



Funded by  
the European Union



Post Ref:



## Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

### School of Law & Criminology and MUSSI Funded PhD Opportunity (P2Green Project) (48-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 obtaining Horizon Europe funding, we are seeking a PhD researcher to join the P2Green project team. **P2Green** is a 4-year project undertaken by a consortium across the EU and coordinated by agrathær GmbH and Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops e.V. This project investigates the potential to “close the gap between fork and farm for circular nutrient flows” by recovering nutrients (in particular, nitrogen and phosphorous) from human waste and converting these into safe bio-based fertilisers for agricultural production. Dr. Mary Dobbs (School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth) along with Prof. Joseph McMahon (UCD) are leading on the legal and regulatory research for the project. We are seeking to appoint a PhD candidate to conduct legal and regulatory research for this project.

The focus of the PhD will be related in particular, but not exclusively, to Task 3.5 of the project. Task 3.5 involves the identification and evaluation of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable in the pilot regions (Sweden, Germany and Spain) and follower regions (France, Greece, Hungary and Italy) where the project activities are being undertaken. This will entail research regarding the legal, regulatory and policy frameworks that exist on a multilevel basis and that are applicable in the regions. These frameworks include areas such trade, agricultural support, environmental protection, waste, wastewater, food standards and organic produce. The PhD’s main focus will be on the national/regional/local laws, complementing the research by the rest of the legal team. It will also involve developing an understanding of the project partners’ activities, what issues they raise and how they currently are engaging with the legal and regulatory frameworks. The aim is to deliver an initial scoping review of the frameworks, followed by a more comprehensive, critical evaluation of the relevant frameworks.

The PhD project will entail both doctrinal legal analysis and qualitative analysis and will require interviews to be conducted with, *inter alia*, representatives of the project’s partners and local experts across the regions where the project is operating. The PhD researcher will be supervised by Dr. Mary Dobbs.

For this particular position, we are looking to appoint a candidate with basic knowledge of legal methods, qualitative research methods, comparative methods, EU law and with an interest in agriculture, environment and/or regulation. Experience of working in interdisciplinary research projects is desirable.





Funded by  
the European Union



Post Ref:

### The scholarship will entail:

1. The scholarship will be for **4 years**, subject to annual review with an anticipated commencement of April 2023
2. Full annual tuition fees support (approximately €6,500 per annum);
3. A fixed maintenance award of €19,000 per annum;
4. An expense fund of c.€8,000 in total towards research project travel and research dissemination;
5. Participation in Departmental activities is encouraged.
6. The scholarship will be awarded to newly registered students only, for four years of study, subject to satisfactory annual review of progress in research.

For informal enquiries please contact [mary.dobbs@mu.ie](mailto:mary.dobbs@mu.ie).

### Principal Duties

- Working under the supervision of Dr. Mary Dobbs and Prof. Joseph McMahon, and in collaboration with the project partners;
- Contributing to project tasks under the direction of Dr. Mary Dobbs and Prof. Joseph McMahon, in particular conducting research on Task 3.5 of the P2GreenProject, in collaboration with the other project researchers;
- Contributing to the project deliverables under the direction of Dr. Mary Dobbs and Prof. Joseph McMahon, in particular deliverables 3.7 and 3.8;
- Conducting qualitative and doctrinal research;
- Conducting literature reviews and writing reports;
- Writing, and contributing to, *open access* academic papers for publication;
- Completing a PhD project as part of the broader P2Green project – also to be published *open access*;
- Complying with all University policies.

### The ideal candidate must have:

#### Essential

- A degree in Law, or a degree in cognate discipline;
- Knowledge of EU law;
- Basic knowledge of qualitative methods;
- Excellent English language writing and speaking skills;
- Ability to work with a great degree of autonomy, manage workloads, deadlines and responsibilities;
- Excellent computer skills, including proficiency in Excel, Word, and Adobe Acrobat;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and willingness to engage with complex material.

#### Desirable

- A Master's degree in a relevant discipline (including law, political science, agriculture, environmental sciences, business...);
- Knowledge of issues related to food production;
- Working knowledge of Spanish and/or German. Greek and Hungarian are also welcome;
- Experience in academic publication;
- Previous experience in interdisciplinary research;
- Previous experience of team work.





Funded by  
the European Union



Post Ref:

## Overview of the P2Green project

**P2Green** focuses on nutrient recovery and re-use within the agri-food supply chain – specifically targeting nutrients within human waste. The overall objective is to foster a paradigm shift, from a linearly organised resource and nutrient system within the agri-food supply chain, towards a circular material flow system between urban and rural areas thereby restoring the coupling of the water-agri-food system using a holistic symbiotic resource management approach following the **3R principle “Reduce, Reuse, Recover”** .

