

##### Maynooth University

##### Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

# Department of Law & ALL Institute

# Postdoctoral Researcher (SHAPES Project)

(24-months contract)

### The Role

Maynooth University is committed to a strategy in which the primary University goals of excellent research and scholarship and outstanding education are interlinked and equally valued.

Due to recent success in competitive EU Horizon 2020 funding, we are seeking post-doctoral researcher to join our cross-disciplinary SHAPES project team. The project titled SHAPES (Smart and Healthy Ageing for People Empowered by supportive Systems) is a large-scale demonstrator project concerned with the development and piloting of a platform for assisting the ageing population to remain living in their chosen community with a good quality of life and meaningful social participation. The consortium combines thirty-six partners with competences in health, human factors, social sciences, IT development, robotics, healthcare provision, service provision, and advocacy (including representatives of citizens with disabilities). Working across 14 European countries, with well-established research teams, and with funding of 21m Euro, SHAPES offers a challenging and supportive environment at the leading edge of research and innovation in the area of smart and health ageing.

We are looking to appoint a candidate that conducts legal research within Work Package 8 in order to assessthe regulatory frameworks facilitating pan-European smart healthy ageing, and contributes to legal research related to other work packages. We are looking for a candidate with excellent knowledge ofEuropean Union (EU) law, and in particular of EU health law, cross-border healthcare and freedom to provide services within the EU internal market. Experience of working in H2020 research projects or in other interdisciplinary projects is desirable. The successful candidate may also be asked to contribute to the teaching activities within the department corresponding to their own interests, knowledge, and experience.

This post will be for 24 months, with an anticipated commencement month of **July, 2019**. For informal enquiries please contact [delia.ferri@mu.ie](mailto:delia.ferri@mu.ie).

**Overview of the SHAPES project**

SHAPES aims to create the first European open ecosystem enabling the large-scale deployment of a broad range of digital solutions for supporting and extending healthy and independent living for older individuals who are facing permanently or temporarily reduced functionality and capabilities. SHAPES builds an interoperable Platform integrating smart digital solutions to collect and analyse older individuals’ health, environmental and lifestyle information, identify their needs and provide personalised solutions that uphold the individuals’ data protection and trust. Standardisation, interoperability and scalability of SHAPES Platform sustain increased efficiency gains in health and care delivery across Europe, bringing improved quality of life to older individuals, their families, caregivers and care service providers. SHAPES Large-scale Piloting campaign engages +2k older individuals in 15 pilot sites in 10 EU Member States, including six EIP on AHA Reference Sites, and involves hundreds of key stakeholders to bring forth solutions to improve the health, wellbeing, independence and autonomy of older individuals, while enhancing the long-term sustainability of health and care systems in Europe. SHAPES’s multidisciplinary approach to large-scale piloting is reflected across seven themes that, together, provide a clear understanding of the reality of European health and care systems and enable the validation of cost-efficient, interoperable and reliable innovations capable of effectively supporting healthy and independent living of older individuals within and outside the home. Building an ecosystem attractive to European industry and policy-makers, SHAPES develops value-based business models to open and scale-up the market for AHA-focused digital solutions and provides key

recommendations for the far-reaching deployment of innovative digital health and care solutions and services supporting and extending healthy and independent living of older population in Europe.

**Principal Duties**

Research, administrative, and other duties will include:

* Working under the supervision of principal investigator Dr Delia Ferri, and in collaboration with a team of researchers in the Maynooth University Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute;
* Contributing to project tasks in collaboration with other project’s researchers and contributing to research administration
* Conducting legal research on regulatory frameworks facilitating pan-European smart healthy ageing
* Conducting literature reviews and writing reports;
* Liaising with other members of the Work package and of the consortium on behalf of the principal investigator Dr Delia Ferri;
* Leading the preparation and timely delivery of high quality project deliverables;
* Representing the Maynooth University at consortium and work package meetings and workshops;
* Presenting results at workshops and conferences;
* Actively assisting and contributing to the writing of academic papers for publication;
* Assisting in the development and submission of new research proposals to EU and other funding agencies.
* Complying with all University policies

**The ideal candidate must have:**

**Essential**

* A PhD in Law (possibly on a topic which falls within the remit of EU law);
* Good knowledge of issues related to EU health law and policies;
* Excellent legal research skills;
* A record of scholarly work and publication of international quality, appropriate to career stage, demonstrating potential to become a significant contributor in the field;
* Demonstrable experience in socio-legal research (experience with qualitative/quantitative methods)
* Demonstrable experience of conducting interdisciplinary research;
* Willingness to undertake frequent travel in Europe, and be in possession of a valid passport;
* Excellent writing and presentation skills in English.
* Excellent attention to detail, flexibility, initiative and good problem-solving abilities.
* Ability to work with a great degree of autonomy, manage workloads, deadlines and responsibilities.
* General computer skills, including proficiency in Excel, Word, Adobe Acrobat;
* Excellent interpersonal skills.

