

Maynooth University

Graduate Studies

Newsletter 2019



Postgrad Open Day 26 February 2019

The Postgraduate Open Day will take place on the 26th February 2019, from 4-8pm in the Maynooth University Library. The event will be promoted widely via an online and radio advertising campaign. [Registration](#) is now open. Please share the link with prospective students via your communications channels. We would like to thank all of our departmental exhibitors and information session providers for their time and support that evening. Contact Roxanne.paul@mu.ie for any queries.

Postgraduate Applications – open now

The PAC application system is now open for 2019-20. Our newly formed Postgraduate Admissions Team will be responsible for the initial verification of EU applications while our colleagues in International Office will continue to support non-EU student applications. Prospective students can apply online at the website: www.pac.ie/maynoothuniversity. Please contact pacinfo@mu.ie for further information.



Welcome to Postgrad Maynooth 2018-19

Maynooth University welcomed over 2,000 new postgraduate students in autumn 2018. Our welcome and induction events for Taught Master's and Research students provided an opportunity to tour the campus, to engage with current postgraduate students and to meet with service providers including: Computer Centre, Library, Student's Union, Student Services, Ethics Committee, International Office, Maynooth Works and more. The Taught Master's event featured a very popular interactive session with Prof. Peter McNamara from the School of Business while Research Induction included a 'speed-networking' opportunity to support interdisciplinary student engagement.



Postgraduate Careers Forum

In partnership with the Postgraduate Feedback Council and GradSoc, Graduate Studies hosted a Postgraduate Careers forum on the 6th of December. Graduate Studies was very grateful for the support of Eanain Strain from the Careers Development Centre, Barry Lynch from Amazon, Dr. Shirley O'Dea, from Maynooth University Biology Department and Avectas (cell engineering technology), and Dr. Karen English, Biology Department and IRC Early Career Research Awardee as members of our careers panel. The event provided an important opportunity for 55 postgrads to consider their academic and non-academic career opportunities.

ISSE Research survey

The ISSE research student survey opened on the 4th of February 2019 and we would really appreciate the support of all Departments to encourage research students to participate again this year. The first ISSE survey for research students was launched in 2018 and showed that MU is performing well on research culture, research skills, progression and supervision. Graduate Studies is now developing digital skills workshops in response to the feedback provided. The survey is available from: www.studentsurvey.ie

Research Skills Development Programme

The Research Skills Development Programme provides a range of skills modules for early career researchers, postdoctoral and doctoral students. This semester will include library skills workshops in:

- Literature Reviews: What you need to know
- Your Researcher Impact: Measuring your Research Impact
- Publishing in Academic Journals: Finding the right Journal for your Research

In addition, the following professional development workshops will be offered:

- New Data Protection Regulation 2018
- Unconscious Bias, Diversity & Inclusion
- Legal Aspects in Managing your Research
- Digital Skills for Researchers

Other professional development opportunities in RSDP include:

- GST3: Academic Writing, facilitated by staff from the MU Writing Centre
- GST11: Thesis Completion & Career Development
- GST4: Research Practice & Integrity
- GST10: Innovation & Research Commercialisation
- Library Skills and Professional Development workshops throughout the semester.

For more information visit:

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/rsdp



Welcome new members of Graduate Studies staff



Roxanne Paul, Graduate Studies Administrator

An alumnus of Maynooth University, Roxanne joined Graduate Studies from the Maynooth University Library and the Department of Applied Social Studies in June 2018 and has been working and studying in Maynooth University for the past nine years. Roxanne is the Graduate Studies Administrator and is responsible for office administration and Graduate Studies events.



Paul Clear, Postgraduate Admissions Officer

On the 22nd of August, Graduate Studies welcomed Paul Clear, the new Postgraduate Admissions Officer. An alumnus of the university, Paul was formerly the Deputy Student Records Officer within Academic Registry and has worked within Research Administration and the Fees and Grants Office. In his new role, Paul will lead the newly established Postgraduate Admissions Team.