To achieve this, P2Green will develop new circular governance solutions for the transition **from fork to farm** to halt and eliminate N & P pollution by connecting blue urban with green rural infrastructure, focussing on circular nutrient flows of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P). This objective will be achieved through the implementation and exploration of innovative N & P recovery solutions for the utilisation of human sanitary waste from urban settlements and its conversion into safe bio-based fertilisers for agricultural production in three pilot regions (P2Green pilot regions) on a north-south trajectory from the Baltic Sea region via the metropolitan area of Hamburg-Hannover to the region of Axarquia in Southern Spain and by multiplying the impact via four follower regions in Hungary, Italy, France and Greece. The P2Green pilot regions will provide an operational environment to develop, adapt and demonstrate innovative circular systems for the utilisation of human sanitary waste from urban settlements and its conversion into safe bio-based fertilisers for agricultural production and thus create innovative governance solutions at the water-agri-food nexus. P2Green will close nutrient cycles of N & P to foster the transition towards a circular and clean economy (green transition) as well as supporting sustainable food systems from farm to fork offering viable alternatives to reduce the current usage of mineral fertilisers with innovative Green bio-based fertilisers and thus minimise the pressure on the natural resources, specifically water and soil. P2Green will further enable policy makers to replicate P2Green’s sustainable regional circular economy models in all regional settings across Europe.

Identifying and evaluating the legal and regulatory frameworks are an essential component of this research – to ensure compliance during the project and in subsequent commercialisation, to see what flexibility there is for developing alternative approaches and to help identify and shape potential future legal and regulatory developments. These will help feed into the continued evaluation and revision of the project’s implementation on the ground, as well as informing engagements with stakeholders.

## Faculty and Research Institutes

The post holder will be part of the School of Law and Criminology and affiliated to the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI)

### The School of Law and Criminology

Maynooth University [School of Law and Criminology](#) is one of the newest academic units within the University and is situated in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The School has c.50 staff members, and is the fastest growing Law School in Ireland. It offers a number of popular undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, educating over 2000 students. The School places a very strong emphasis on research, and staff members regularly publish in leading international academic journals. The School has undergone a period of rapid expansion of its range of programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as in its research activities and doctoral programme. It now includes a range of centres, including a centre on European law.

### MUSSI

The [Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute \(MUSSI\)](#), a cross-faculty institute established in 2015, is a centre for research excellence and influence in the social sciences, and is committed to supporting high quality fundamental research, publicly engaged scholarship, evidence informed policy making and innovation based commerce and enterprise. Within its core tasks, it oversees the development of social scientific research that centres upon two of the University's six priority research themes People, Place and Environment and Social





Funded by  
the European Union



Post Ref:

and Economic Transformations. As a cross-faculty institute, it coordinates and directs a collaborative network, fosters interdisciplinary research and supports social scientific research by creating and developing shared research infrastructures.

## The Faculty

The Faculty of Social Sciences comprises the School of Business; School of Law and Criminology; Departments of Design Innovation; Economics, Finance & Accounting; Adult and Community Education; Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Education; Geography; 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 University

Maynooth University is one of the four constituent universities of the National University of Ireland. In 2022, it ranked # 1 in Ireland in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) Best Young University Rankings.

On 16 June 2022, Maynooth University celebrated its 25th birthday, having been formally established as an autonomous university in 1997. Yet, it traces its origins to the foundation of the Royal College of St. Patrick in 1795, drawing inspiration from a heritage that includes over 200 years of education and scholarship.

Today, Maynooth University is a place of lively contrasts—a modern institution, dynamic, rapidly-growing, research-led and engaged, yet grounded in historic academic strengths and scholarly traditions.

With over 15,000 students from more than 100 countries, Maynooth offers a range of programmes at undergraduate, Master's and PhD level in the humanities, science and engineering, and social sciences, including business, law, and education. The University also offers a range of international programmes and partnerships.

Maynooth's unique collegial culture fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research, which its world-class academics bring to bear in tackling some of the most fundamental challenges facing society today. The University's research institutes and centres consolidate and deliver this impact as vibrant communities of learning, discovery and creation. Research at Maynooth also is very much central to its teaching, and the University prides itself on placing equal value on its research and teaching missions.

Maynooth University is recognised among the top 600 universities in the world and in the top 250 European universities.





Funded by  
the European Union



Post Ref:

## **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;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

## **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](#). Both the School of Law and Criminology and the University hold [Athena SWAN Bronze Awards](#), and 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**

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

Students should be based at Maynooth, but flexible arrangements will be ensured.

Appointment will be on a fixed term contract of 48 months.

## **Maintenance Award**

A fixed stipend of €19,000 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.

## **Expenses**

Alongside the stipend, there will be some funding of at least €8,000 available for relevant expenses incurred during the project – this includes expenses to undertake empirical research for the project, as well as funding for the purposes of research dissemination, e.g. conference presentations. Conditions apply.

## **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.





Funded by  
the European Union



Post Ref:

## 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>

## Application Procedure

**Closing Date:** 23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **17th February 2023**

Applications with full CV (including names & contact details of 2 referees), cover letter and qualifications are to be sent to [mary.dobbs@mu.ie](mailto:mary.dobbs@mu.ie).

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Late applications will not be accepted.

**Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer**

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

*Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*

