Maynooth University
Open Days 2019
6 April 2019
22 June 2019

Postgraduate Open Day
26th February 2019,
4 – 8pm,
Maynooth University
Library

If you would like to visit Maynooth University but are unable to attend one of our Open Days, we will arrange for you to meet a Department to discuss postgraduate studies.

Email graduatetestudies@mu.ie
Phone 00 353 1 708 6018
Welcome to your postgraduate experience at Maynooth University. MU is renowned for its rigorous programmes, supportive environment and diverse community.

Our researchers and academics hail from more than 95 countries and our alumni network comprises more than 70,000 people across the globe.

At Maynooth, senior academics and internationally respected researchers challenge and inspire students in small classes and with one-to-one supervision, helping emerging scholars to reach their academic potential.

Our postgraduate cohort includes students who hold John and Pat Hume Doctoral awards, Irish Research Council, Mitchell, Fulbright and SFI scholarships, reflecting Maynooth University’s academic excellence across disciplines.

The Graduate Studies Office is dedicated to ensuring a unique and valuable postgraduate experience for each of our students. We look forward to welcoming you to our historic campus as you embark on your educational journey in 2019.

Professor Maria Pramaggiore
Dean of Graduate Studies
We work together as a scholarly community to inquire and discover, to teach and learn, to create, conserve, disseminate and apply knowledge, and to engage with challenges that face modern society.

Our various activities make us central to innovation, economic growth, social development and cultural vibrancy; these are essential components of a free, open, equal, democratic and sustainable society.

**Our Principles and Values**
Maynooth University is committed to the following values:
- scholarly rigour;
- academic freedom;
- integrity and ethical behaviour;
- collegiality, transparency and trust;
- equality, inclusiveness and social justice;
- dignity, respect and care.

We are continuing to enhance our international reputation for:
- the exceptional and distinctive education we offer to students;
- the quality and impact of our research and scholarship;
- the connection between our research and teaching;
- the diversity of our student body and the quality of the student experience;
- the global scope of our teaching and research;
- effective engagement with enterprise, the community, civil society and the state;
- commitment to excellence, innovation and collegiality;
- our unique and collaborative contribution to the national system of higher education and to the economic, social and cultural life of the region and nation.
Our focus is on consolidating our international reputation as a university with excellent research, outstanding teaching, a global outlook, effective engagement with the society we serve, and a distinctive approach to the challenges facing higher education.

Dr. Tim McCarthy, students and team from Maynooth University, National Centre for Geocomputation demonstrating U-Flyte drone technology.
Ireland’s fastest growing University.

**Investment**

€25M
Research Income

**Research Impact**

Citations: 28,033
Publications: 2,955
Authors: 1,319

**Education**

#1
Number One in Student Experience

The 2017 International Student Barometer Survey ranked Maynooth University first among Irish universities.

**Research**

436
Doctoral Students
Over the last 5 years, the Maynooth University campus infrastructure has expanded through the development of our state-of-the-art library, the addition of 300 places to our campus accommodation, the opening of a new School of Education building and the creation of our award-winning enterprise and technology hub.

Over 125 postgraduate programmes

125+

Top 400 in the World/
200 in Europe

The 2018 Times Higher Education global rankings place Maynooth University among the top 400 universities in the world and in the top 200 universities in Europe.

INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION

95 countries represented and over 75,000 Alumni across the globe

75,000

In 2016, the University was ranked first in Ireland by international students for achieving excellence in Teaching and Learning, Student Experience and Support Services. In 2015, the University was one of only five European universities to receive the Outstanding International Student Satisfaction Award by StudyPortals.

402
FTE Academic Staff

12,000+
Total Students

2,000+
Postgraduates

SUCCESS

10 Research Institutes

INSTITUTES
Our research

Since the 18th century, scholars at Maynooth have fostered a spirit of inquiry rooted in the classical European tradition.

That tradition of intellectual freedom informs the principles and values that make Maynooth University a uniquely scholarly and research intensive institution. To this day, scholarly rigour, academic freedom, and interdisciplinary collaboration remain the hallmarks of Maynooth research.

We bring our scholarly expertise to bear on the key questions for our age, and are rightly proud that our research informs the teaching we provide at all levels.
RESEARCH THEMES

HUMAN HEALTH
In the 21st century, the prevalence of chronic illness, the emergence of new diseases and the persistence of recalcitrant global infections will demand innovative ways to combat disease. Our research teams collaborate with international academics, healthcare providers and industry to explore human health at the molecular and cellular levels, discovering new ways to tackle disease and to translate our discoveries into novel medicines, procedures and policies.

