



# Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

## Department of Geography/ The Irish Climate Analysis and Research UnitS (ICARUS) Research Assistant (18 Month Contract)

### The University

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, (National University of Ireland Maynooth) draws on a heritage of over 200 years' commitment to education and scholarship. The last two decades have seen the University grow rapidly in scale, strength and stature. Maynooth University is today a university of international standing, renowned for the quality and value of its research and scholarship, for its dedication to excellent teaching, for providing an outstanding learning experience for its 10,000 students, and as a uniquely collegial environment in which to pursue scholarly work.

Maynooth University is embarking upon a new and exciting phase of its development under the *University Strategic Plan 2012-17* 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 2012-17* sets seven strategic goals for the university:

- to offer students an outstanding university education, the best available in Ireland, an education which challenges and supports all students to achieve their full potential, and prepares students for life, work and citizenship, and for complexity, diversity and change;
- to be recognised by 2017 as playing a leading international role and being the clear national leader in a number of thematic areas of research that address the major societal challenges of the 21st century;
- to achieve a step change in our international activities, doubling the number of international students on campus and doubling the number of domestic students spending time abroad, in order to create a truly intercultural and multilingual institution;
- to strengthen our engagement with all stakeholders through sustained partnerships with enterprises, communities, civil society and public bodies, to build support for the mission of the university, to serve the needs of society, and to open new opportunities for research and learning;
- to maximise our unique and distinctive contribution to the national system of higher education through a set of purposeful and sustained strategic partnerships at regional and national level, and to extend our international reach through a network of global partnerships;

- to be an excellent place to work, known for a collegial ethos which empowers all staff to contribute fully to the development of the university;
- to enable the achievement of ambitious strategic objectives in challenging circumstances through careful planning, excellent services and infrastructure, and sound governance and management.

The University has distinctive institutional strengths in six thematic priority areas:

- People, Place and Environment;
- Social and Economic Transformations;
- Human Health;
- Mathematics, Communications and Computation;
- Humanities in Practice; Sources, Resources & Discourses;
- Human Cultures, Experience & Creativity.

The University has 27 academic departments which are organised into three Faculties: Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy; Science and Engineering; and Social Sciences. The University is also home to a number of multi- and trans-disciplinary research institutes, including the Hamilton Institute, the National Centre for Geocomputation, the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, and Institute of Immunology.

In a pioneering recent development, Maynooth University, Dublin City University and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland have established the 3U Partnership, a new strategic association that brings together the distinctive and complementary strengths of the three institutions.

## **Faculty and Research Institutes**

The Faculty of Social Sciences includes the Department of Geography. 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 activities and programmes. The University has also developed a number of interdisciplinary Institutes to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines.

## **Department**

The Department of Geography has over 15 permanent staff and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The department hosts the Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units (ICARUS) within which the positions will be based. ICARUS has a vibrant and highly successful community of faculty, postdoctoral and postgraduate students investigating a range of aspects of Irish and global climate change and variability.

## **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.

We are seeking a Research Assistant to work with Dr. Conor Murphy to deliver the development of robust approaches for adapting to climate change under uncertainty in the water resource management sector in Ireland. The successful candidate will work closely with researchers at ICARUS, colleagues in Irish Water and Dr. Murphy to i) review approaches to climate change adaptation in the water sector internationally, ii) identify current best practice, and iii) identify data and information gaps that need to be filled in Ireland to best inform climate smart planning and policy.

## Principal Duties

The successful candidate will work closely with the PI and their team to deliver the associated aims and objectives of the project listed in the previous section. Other duties will include working to develop illustrative case studies of how climate information can be used more effectively for decision appraisal and in communicating project advances and outputs to end users in both academic and applied settings.

### The ideal candidate will have:

- An MSc in climate change, data science, geography or a cognate discipline
- Experience in collaborative team project environments
- Have experience in working with and collating environmental data
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent statistical analysis skills
- Experience in delivering research reports

## Selection and Appointment

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held during or shortly after the week of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

## Salary

Research Assistant: €20,459 - €27,956 per annum

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

\*New entrants to the public sector will be appointed on the first point of the Research Assistant salary scale.

## Application Procedure

Please ensure that you USE THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE '**RA\_ICARUS**' in the subject line of your application email. This will clarify which role you are applying for.

Applications should be made by sending the following information **as attachments** to [recruitment@nuim.ie](mailto:recruitment@nuim.ie)

- A Curriculum Vitae, including all qualifications and experience, and a covering letter addressing your interest and suitability for the role;
- The names, email addresses, correspondence addresses and telephone numbers of three referees whom the University may contact.

The completed application documents should be forwarded by email to arrive no later than **midnight, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted.

**Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer**

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