Dr. Niamh Ní Shíadhail, Academic Programmes Director

On the 1st of November, the Graduate Studies Office welcomed Dr Niamh Ní Shíadhail, the new Academic Programmes Director for Postgraduate Studies at Maynooth University. Niamh has come to us from Uppsala University in Sweden where she was Director of Studies at the Department of English, and Director of the Celtic Section. Niamh is lead project officer for the Taught Master's Taskforce, a key initiative in the Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

Postgraduate Awards 2019

The Dean of Graduate Studies is proud to announce the launch of the Postgraduate Awards 2019 in recognition of the important contribution of individual students and research supervisors to the postgraduate community of Maynooth University. The 2018 award winners included:

- Adie Bourke, Applied Social Studies, Community Impact Award
- Matthew Fogarty, English, Community Impact Award
- Sarah O'Brien, English, PG Teaching Award
- Charles O'Sullivan, Law, PG Teaching Award
- Darragh Sean Ryan, Mathematics and Statistics, PG Teaching Award
- Dr. Denise Rooney, Chemistry, Doctoral Supervision Award
- Ciara Ryan, Geography, Research Impact Award

The call for Nominations for 2019 awards is now open [online](#).



Photo above: Ciara Ryan (Hume Scholar, Geography) receiving the Research Impact Award from her mother, alumnus Dr. Denise Ryan, (Hume Scholar, Philosophy), on the 4th December.



Photo above: Postgraduate Award winners 2019 on 4th December with Prof. Maria Pramaggiore, Dean of Graduate Studies and Dr. Mark Maguire, Dean of Social Science.

Master's and Doctoral Scholarships 2019

The **John and Pat Hume Doctoral Awards** ceremony took place on the 4th of December in Renehan Hall with the Dean of Graduate Studies presenting 27 awards to Hume recipients for 2018-19. The call for applications is now live for 2019 with a closing date of the 29th of March. For further details and to access the application form and guidance materials please visit the [website](#).

Taught Master's Scholarships 60

Taught Master's Scholarships of €2,000 have been awarded across all Faculties for 2018-19. Three Taught Master's Alumni Scholarships were awarded for 2018-19 offering a €5,000 fees waiver. The call for 2019 applications will open on the Postgraduate Open Day, on the 26th February 2019. For further information, please contact: **conor.wilkinson@mu.ie**

Postgraduate Teaching Studentships

8 Postgraduate Teaching Scholarships were awarded this year, with departments providing an annual stipend of 9k for teaching duties and the university providing full fees for up to 5 years of Doctoral studies. Departments interested in awarding a Studentship for 2019-20 should contact:

hazel.keanelavelle@mu.ie

Grad Ireland Awards 2019

Congratulations to Design Innovation, winner of the Grad Ireland Postgraduate Course of the Year for the MSc Design Innovation (Food) collaboration with Bord Bia. The call for applications for the Grad Ireland Awards 2020 will open in summer 2019. Please contact **roxanne.paul@mu.ie** for further information.



Photo above: Fionnuala Gilmartin, Design Innovation, Roxanne Paul, Graduate Studies and Brendan Baker, Careers Development Centre at the Grad Ireland Awards 2019.

Mi-Lab – HEA Innovation and Transformation Funding Success

With 3 years of funding secured under the HEA Innovation and Transformation initiative, Graduate Studies has partnered with the Department of Design Innovation to create Mi-Lab, a campus-based innovation laboratory. Uniquely focused on key challenges in higher education, Mi-Lab will offer a dedicated workshop experience using design-thinking methodologies and will be open to staff and postgraduate students from semester 1 2019-20.



Photo above: Trevor Vaughn, Design Innovation with MSc Design Innovation students.

Supporting Research Supervision 2019

Symposium on Doctoral Education

A symposium on the 'Maynooth Doctorate in the 21st Century' will be held on Friday 12 April, 09.30-14.00. Doctoral Supervisor of the Year 2018, Dr Denise Rooney (Dept of Chemistry), will give the keynote lecture: 'Trainee vs. The Independent Scholar: Bridging the Paradox of Doctoral Supervision.' Speaking on the impact of research supervision, Dr. Rooney said 'The research supervisor has a huge role to play in supporting the student through their PhD studies. It is the role of the supervisor to train the student in research skills, while at the same time promoting their independent development as a scholar. The supervisor is a mentor, a teacher, a motivator, and a project manager. Well-trained, motivated graduate students are more likely to successfully complete their studies and act as positive role models for their peers and undergraduate students.'

The symposium will address issues such as doctoral education in a changing world, cohort supervision, and 'Finishing well'. Venue and registration details to follow.

Supervisory Training Workshops

The final supervision workshops of the 2018-19 academic year will take place on the following dates: 'Making Progress' (21 February 2019) and 'Progress to completion: the Viva and beyond' (1 May 2019). [Registration is now open.](#)



Photo above: Dr. Denise Rooney was presented with her Doctoral Supervision Award by Prof. Maria Pramaggiore, the Dean of Graduate Studies on the 4th December 2019.

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Contact us

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