PEOPLE, PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT
By combining social perspectives and environmental research with the power of big data and geotechnologies, Maynooth University researchers are addressing the key societal challenges of the 21st Century. Our analysis of the relationships between people and the environment allows us to devise more sustainable responses to a changing world.

HUMANITIES IN PRACTICE:
SOURCES RESOURCES & DISCOURSES
Human creativity, communication and invention provide a powerful record of human culture and society. By enabling and carrying out research on our rich heritage, we can build an understanding of past human cultures and the forces that shaped their development. At Maynooth University, our humanities research is particularly involved in harnessing information technologies to facilitate new insights into human legacies and cultures.

HUMAN CULTURES, EXPERIENCE AND CREATIVITY
How does our experience reflect our culture, language and creativity? In what ways do culture, language and creativity shape our experience? Maynooth University is pioneering research into cultures and their contexts. Our work explores our diverse identities from the perspective of the Humanities, leads the national debate in the Arts and shapes the cultural context of everyday life.
What is the future of fake news?

Dr. Maria Murphy  
Department of Law

I consider it a privilege to teach two postgraduate modules at Maynooth University that address some of the most pressing issues of our time. Both Information Privacy Law (LW647) and Information Technology Law (LW685) are offered to postgraduate students undertaking the Law Department’s LLM programmes in Global Legal Studies and International Business Law and the Sociology Department’s Internet and Society MA. As my teaching is research-led, students have the opportunity to be exposed to cutting-edge legal issues. My coauthored book, *Information and Communications Technology Law in Ireland*, provides the starting point for my teaching, covering topics such as data protection law, online copyright, cybercrime, cryptocurrencies, and online expression. In addition to learning about current law and the challenges of internet regulation, postgraduate students also consider what reforms are required. Students are exposed to a wide-array of viewpoints and are encouraged to develop their own perspectives on how challenges in the online world can be best resolved.
17.45 on 21 August 2015: the Thalys train from Brussels to Paris crosses the Belgian border. A young man emerges from the lavatory on carriage 12. He is stripped to the waist and heavily armed; there is no doubt as to his intention. A scuffle ensues and a passenger is shot, but the terrorist’s assault rifle jams. That day, as luck would have it, three US service men were in carriage 12 on route to a holiday in Paris. Their heroic intervention saved hundreds of innocent lives.

The events on the Thalys train are the subject of a recent film by Clint Eastwood. Two new films also explore, in real-time, the 2011 terrorist attacks in Norway. Popular culture testifies to a fascination with how people behave during extreme events. But this is also a new social science topic in Maynooth University.

Dr. Mark Maguire, anthropologist and Dean of Social Sciences, studies how people behave during the first deadly minutes of a terrorist attack. The research is funded by the Irish Research Council and Swedish Jubilees Fund and involves in-depth interviews with people who were present during attacks, including those on carriage 12 of the Thalys train.

Alongside researcher Lorcan Byrne, Mark is working with police and emergency responders to understand the varieties of human behavior during extreme incident, questioning what we consider to be “instinctive,” and looking for ways to improve public safety. The project has already shown how better knowledge of public behavior can increase resilience and support practical measures to save lives.

Last year, Europe experienced over 200 terrorist attacks. A project such as this shows the importance of evidence-based social science to effective grappling with complex societal challenges.
Leading the way in Education

The Department of Education at Maynooth University offers a vibrant milieu in which to pursue studies relevant to a wide variety of educational contexts.

Our courses span a range of topics and are designed for the professional educator, for those wanting to become post-primary teachers, and for those wishing to deepen their research and scholarly interests. Some programmes lead to professional qualification while others are geared to academic study. Together, they reflect the Department's commitment to equality as being central to all educational pursuits.

Our Department is currently home to the largest cohort of graduate students within Maynooth University, with almost 700 students. We offer the largest national Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Leadership and Management (Future Leaders), with approximately 300 students per year graduating from various centres around the country. Tailored to those who seek or are currently in leadership roles, the course offers innovative and blended pedagogical engagement in areas such as coaching and mentoring, personal and professional development, and action research.

