welfare status of this population. Routinely collected clinical veterinary data represents a significant but untapped source of data about the vet-attending pet population.

The overarching research question of this PhD project is 'What data management processes and tools are needed for routinely collected veterinary clinical data to be used to support companion animal health and welfare surveillance in Ireland?'. Given much of the data is in semi-structured or

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unstructured formats, this project will develop processes for data cleaning and standardisation that support wider scale data collection and analysis. Specific research questions include:

How can the quality of routinely collected veterinary clinical data be assessed in the context of the secondary use of this data for research and surveillance?

What are the re-identification risks associated with the secondary use of routinely collected veterinary clinical data for companion animal research and surveillance, and how can this risk be reduced?

How can animal and drug information be standardised? (identify/develop standards, create machine learning classifiers/natural language processing tools for automation and improving data quality.)

### Minimum qualifications:

*Hold (or expect to hold) at least a 2:1 (or equivalent) undergraduate degree in computer science or a similar technical discipline and be able to demonstrate a strong interest in practical applications in veterinary medicine. Alternatively, applicants with a degree in veterinary medicine, veterinary nursing, or a related degree in the biological sciences, with a qualification or experience in informatics/use of real-world data to support veterinary clinical practice will also be considered. Note that for the latter, applicants must demonstrate that they have experience in data handling and a willingness to develop advanced skills in this area.*

*Applicants must be proficient in English. Please see the following link for further information about UCD's entry requirements, including language requirements:*

<https://www.ucd.ie/graduateadmissions/admissions/entryrequirements/>

### Application Process

Please submit your application as a single PDF file with the subject line

'Companion animal surveillance PhD' to [heather.grieve@ucd.ie](mailto:heather.grieve@ucd.ie) by 17th April 2026.

Please include the following:

1. Letter of interest (maximum one page) outlining your interest in this project, including your suitability for the role and relevant experience
2. A copy of your CV (please include a list of any publications and link to your ORCID ID/Google Scholar/GitHub profile, if applicable)
3. Academic transcripts
4. Names and contact details of two referees

Informal enquiries welcome to: [heather.grieve@ucd.ie](mailto:heather.grieve@ucd.ie) or [rob.brennan@ucd.ie](mailto:rob.brennan@ucd.ie)

### Diversity

ADAPT is committed to achieving better diversity and gender representation at all levels of the organisation, across leadership, academic, operations, research staff and studentship levels. ADAPT is committed to the continued development of employment policies, procedures and practices that promote gender equality. On that basis, we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join ADAPT.

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## About the ADAPT Centre

ADAPT is the world-leading SFI research centre for AI Driven Digital Content Technology hosted by Trinity College Dublin. ADAPT's partner institutions include Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Maynooth University, Munster Technological University, Athlone Institute of Technology, and the National University of Ireland Galway. ADAPT's research vision is to pioneer new forms of proactive, scalable, and integrated AI-driven Digital Content Technology that empower individuals and society to engage in digital experiences with control, inclusion, and accountability with the long term goal of a balanced digital society by 2030. ADAPT is pioneering new Human Centric AI techniques and technologies including personalisation, natural language processing, data analytics, intelligent machine translation human-computer interaction, as well as setting the standards for data governance, privacy and ethics for digital content.

## Our Research Vision

Governments and civil society are starting to recognise the need for urgent and concerted action to address the societal impact of the accelerating pace of digital content technologies and the AI techniques that underpin them. ADAPT provides an ambitious, ground-breaking, integrated research programme that assembles three interlocking Strands that together are capable of addressing this challenge. Each of these complementary and reinforcing research Strands takes one of the different perspectives on the provision of personalised, immersive, multimodal digital engagement, i.e. the individual's experience and control of the engagement, the algorithms underlying digital content processing, and the balanced governance by enterprise and societal stakeholders.

## Digitally Enhanced Engagement Strand

From the individual perspective, research within this Strand will deliver proactive agency techniques that sense, understand and proactively serve the needs of individual users to deliver relevant, contextualised and immersive multimodal experiences which also offer them meaningful control over the machine agency delivering those experiences.

## Digital Content Transformation Strand

From the algorithmic perspective, new machine learning techniques will both enable more users to engage meaningfully with the increasing volumes of content globally in a more measurably effective manner, while ensuring the widest linguistic and cultural inclusion. It will enhance effective, robust integrated machine learning algorithms needed to provide multimodal content experiences with new levels of accuracy, multilingualism and explainability.

## Transparent Digital Governance Strand

From the enterprise and societal perspective, new structured knowledge frameworks and associated practices for AI data governance will be required to balance the needs and values of individuals, organisations and society when it comes to rich digital experiences. This requires the advancement of research in the areas of data ethics, data quality, data protection, data value, data integration, and multi-stakeholder governance models.

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