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##### International Disability Alliance & Maynooth University

##### Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

# Doctoral Scholarship in Monitoring of Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs) Participation in Development Programmes and Policies

**Closing date for applications: 21st June 2020**

The Assisting Living & Learning (ALL) Institute of Maynooth University and the International Disability Alliance is pleased to announce that a PhD Scholarship will be available for one student intending to commence PhD studies in September 2020.

This Scholarship will bring a **decisive contribution to monitoring global progress in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in decisions that concern them, through their representative organisations**.

The scholarship is in collaboration with and co-supported by the International Disability Alliance (IDA).

**Background**

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) under Article 4.3 mandates States to “closely consult with and actively involved persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organisations”, and to do so “in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities”. In recent years, major progress has been made in securing commitments to include persons with disabilities in development and humanitarian action, inter alia through the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai framework, the Global Disability Summit or the recent UN Security Council resolution 2475. **Accountability is now critical to ensure that pledges translate into action.** In order to monitor progress in realising these commitments, the International Disability Alliance, with technical research support from the ALL Institute, launched the IDA Global Survey to Monitor DPO Participation in Development Policies and Programmes.

The IDA Global Survey is the first ever DPO-driven accountability exercise for government, UN Agencies and UN Country Teams and INGOs, undertaken at the global level (read more on the IDA Global Survey [here](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/global-survey-launch-2019), including the [report of initial findings](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/global-survey-preliminary-results-2019)). The first iteration of this survey was launched in 2018 as a pilot version and provides data that will serve as a baseline against which progress will be monitored in the implementation and realization of the obligations of duty bearers to consult and actively involve persons with disabilities in decision-making processes. In particular, the Global Survey provides robust data collection to contribute to the monitoring of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), **capturing perceptions by DPOs of their levels of engagement in development and humanitarian action policies, programmes and initiatives.**

**Research**

The research will build on an existing collaboration between the ALL Institute and IDA on the pilot version of the Global Survey. The PhD research will expand on this work to **undertake qualitative and quantitative data analyses (including possible disaggregation and correlations) and survey tools, develop a DPO participation index and monitor progress through undertaking another two cycles of the Survey, in 2021 and 2023**.

The outcome of the research work will feed into IDA global and regional level advocacy, to promote meaningful participation of DPOs in decision-making as an essential step towards reflecting their priorities and advancing all human rights for all persons with disabilities.

The researcher will be **supported by a multidisciplinary supervision team from within Maynooth University, and external experts. He/she will also be provided with strong technical expertise in online data tools and analytics, with regards to accessible survey design, delivery and analysis**.

The PhD oversight will be jointly ensured by Maynooth University together with IDA as the owner of the Survey and its use to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

The PhD will be conducted by publication; involving publication of papers and production of a thesis combining papers published over the four-year term of the scholarship.

**The scholarship will entail:**

1. The scholarship will be for **4 years**, subject to annual review.
2. Full annual tuition fees support (approximately €6,200 per annum);
3. A fixed maintenance award of €16,000 per annum;
4. Participation in Departmental activities is encouraged and where appropriate may include opportunities to teach. These activities will be carried out under the direction of the Head of Department, or a member of staff nominated by the Head.
5. The scholarship will be awarded to newly registered students only, for four years of study, subject to satisfactory annual review of progress in research.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**Technical Research**

To conduct relevant analyses from the dataset of the initial and subsequent iterations of the IDA Global Survey, including: correlational and multivariate analyses of question responses, in relation to the Global Survey objectives; preparing the dataset; providing technical support and interpretation of the data results, conducting additional analyses focused on a sub-set of data, and leading on the write-up of survey reports

To support, under-supervision and in consultation with IDA members, the development of the methodology for a DPO Participation Index to serve as a marker for progress on realisation of Article 4.3 of the CRPD by governments and international cooperation stakeholders

To support, under-supervision and in consultation with relevant stakeholders such as UN agencies and development partners, the required adjustments to the questionnaire for the next iterations of the Global Survey to ensure quality and strength of the results

To contribute to training, presentations, dissemination of the results (including in accessible formats) and as relevant to technical partnerships with similar complementary surveys and to the advocacy work of IDA with UN agencies, INGOs or with IDA Members