Our Post Graduate Diploma in School Guidance Counselling has doubled its numbers in recent years, attracting those who seek to qualify as professional Guidance Counsellors within a one-year part-time programme. The programme is offered on Fridays throughout the year, making it possible for full-time teachers to study. Graduates from the PGDSGC can continue on to earn a Master of Education in School Guidance Counselling within a tailored one-year programme.

Our Master of Education is suited to those who wish to deepen their understanding of all aspects of education. Flexibility is at the core of this programme. We offer a fully modular programme from which students can create their own bespoke degree on a Full-time or Part-time basis, taking up to 6 years. The modules are offered in the evenings, with intensive Easter and Summer Schools available. Students can choose to do a general MEd, or specialise in one of the following areas: Educational Leadership, Teacher Education, Early Childhood Education (in conjunction with Froebel Department of Education) and Social Justice Education. Students have the option of writing a thesis or completing a capstone project, whichever suits their interests best. We attract both local and international students and provide a supportive environment for conducting, reading and writing research.

We also offer accreditation pathways in conjunction with our TL21 Programme, leading to a Master of Education in Innovative Learning, which centres on action research. Currently our TL21 Programme is running in 70 schools throughout the country and is based on a philosophy of enhancing schools as innovative teaching and learning environments.

Our Professional Master of Education (PME) is one of the strongest in the country, having been nominated for a Grad Ireland award in 2017. It showcases innovative pedagogy informed by cutting edge research and professional practice.
We attract highly engaged students and provide a challenging milieu in which they can explore the relationship between teaching practice and the larger educational context in which they will be working. We offer placements in China and abroad through our teacher exchanges. Our placement features year-long engagement with schools and our graduates are well poised to enjoy employment upon completion of their studies. Our graduates have won the prestigious NUI PME Award, which is given to the top student in all four NUIs, two years in a row (2017 and 2018).

For those wishing to pursue research degrees, we offer the MLitt and structured PhD, as well as a professional Doctorate (EdD with Specialism). Underpinning our doctoral degrees is a commitment to creating a Community of Researchers that meets approximately 4 times a year in the Department. The MLitt and PhD can be pursued both Full Time and Part Time and are supported through research seminars and taught modules. Students enter into an already existing community of approximately 35 students. Our student body is comprised of 5 Hume award holders and 2 IRC holders. The culminating doctoral dissertation is well supported through a team of supervisors, providing students with an enriched study experience.

The EdD with Specialism is a Part-time programme suited for the professional who wishes to study in a cohort environment over a period of 4 years. The course is flexibly designed to facilitate intensive study with modules offered on weekends and summer schools, culminating in a thesis focused on professional practice. Students can choose from the following specialisms: Teacher Education, Educational Leadership and pending approval Curriculum Studies. Students can apply to the programme on a biennial basis (next cohort begins September 2019).
400 active researchers undertake pioneering research worldwide

North America
‘The Markov Chain Tree Theorem’ in commutative semirings and the ‘State Reduction Algorithm in commutative semifields’

South America
‘Psychoacoustic impact assessment of smoothed AM/FM resonance signals’

Europe
‘The (In)Security of Smart Cities: Vulnerabilities, Risks, Mitigation, and Prevention’

2 Nobel Prize Winners
Maynooth University counts two Nobel Prize winners among its 40,000 alumni and academics.
Our interdisciplinary areas of research excellence have attracted partners from around the world.

**EU25 million research income**

Russia
‘Intellectual capital and its impact on the financial performance of Russian manufacturing companies’

Middle East
‘Socioeconomic status at birth and risk for first episode psychosis in rural Ireland: Eliminating the features of urbanicity in the Cavan-Monaghan First Episode Psychosis Study’ (CAMFEPS)

Asia
‘Recommendations to mitigate against human health risks incurred due to energetic particle irradiation beyond low earth orbit/BLEO’

Africa
‘This one will delay us: barriers to accessing health care services among persons with disabilities in Malawi’

Australia
‘Impact of Broadband Internet Technologies on Business Performance of Irish SMEs’
Maynooth University continues to be a national leader in the commercialisation of research as measured by Technology Transfer (TT) performance metrics.

Maynooth University is the lead institute in a technology transfer alliance with partner institutes WIT, AIT and ITC. The Commercialisation Office develop links and connects researchers with industry and the market place enabling market informed research; identifying, protecting and exploiting Maynooth University generated Intellectual Property via licensing and company spin-out; and developing a culture of research commercialisation. The output of all technology and knowledge transfer activities contributes to the growth and development of Ireland’s economy.