**Desirable**

* Working knowledge of one or more European languages other than English, such as: German, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese, Czech, Finnish, or Italian;
* Ability to produce basic but professional-looking graphics
* Previous experience in EU-funded projects
* Experience of supervising graduate research students;

### Faculty and Research Institutes

The post holder will be part of the ALL (Assisting Living & Learning) Institute which has members form each of the faculties in Maynooth. The post holder will be based in the Department of Law, which is in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The SHAPES Project is led by the ALL (Assisting Living & Learning) Institute, Maynooth University, Ireland. This recently established Institute is involved in a number of large-scale research projects concerned with ageing, disability and chronic illness; where people may benefit from human, technological, systems or policy assistance or support of some kind, and where the inclusion, participation, empowerment and rights of the person are seen as a central aim of the project. We are involved in projects globally, with strong connections to civil society organisations, United Nations agencies, governments and industry. By thinking through the context and meaning of people’s lives we seek to assist them to enhance their quality of life and we provide an unparalleled interdisciplinary environment to achieve this.

**The Faculty**

The Faculty of Social Sciences comprises the School of Business; Departments of Design Innovation; Economics, Finance & Accounting; Adult and Community Education; Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Education; Geography; Law; Sociology; the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education; and International Development. Collectively we are members of the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI), which provides shared research services and an environment supportive of funded research projects and inter-disciplinary research. The role of the Faculty is to co-ordinate the academic activities of individual departments, to oversee the strategic development of departments, and to support interdepartmental programmes. The University has also developed a number of interdisciplinary institutes to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines.

**The Department of Law**

Maynooth University Department of Law is one of the newest academic units within the University. The Department has 35 staff members, and is the fastest growing Law Department in Ireland. It offers a number of popular undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, educating over 1000 students. The Department places a very strong emphasis on research, and staff members regularly publish in leading international academic journals. The Department of Law has undergone a period of rapid expansion of its range of programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as in its research activities.

**The University**

Maynooth University is one of the four constituent universities of the National University of Ireland and in 2019 was placed in the global top 50 universities under 50 years old in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Formally established as an autonomous university in 1997, but tracing its origins to the foundation of the Royal College of St. Patrick in 1795, Maynooth University draws on a heritage of over 200 years’ commitment to education and scholarship. It is located in the University town of Maynooth, 25km from the centre of Dublin, Ireland’s capital city.

The University is a modern institution - dynamic, research-led, engaged, and grounded in the traditions of liberal education. With more than 12,000 students, Maynooth is Ireland’s fastest-growing university, yet we retain a collegial campus culture that is central to our ability to bring significant interdisciplinary expertise to bear in tackling some of the most fundamental challenges facing society today. MU has a distinctive disciplinary profile compared to other universities in Ireland, with research and teaching strengths in humanities and social sciences, science, electronic engineering, business, law and teacher education. The University has major research institutes and centres in the areas of: humanities;, social sciences; mathematics, computation and communication; human health; business and service innovation; climate change; and Geocomputation.

The University has, under the *University Strategic Plan 2012-17*, further enhanced its capacity and reputation for research, transformed its undergraduate curriculum, grown postgraduate enrolments and become even more international, diverse and engaged. MU makes, and is seen to make, an important and distinctive contribution to our national system of higher education.

Maynooth University is now embarking upon a new and exciting phase with the development of the *University Strategic Plan 2018-22,* with a vision to consolidate the international reputation of Maynooth University “*as a university known for outstanding teaching, excellent research, a global outlook, effective engagement with the society we serve, and our distinctive approach to the challenges facing modern higher education*.”

The *University Strategic Plan 2018-22* builds on the institution’s strengths and accomplishments, concentrating energy and resources on further development in research and postgraduate education. The strategy focuses on:

* targeted investment in research capacity in a number of priority areas;
* extending the postgraduate portfolio and growing the postgraduate community;
* realising the full benefits of our innovative undergraduate curriculum;
* enhancing the student experience;
* comprehensive and ethical internationalisation;
* equality diversity inclusion and interculturalism as enablers of academic excellence

These strategic goals are underpinned by a commitment to invest, first and foremost in people and opportunities for their development and success, and also in the systems and infrastructure required to achieve scholarly and educational objectives.

### Selection and Appointment

* Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview;
* Candidates invited for interview will be required to make a brief presentation;
* Appointments will be approved by the President based on the report of the selection board;
* The appointment is expected to be effective from July 1, 2019.

**Equality and Diversity**

Maynooth University values the enrichment that comes from a diverse community and seeks to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of each individual. To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Equality%20and%20Diversity%20Policy%20-%202018%20FINAL_1.pdf). Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/athena-swan) Institute, we are committed to advancing gender equality across the University.

We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals.

### Terms and Conditions

Appointment will be on a fixed term contract of 24 months.

**Data Protection Law**

Maynooth University will process any personal data provided by you in connection with an application for this role in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Acts 2018.

If your application is successful and you accept an offer of employment at Maynooth University, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance with Maynooth University’s Staff Data Privacy Notice.

Both the privacy notices and further information relating to data protection, including Maynooth University’s other data protection policies and processes, can be viewed at

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection>

### Salary

Post Doctoral Researcher (Level 1) €37, 874 - €43,782 per annum (Point 1-6)

Appointment will be made in accordance with the Department of Finance pay guidelines.

The successful applicant will be appointed on the first point of the Admin Officer I pay scale with annual incremental progression

### Application Procedure

**Closing Date:** 23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Monday, 20/01/2020**

Please note all applications must be made via our **Online Recruitment Portal** at the following link:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies>

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Any applications which are still in progress at the closing time on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system.

Late applications will not be accepted.

**Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer**

**The position is subject to the Statutes of the University**

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