**Teaching Support**

As part of this scholarship, the scholarship holder may be required to undertake such duties as may be specified by the Head of Department. These duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

* To assist the development and delivery of a range of teaching materials and assessment activities, including tutorials and laboratory demonstrations, in support of the required teaching commitments of undergraduate students;
* To contribute, where appropriate and under supervision, to the assessment process, using a variety of methods and techniques and to provide effective, timely and appropriate feedback to students to support their learning;
* To be available for consultation by undergraduate students;

**Qualifications Required:**

The scholarship will be awarded **on the basis of the research potential of the applicant** in relation to the purpose of the research.

* Scholarship support eligibility: full-time research degree student commencing a programme of study in September 2020 (i.e. new entrants) to PhD-track programme and who have a relevant first class of 2.1 honours in their primary degree, and/or have a relevant Masters degree
* Prior studies in a relevant field. e.g. disability studies, international development, human rights, or behavioural sciences; with demonstrated interest in and knowledge of the rights of persons with disabilities;
* Experience with qualitative and quantitative data collection and data analyses, including the use of SPSS or other analyses software;
* Experience with articulating research findings in a rigorous manner, experience with research dissemination, for example data visualization;
* Strong communication, organizational skills and experience working with diverse teams that consist of scholars, web-based developers, and persons with disabilities and their representative organizations (DPOs);
* Excellent oral communication and writing skills in English; knowledge of another official UN language or International Sign Language would be an asset;
* Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Terms and Conditions

The scholarship may be held by new entrant full-time registered students only.

Students do not have to be based at Maynooth, but a schedule of attendance should be agreed with the supervisors (Prof Mac MacLachlan and Prof Delia Ferri) prior to the commencement of the scholarship.

### Maintenance Award

A fixed stipend of €16,000 per annum will be offered. This will be paid in twelve equal instalments from January to December. The scholarship will be awarded for the expected duration of the studies, up to a maximum of four years, subject to satisfactory annual review of progress in research under the university’s normal processes.

There will be no pension entitlements arising from the scholarship. Scholarship beneficiaries may not undertake any other substantive paid work within the university.

### Application and Selection Procedure

To be determined by Head of the ALL Institute. The position is being advertised openly. The selection panel will comprise members of Maynooth University and IDA.

Applicants are required to submit the following:

1. Personal statement (500 words)
2. Curriculum Vitae highlighting research experience, skills and aptitude.
3. Relevant academic final transcripts

Interviews will take place in **June 2020**, virtually. Applicants are invited to indicate any reasonable accommodation they may require for the interview.

**Closing date for applications: 21st June 2020.** Please send applications to hilary.hooks@mu.ie.

### Progression

A doctoral scholarship is contingent on the holder being a registered doctoral student and meeting all the requirements for annual progression. The scholarship and any teaching support activities will terminate automatically when the holder ceases to be a registered graduate student. It is a legitimate objective of the university to provide education and training for successive cohorts of postgraduate students, and providing an opportunity to students to develop skills in teaching by serving as a teaching assistant, tutor or demonstrator is an important part of postgraduate training, so University makes such work available to postgraduate students as a priority.

**Standard Operating Procedures**

1. The Departmental/institute/external contribution to the scholarship will be €16,000 per annum.
2. No fee income will be attributable to the Department or institute for the student, within the resource allocation model (no double counting of the fees waived).
3. The scholarship must be confirmed for the Department by the VP Research and the Dean of Graduate Studies prior to advertising. This is to primarily ensure that sufficient finances are available. In the event of a deficit accruing (insufficient funds to meet the costs over four years) the deficit will be a future charge against the Department’s RIF.
4. The stipend will be paid to the student by the Finance Office in monthly instalments from an account set up for this purpose. A transfer of funds will be made annually by the Department (e.g. from RIF) to facilitate the payment. This process will be managed by the Research Development Office (Finance).
5. Departments are responsible for the local administration of the maintenance award (raising of stipend funds, advertising and recruitment, teaching and support duties). The fees payment will be managed by the Graduate Studies office.
6. Departments and/or institutes will advertise the scholarship and carry out a suitable selection process.