The Commercialisation Office engages with postgraduate students to promote a culture of research commercialisation. Our commercialisation executives deliver an accredited graduate skills programme each year on the Maynooth campus, hosting early career researchers and students from across our three TT partner institutes. The module entitled “Innovation and Research Commercialisation” introduces early career researchers to the culture of commercialisation and equips them with the know-how to commercialise the outcome of their research, to develop the ability to interact with industry and to improve their skills to innovate and work with an entrepreneurial mindset.

Our business incubator, is embedded within the University community providing direct links between students and enterprise.

Taken together these partnerships see Maynooth University working with leading technology, business enterprises, NGOs, cultural organisations, civil authorities, and academic partners across the globe. MaynoothWorks supported 31 companies during 2017 and is now operating at full capacity.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

World class research for important new insights

Maynooth University is proud of our prowess in the Social Sciences the Arts and Humanities, embodied in two flagship research institutes. In the Sciences and Engineering, we have major strengths across disciplines in climate research, human health, robotics, telecommunications and ocean energy.

In addition our teams are partners in a number of Science Foundation Ireland national centres, including in communications (CONNECT), software (LERO), data analytics (INSIGHT), geosciences (iCRAG) and renewable energy (MAREI), connecting our students with national priorities. The University also hosts the Innovation Value Institute - an Enterprise Ireland/IDA Technology Centre focused on IT Innovation.

Icarus – the Climate Research Centre
ICARUS undertakes leading edge research in observational climate science and modelling the effects of climate change – particularly as it affects Ireland.

Innovation Value Institute
The Innovation Value Institute is an open innovation consortium of over thirty international organisations focused on IT challenges for business.

Maynooth University Human Health Institute
The Maynooth University Human Health Institute contributes to solving important problems to improve human health on an individual, national and global scale. Our research draws on the unique expertise across a wide range of disciplines at Maynooth University. We translate basic research into effective therapies and outcomes with the support of industry partners, clinical partners and policy makers.

Maynooth University Hamilton Institute
A multidisciplinary research institute that builds bridges between mathematics and its applications in communications, networks, artificial Intelligence and biology.

National Centre For Geocomputation
The national leader in the field of Geocomputation, NCG is committed to extending understanding and utilisation of the capture, analysis and modelling of spatial data.

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute.
The Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute was launched in March 2017 with a remit to foster and carry out research of societal importance in all areas of the Social Sciences. It brings together over one hundred excellent researchers from Maynooth and external partners, and is a major international centre of excellence for research and policy in the social sciences. It incorporates the National Institute for Regional And Spatial Analysis, and the National Centre for Geocomputation.

Centre For Ocean Energy Research
This centre joins the quest to make wave energy technically and economically viable. The cohort of researchers is multidisciplinary, coming from various branches of engineering, mathematics and naval architecture.

Maynooth University Arts and Humanities Institute
Maynooth University is respected internationally as a major centre of research and scholarship in diverse areas of the arts and humanities. The Maynooth University Arts and Humanities Institute brings together over one hundred researchers and scholars from both Maynooth and partner institutions to ensure that we continually build on our strength in these traditional fields.

National Institute For Regional & Spatial Analysis
Nirsa undertakes fundamental, applied and comparative research on spatial processes and their effects on social and economic development in Ireland, and providing high quality graduate education.

Assisting Living & Learning Institute (ALL)
The ALL (Assisting Living & Learning) Institute’s globally distinctive feature is in developing the interface between the users of technologies and the broader community and societal infrastructure and systems required to make this use beneficial. This interface is where some of the most exciting and empowering developments will occur in the coming decades.
What is the most surprising thing to date you’ve learnt from your research?
I study the statistical methods that underlie financial models. I have slowly learned to appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of various statistical approximations and their subtle beauty. When I began research, I accepted various approximations like the central limit theorem and stationary regression modelling without thinking carefully about when they do and do not work properly.

What’s unique about Maynooth University, in your opinion?
Maynooth University has a most unusual pedigree. It arose out of a religious seminary established by the British establishment in Ireland in the early nineteenth century. It was originally in the rural hinterlands well outside Dublin, but now it touches the Dublin suburbs. The campus did not move; the suburbs grew.

What is the impact of Maynooth University in the context of national and international research, in your opinion?
Maynooth University research in economics and finance has had a surprisingly strong influence on Irish policy debates in recent years.

