



Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Department of Law & ALL Institute Funded PhD Opportunity (DANCING 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 ERC Consolidator funding, we are seeking a PhD researcher to join the DANCING project team. The project titled ***DANCING - Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with Disabilities and Enhancing Cultural Diversity through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths***, is a 5-year project led by [Prof. Delia Ferri](#). DANCING will investigate the extent to which the protection of the right to take part in culture of people with disabilities and the promotion of cultural diversity intersect and complement each other in the European Union (EU) legal order. It will disrupt the conventional approach adopted by EU law scholarship by using a combination of legal, empirical and arts-based research to pursue three complementary objectives; experiential, normative and theoretical respectively.

We are looking to appoint a candidate to conduct research related to the project. The PhD student will support the Principal Investigator, Prof. Delia Ferri and post-doctoral researchers in conducting the research linked to the experiential objective of the project. The focus of the PhD will be related in particular but not exclusively to Task 1.4 of the project, which will aim to advance understanding of the extent to which the lack of accessibility and lack of recognition of disability identities affects the cultural domain. The PhD project will entail qualitative and quantitative analysis, and will require interviews to be conducted with, *inter alia*, umbrella organisations of cultural producers, artists, and cultural industries active at the European level. The PhD student will also support the post-doctoral researcher in gathering data through interviews with national key informants on disability, and will contribute to the arts-based research. The PhD researcher will be supervised by the P.I., Prof. Delia Ferri.

For this particular position, we are looking to appoint a candidate with basic knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods, and legal methods, and with an interest in cultural studies and/or disability studies. Experience of working in interdisciplinary research projects is desirable.



The scholarship will entail:

1. The scholarship will be for **4 years**, subject to annual review with an anticipated commencement of January 2021
2. Full annual tuition fees support (approximately €6,500 per annum);
3. A fixed maintenance award of €18,000 per annum;
4. Participation in Departmental activities is encouraged.
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.

For informal enquiries please contact hilary.hooks@mu.ie.

Overview of the DANCING project

The right of people with disabilities to participate in cultural life - which encompasses the rights of access to, and to be involved in cultural activities, as well as the recognition of disability identities, such as Deaf culture – has been for long denied. The cultural exclusion of disabled people has engendered their marginalisation. It has also entailed a loss for society as a whole, because of the lack of cultural diversity resulting from an inaccessible and exclusionary cultural realm. DANCING will investigate the extent to which the protection of the right to take part in culture of people with disabilities and the promotion of cultural diversity intersect and complement each other in the European Union (EU) legal order. It will disrupt the conventional approach adopted by EU law scholarship by using a combination of legal, empirical and arts-based research to pursue three complementary objectives, experiential, normative and theoretical respectively. First, it will identify and categorise barriers and facilitators to cultural participation experienced by disabled people and how they affect the wider cultural domain. Secondly, it will provide a normative exploration of how the EU has used and can use its competence to combat discrimination and its supporting competence on cultural matters, in synergy with its wide internal market powers, to ensure the accessibility of cultural activities, to promote disability identities, while achieving cultural diversity. In doing so, it will bridge, in an unprecedented way, the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Thirdly, it will advance the understanding of the legal concept of cultural diversity, which stems from the intersection of different sources of law, and will propose a new theorization of the promotion of cultural diversity within the EU legal order.

Principal Duties

- Working under the supervision of principal investigator Prof. Delia Ferri, and in collaboration with a team of researchers in the Department of Law;
- Contributing to project tasks under the direction of Prof. Delia Ferri, in particular conducting research on Task 1.4 of the DANCING Project, in collaboration with the other project researchers;
- Conducting qualitative and doctrinal research;
- Conducting literature reviews and writing reports;
- Writing, and contributing to, academic papers for publication;
- Completing a PhD project as part of the broader DANCING project;
- Complying with all University policies.



The ideal candidate must have:

Essential

- A first degree in Law and Sociology, or a degree in cognate discipline;
- A master degree in a relevant social science discipline (including disability studies, cultural studies, law, human rights, social policy, sociology...);
- Basic knowledge of qualitative and quantitative 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

- Knowledge of issues related to cultural participation and/or disability studies;
- Working knowledge of one or more European languages other than English;
- Experience in academic publication;
- Previous experience in interdisciplinary research;
- Previous experience of team work.

Faculty and Research Institutes

The post holder will be part of the Department of Law and affiliated to the ALL Institute.

The Department of Law

Maynooth University [Department of Law](#) is one of the newest academic units within the University. The Department has 40 staff members, and is the fastest growing Law Department in Ireland. It offers a number of popular undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, educating over 2000 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 and doctoral programme.

The ALL Institute

The [ALL \(Assisting Living & Learning\) Institute](#), a cross-faculty institute established in 2017, is involved in a number of large-scale research projects concerned with ageing, disability and long-term 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. ALL is involved in projects globally, with strong connections to civil society organisations, United Nations agencies, and industry. By thinking through the context and meaning of people's lives, ALL seeks 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 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;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 1st January 2021.

Terms and Conditions

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

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

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 Department of Law 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

Appointment will be on a fixed term contract of 48 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>

Maintenance Award

A fixed stipend of **€18,000** 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.



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.

Application Procedure

Closing Date: 23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **6th November 2020**

Applications with full CV, cover letter and qualifications are to be sent to hilary.hooks@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



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