



# Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

## School of Law and Criminology Funded PhD Opportunity Terms and Conditions

### The Role

We are seeking a PhD researcher. The PhD researcher will work on the project **CONSPACE - Penal Nationalism and the Northern Ireland Border**. This is a 4-year project led by [Dr Lynsey Black](#). CONSPACE takes Northern Ireland's border/s as an organising concept; it investigates successive phases of penal nationalism, each of which has been distinguished by the centrality of the border – a border which has been a locus of penalty and crime control since its inception a century ago and which achieves an urgent timeliness post-Brexit. CONSPACE works from an explicitly interdisciplinary base, drawing on historical enquiry and sociological analysis of the contemporary world, encompassing extensive archival, documentary and participant research across a pioneering diversity of research strands.

We are looking to appoint a candidate to conduct research primarily within the remit of research strand 1, 'Border Lives'. 'Border Lives' takes an historical and contemporary view of the border through the lived experience of those dwelling and working in border areas. Encompassing themes such as rurality and economic crime, this strand focuses on the embeddedness of border security and penalty in the mundanity of day-to-day life and the ways in which ordinary people lived under these imposing security regimes. The PhD candidate will conduct focus groups, oral history interviews, archival research, as well as research into contemporary media and political discourse. The PhD student will also support the PI in carrying out other tasks of the project, particularly across research strands 2 and 3. The PhD researcher will be supervised by the PI, Dr Lynsey Black.

### Value of Scholarship

1. A fixed maintenance award of €18,500 per annum
2. Full annual tuition fees support

### Duration

The scholarship will be for **4 years**, subject to annual review with an anticipated commencement of September 2022.

### Eligibility Criteria

Full time research degree students who have a relevant first class or 2.1 honours in their primary degree, or have a relevant Masters degree, are eligible to apply.

*Essential*



- A Masters degree in History, Criminology, or cognate discipline;
- Excellent English language writing and speaking skills;
- Ability to work with a great degree of autonomy, manage workloads, deadlines and responsibilities;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and willingness to engage with complex material.

#### *Desirable*

- Knowledge of qualitative methods, particularly experience of conducting participant research such as focus groups/oral history interviews;
- Evidence of an interest in historical criminology, oral history, border criminology, and/or sociology of punishment;
- Experience in academic publication;
- Previous experience in interdisciplinary research;
- Previous experience of team work.

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

#### **Principal Duties of Successful Candidate**

- Working under the supervision of PI, Dr Lynsey Black, and in collaboration with a team of researchers in the School of Law and Criminology;
- Contributing to project tasks under the direction of Dr Lynsey Black, in particular conducting research within the remit of research strand 1;
- Recruiting and conducting focus groups;
- Recruiting and conducting oral history interviews;
- Archival research;
- Desk-based research on contemporary media and political discourse;
- Writing, and contributing to, academic papers for publication;
- Completing a PhD project as part of the broader CONSPACE project;
- Complying with all University policies;
- Participation in School activities is encouraged.

#### **Application Procedure**

To apply, please send the following to Dr Lynsey Black (lynsey.black@mu.ie):

- CV;
- Personal statement outlining why you are interested in this area of research, a short paragraph on your motivation in applying for this position, and any other information you wish to include as relevant;
- Writing sample (e.g. an essay or section of a postgraduate dissertation);
- Academic transcripts;
- Names of two academic references.

#### **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> September 2022.

#### **Closing Date**

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Friday 19th August**.

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



## **The School of Law and Criminology**

Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology is one of the newest academic units within the University. The Department has 50 staff members, is the fastest growing Law School in Ireland, and amongst the largest common law academic units in the EU. 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 is currently home to two European Research Council (ERC) awardees. Staff members regularly publish in leading international academic journals, and with leading international publishing houses. The School has particular research strengths in the areas of international justice, law and technology, EU Law and policy, global business perspectives, criminology and criminal justice, and comparative legal theory. In addition, our programmes highlight the practical application of legal study, and underline the importance of legal skills, such as negotiation and advocacy.

The School is student-focused and outward-facing; it collaborates widely with colleagues within the University and beyond. The School of Law and Criminology has undergone a period of rapid expansion of its range of programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It offers, amongst others, the LLB and a suite of BCL degrees at undergraduate level (including Ireland's first BCL (Law and Criminology) degree), and a suite of postgraduate programmes, including the LLM programmes in International Business Law, International Justice, and Global Legal Studies, and the MA in Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice.

The School was one of the first two Law Schools in Ireland to successfully secure an Athena SWAN Bronze award, which recognises work undertaken to advance gender equality for staff and students in Higher Education.