What’s your greatest ambition for your own research and that of your postgraduate students?
We hope that our findings can influence governmental and regulatory policies, as well as business practice in the financial sector.
Dr. Caroline Brophy
Department of Mathematics and Statistics

What is the most surprising thing to date you’ve learned from your research?
As a statistician working with many biologists, I am always fascinated by the interactions I have with collaborators and how two disciplines can advance jointly, where one on its own couldn’t. For example, biologists know that increasing the number of species in a grassland ecosystem will increase yields but developing statistical models and optimisation methods, we can also identify what species and in what proportions farmers should sow to get the most out of their farm system.

What’s unique about Maynooth University?
In the Department of Mathematics and Statistics staff and students work together in a friendly and encouraging environment, fully aligning with the unique ‘open door’ ethos of Maynooth University. Staff engage deeply with postgraduate students allowing them to fully explore their academic abilities in a stimulating setting.

What’s your greatest ambition for your own research and that of your postgraduate students?
My greatest research ambition is to use data and statistical models to help resolve the global food security crisis through sustainable agriculture practices. My vision in supervising postgraduate students focuses on providing career development and international collaborative network building opportunities and encouraging student led project planning and decision making. My greatest ambition for my postgraduate students is for them to produce quality and internationally relevant research and to become world class independent researchers.

What is the impact of Maynooth University in the context of national and international research?
Maynooth University statisticians are developing many novel statistical methodologies and software tools that are applied to a wide variety of subject matter areas ranging from national weather forecasting to international agricultural practices. Our research students are provided with opportunities to engage with our broad network of national and international collaborators providing them with a deep sense of where their academic research belongs in the real world.

What in your experience defines third-level education?
At Maynooth University you will find academic experts ready and willing to engage with you deeply to address research questions of interest; this truly collaborative environment will define your postgraduate experience and ultimately guide you to being a quality independent researcher.

Challenging and inspiring

DEVELOP

Postgraduate Programmes – 19
Supporting the student researcher with professional skills training

All research students at Maynooth University undertake a structured research MSc/MLitt or PhD Programme. The aim of the structured programme is to support the student researcher with professional skills training to prepare them for their future career, based in or outside of academia.

The Research Skills Development Programme provides taught modules for research students, specifically aimed at developing entrepreneurial, leadership, team-working, research methods, research ethics, communications and other valuable labour market skills. Research students have the opportunity to take modules with senior researchers and postdoctoral scholars building their interdisciplinary skills and academic connections across the university.
Dr. Anja Bunzel  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
Department of Music

I completed my PhD with the Maynooth University Music Department in 2016. I found the Music Department, Graduate Studies, and the University as a whole extremely supportive on many levels: my research was supervised with much diligence, efficiency and joy, and there was never a time when I felt that I could not address (and resolve) small problems both within and outside of my own Department.

I enjoyed mingling with other PhD students in the PG workspace, where PG students the Humanities were able to apply for work space each year. I valued this facility, as I know it is not something offered by every university. The Library was able to order important books for me through my Department, and, when I organised a major international conference as a PhD student I received funding from the Music and German Departments, Faculty, Graduate Studies, and Research Development Office. I stayed on for a one-year postdoctoral fellowship (2017-18), aiming to turn my PhD into a book.

Again, I could not have asked for more support from the Music Department and the Arts and Humanities Institute, which granted me my own office, shared with one other person. Throughout my time at Maynooth University I was given the opportunity to gain teaching, marking, and academic administration experience. I truly value the university’s flexibility and generosity on these matters.
Transdisciplinary intellectual pursuits

Dr. Chandana Mathur
Department of Anthropology

What is the most surprising thing to date you’ve learned from your research?
My doctoral research involved rigorous anthropological fieldwork for a period of two years (1989-91) in the US heartland, among industrial workers and coal miners in Indiana. I was able to return for a second phase of fieldwork more than 25 years later – this recent phase was funded by a small fieldwork grant from Maynooth University. Having spent time investigating social and cultural processes there recently in some depth has been a source of some consolation in this difficult political moment for the US and the world. It is heartening to know that the agenda of the current US administration, which dominates global headlines, is being resisted every day by many of the ordinary people among whom I carried out my research.

