



Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Department of Anthropology / ALL Institute Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher (SHAPES Project) (36 Month 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 Horizon 2020 funding, we are seeking an exceptional multi-lingual senior postdoctoral researcher experienced in ethnographic methods, and with strong administrative skills, to conduct ethnographic research in 7 SHAPES Pilot Sites situated in Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Greece and Cyprus. The project titled SHAPES (Smart and Healthy Ageing through People Engaging in Supportive Systems) is concerned with the development and piloting of a platform to assist and empower the ageing population to remain independent with improved quality of life. Maynooth University is coordinating this project, as well as participating in work packages on organisational, structural and sociotechnical factors, design, ethics, project management, and clinical issues. We are looking to appoint a candidate with experience of working with largescale cross-sectional and/or longitudinal data and experience in the design and evaluation of pilot interventions. The successful candidate will work with multi-disciplinary researchers and international partners.

This post will be for up to 36 months with an anticipated commencement month of March 2020.

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

Working under the supervision of Leads of WP2_T1, Prof. David Prendergast and Dr. Jamie Saris in the Department of Anthropology, and in conjunction with the Maynooth University Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute, the successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Serving as the primary researcher for at least three of the fieldsites and training/coordinating researchers in other sites
- Leading project tasks and taking initiative in terms of work package functioning and administration
- Writing up, and/or assisting other researcher assistants' writing up, the profiles of older adults in the various sites
- Writing up, along with the Project Leads, the Final Report, pilot site reports, peer review publications, and various other documents that will be required.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- Ph.D in Anthropology or cognate discipline. Candidates should have a minimum of two years relevant post-doctoral experience.
- Strong training in, and evidence of significant research using, ethnographic methods.
- Fluency in English and at least one and preferably more of the following languages: German, Spanish, Portuguese and/or Greek
- Excellent attention to detail, flexibility, initiative and good problem-solving abilities.
- Excellent research, analytical and oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work with a great degree of autonomy, manage workloads, deadlines and responsibilities.
- General computer skills, including proficiency in qualitative data software packages, Excel, Word, Adobe Cloud Suite.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Desirable

- Ability to collaborate across disciplines and/or sectors, including strong communication skills to convey complex ideas to very mixed audiences.
- Experience working in the fields of ageing research or human centred design.
- Evidence of previous administrative ability/experience.

Faculty and Research Institutes

Assisting Living and Learning Institute (ALL Institute)

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.

Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology is in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Maynooth University. It is the only Anthropology Department in the Republic of Ireland and has an established reputation in various fields of research (especially in Medical Anthropology and Person-Centred Design) and an excellent record of collaboration across disciplines and between sectors.

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.

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](#). Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) 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 up to 36 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

Senior Post Doctoral Researcher (Level 2): €45,041 per annum

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



Application Procedure

Closing Date: 23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Friday, 10th January 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



“This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 857159”.