What’s unique about Maynooth University?
Since Maynooth University is a relatively small institution, it is conducive to genuinely transdisciplinary intellectual pursuits. Thus, I participate in two EU Horizon 2020 funded research projects based at MUSSI with a Maynooth sociologist; recently organised a major international conference with colleagues from the English, Sociology and Adult Education departments; have jointly supervised a doctoral student with a Spanish department colleague in the past and am supervising another doctoral student with a Maynooth climate geographer.

What’s your greatest ambition for your own research and that of your postgraduate students?
My postgraduate students and I conduct research that examines the sociocultural dimensions of some of the pressing global issues of our times – ecological catastrophe, the dominance of right wing religion, class and gender inequities, and so on. It is my hope that our work will help in thinking through these issues and be useful to movements struggling for justice.

What is the impact of Maynooth University in the context of national and international research?
I have great admiration for the socially relevant research produced in this university, and for the national and international appreciation that it garners.

What in your experience defines third-level education?
Third–level education offers students, educators and researchers the opportunity to share in the excitement of significant ideas and critical thought.
A place to learn, research and explore new ideas.

An tOllamh Fionntán de Brún
Head of Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge Ollscoil Mhá Nuad (Modern Irish)

What is the most surprising thing to date you’ve learned from your research?
I couldn’t limit myself to one thing – research brings so many great moments when you are struck by some new discovery or connection. These make the hard yards worth it.

What’s unique about Maynooth University?
The tradition of Arts and Humanities here is unlike any other that I am aware of. Taking my own subject as an example, the body of scholarly work in Modern Irish stretches back over 200 years and has made a uniquely recognisable contribution to the development of modern Irish literature and to textual scholarship during that time. There is also a real openness here to interdisciplinary collaboration with numerous practical opportunities to engage with researchers in other disciplines, whether this be through departmental seminars, conferences or other research events.

What’s your greatest ambition for your own research and that of your postgraduate students?
I would like to broaden the conceptual framework for the study of Irish literature in a way that draws on its existing resources as well as on new discourses. Some of our postgraduate students are already involved in that type of research and in diverse fields such as linguistics, oral traditions, translation studies, textual scholarship and so on. The important thing is that we facilitate and guide them towards an investigation of what really matters to them.

What is the impact of Maynooth University in the context of national and international research?
We are a focal point for the development of new ideas in the study of Irish across a broad spectrum of fields and we have students and scholars from a range of nationalities, literally spanning the globe, all engaged in the study of Irish from Early Irish through to Modern Irish.

What in your experience defines third-level education?
It is where we develop and grow as individuals and as a society. Above all else, it is an opportunity that has to be grasped.
Increasing your employability

Having a postgraduate degree increases your chances of employability.

There is a positive correlation between postgraduate qualifications and earnings potential. Recent research shows that 80% of Taught Master graduates were in employment 9 months after graduation in comparison with 62% of BA graduates.

Maynooth University students have pursued internships in Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, China and across Europe.

Maynooth graduates have engaged in internships at major companies such as Microsoft, Pfizer, IBM, Ericsson, Intel, Oracle, Ely, Lilly and Accenture. Recent graduates from Maynooth University are now working in professions such as teaching, journalism, economics, IT, charities and many others. Employers of Maynooth University graduates include the Central Bank of Ireland, KPMG, EY and Intel.
The Careers Development Centre is available to help you at every stage throughout your studies, providing:

- a student-focused, professional and informative service
- careers education, information, advice and guidance
- a drop-in Help desk - help with career planning, feedback on CV preparation and help with job applications.

Open access talks on career planning, CV preparation, excelling at interviews, and business etiquette are run each semester.

EMPLOYERS

Skills Workshops

49% of employers indicated that ‘communications skills’, ‘group work’ and ‘writing skills’ were key skills gaps in graduate attributes. In 2018, Maynooth University has introduced academic skills workshops for Master’s students to support their postgraduate studies.
What significance does Maynooth University play in the world today?
For that I can only speak for the electronic engineering department. This department has three main research groups, all of which are held in high esteem. The Connect group are pushing the boundaries of wireless communications. Considering how reliant everyone is on this technology, it’s important to optimise it as much as possible. The COER group explore renewable energies. Renewables are fast becoming a necessity and not a novelty, so progress is very important in this area. The Biomedical Engineering research group that I work for develops next generation clinical equipment. The main focus being early cancer diagnostics. The earlier it can be detected, the better.
Has Maynooth made you a better problem solver?
Definitely. It’s difficult to meet the postgraduate requirements without being a good problem solver. My undergraduate here prepared me for that with a variety of problem based learning components to our modules. The skills were certainly honed during the PhD but if I was really stuck, I always had a variety of supports to pull from.

Does having a postgraduate degree increase your chances or opportunities in life?
I believe it does. A PhD at Maynooth provided me with an opportunity to experience lots of things that I might never have considered before, like teaching. I always swore I’d never teach but now I have demonstrated labs, given tutorials, lectured in our sister university in China, and I have a professional certificate in teaching and learning. Having a level 9 or above in Ireland is also one of the requirements to becoming a chartered engineer.

After completing your postgrad, are you more employable now?
I believe so. I have a more rounded and adaptable skill set that complements my research but is applicable in many areas, which I think is attractive to employers.

What have you learned in life that could better improve education?
Everyone learns differently and sometimes you have to tailor your approach to suit the individual. Education isn’t a ‘one size fits all’ kind of thing.
Embrace numerous opportunities

Anne-Marie McGovern
Postgraduate Master of Education
Tusla EWS Integrated Services Manager

What’s unique about Maynooth University?
I think the size and location of the university make it quite unique. It is also a great university town. I personally loved walking around the south campus. It’s just beautiful!

How do you value Maynooth University?
MU has given me the opportunity and freedom to complete my M. Litt in an area of education that I am passionate about. I have been able to bring together my two areas of interest, that of educational disadvantage and psychology. Rather than being curtailed to traditional research areas or topics, completing the M.Litt has opened up new perspectives for me and allowed me to question my own educational views and the status quo in education, in a critical way.

What significance does Maynooth University play in the world today?
I think MU's significance is in fostering new approaches and research methods. I found it a supportive place to raise issues of social justice and the impact of inequality in the area of education. As a young and vibrant university, I think this is a really important space for MU to be in. As society is continually changing, I believe MU has a key role in being a critical voice for how education should be shaped into the future.

Has Maynooth made you a better problem solver?
I believe so. Through my research I have been able to challenge key assumptions that we make about educational disadvantage and the children and families attending DEIS schools. In trying to address issues that are arising in educational welfare in my current position, the learning I have gained in MU is allowing me to problem-solve in a much more holistic and creative way.

Does having a postgraduate degree increase your chances or opportunities in life?
Without a doubt. From a personal development point of view, it is a great sense of achievement to complete any post-grad and it has brought a new level of confidence to myself, in terms of what I can accomplish. Professionally, it is helping to shape my career and the path I want to take into the future. I’ve also had the opportunity to present my research to different audiences.

Would you recommend doing a postgrad at Maynooth University to others?
Yes, I would. It’s never easy to complete a M.Litt when you’re also working! However, it was very doable through MU and I had excellent support from my supervisors, every step of the way. I enjoyed meeting other students and discussing their research. The diversity of research interests within the department was really inspiring for me.

What do you think are the reasons a person should do a postgrad at Maynooth University?
I had an idea of what I wanted my research area to be. MU allowed me to foster this idea and worked with and encouraged it from start to finish. Working full-time and also completing my research was challenging at times. However, there was great flexibility with MU and I was able to work my study around my life. My supervisors, in particular, were great. They understood the challenges studying part-time brought and I always felt supported throughout my three years. I could easily get in touch with them to seek their advice and guidance. It really felt like a partnership.

After completing your postgrad, are you more employable now?
I believe I am. My post-grad allowed me to delve more deeply into an area of education that I was interested in. It has further developed my understanding of educational disadvantage, by bringing a much more critical lens to it and really challenging the assumptions we have as educators. Having completed my M.Litt, I think, will always stand to me in the future and an extra something I can bring to my career that not everyone else may have.
Since completing your postgrad, has your salary increased? Are you working now at a more senior level?
Yes, it has. When I started my post-grad, I was working as a HSCL Coordinator. Now, I am seconded from the Department of Education and Skills to Tusla Educational Welfare Service. In my new role as an Integrated Services Manager, I am part of the senior management team of the Tusla Educational Welfare Service. The management team is responsible for developing an integrated services model, incorporating the work of its three service strands, (statutory Educational Welfare Service, Home School Community Liaison Scheme & School Completion Project). It is tasked with working in a coherent and integrated way with children and young people at risk of educational disadvantage to maximise attendance, participation and retention of all students. In my role, I am supporting more effective service delivery, fostering and developing improved engagement with other agencies and services working with children and families, and influencing more effective inter-departmental policy-making with an increased emphasis on planning and outcome measurement.

How do you as a student want to be perceived?
As a student, I want to be perceived as someone who is eager to learn. However, it’s not about being a student for the sake of it but about it being a key part of my career and life.

What have you learned in life that could better improve education?
I think sometimes educators think we are the only experts in education. Yet, education is really a community endeavour, with so many people investing in it. My experiences within education have shown me the importance of meaningfully engaging with the community, especially children and parents. In cultivating these relationships and spending time discussing education with all stakeholders, we can come across simple but effective and creative ways to improve education that are most suitable for the children and young people they directly impact.
Maynooth University has a long and pioneering record of offering programmes that apply social scientific insights that facilitate personal, local and community development and promote positive social change. The need for such programmes has never been greater.

In exciting new addition to the suite of existing programmes is the Master of Social Science (Social Work) which will have its first student intake in September 2019. This will be a two year full-time programme and approximately half of the total content will be devoted to supervised fieldwork practice in a range of social work settings (e.g. child welfare, family support, health services, disability, criminal justice) and dealing with a range of issues (e.g. addiction, gender-based violence, ageing, migration).

The programme will share a focus on social justice and human rights with other programmes in the Department of Applied Social Studies (the MSocSc Community & Youth Work and the MSocSc Rights & Social Policy) and like them will include the opportunity to visit national and international justice and human rights institutions, including the United Nations in Geneva.

Candidates for the MSocSc Social Work should have extensive experience in working with people on a paid or voluntary basis in settings relevant to social work, and should also have taken the subject of Social Policy as a substantial component of their undergraduate degree (see also the Higher Diploma in Social Policy, MHB60/61).

For further information visit: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/applied-social-studies/our-courses
# Courses A-Z

## Arts Celtic Studies & Philosophy

An Foras Feasa

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## Courses A-Z (continued)

### Medieval Irish
- MA Early Irish Studies [MHX52](#)
- MLitt (Research) [MHX04 (FT)][MHX05 (PT)]
- PhD Medieval Irish [MHX02 (FT)][MHX03 (PT)]

### Music
- MA Creative Music Technologies [MHT50](#)
- MA Creative Music Technologies (PT) [MHT51](#)
- MA Musicology [MHT52](#)
- MA Musicology (PT) [MHT53](#)
- MA Performance & Musicology [MHT54](#)
- MA Performance & Musicology (PT) [MHT55](#)
- MA Music Composition [MHT56](#)
- MA Music Composition (PT) [MHT57](#)
- MA Irish Traditional Music [MHT60](#)
- MA Irish Traditional Music (PT) [MHT61](#)
- PGDip Music Technology [MHT58](#)
- PGDip Music Technology (PT) [MHT59](#)
- MLitt (Research) [MHT04 (FT)][MHT05 (PT)]
- PhD Music [MHT02 (FT)][MHT03 (PT)]

### Nua-Ghaeilge
- MA Nua Ghaeilge [MHU50](#)
- MLitt (Research) [MHU04 (FT)][MHU05 (PT)]
- PhD Nua Ghaeilge [MHU02 (FT)][MHU03 (PT)]

### Philosophy
- MA Philosophy [MHV50](#)
- MA Philosophy (PT) [MHV51](#)
- MA Philosophy of Religion [MHV54](#)
- MA Philosophy of Religion (PT) [MHV55](#)
- MA Ancient, Medieval & Renaissance Thought [MHV60](#)
- MA Modern & Contemporary Philosophy [MHV61](#)
- MA Modern & Contemporary Philosophy (PT) [MHV62](#)
- MA Modern & Contemporary Philosophy (PT) [MHV63](#)
- MA Philosophy, Politics & Economics [MHV64](#)
- MA Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PT) [MHV65](#)
- PGDip Philosophy [MHV56](#)
- HDip Philosophy [MHV52](#)
- MLitt (Research) [MHV04 (FT)][MHV05 (PT)]
- PhD Philosophy [MHV02 (FT)][MHV03 (PT)]

### Spanish
- MA Spanish & Latin America Studies [MHZ50](#)
- MA Spanish Latin America Studies (PT) [MHZ51](#)
- MA Modern Languages, Literature & Culture: Narratives of Conflict - Spanish [MHZ52](#)
- MA Modern Languages, Literature & Culture: Narratives of Conflict - Spanish (PT) [MHZ53](#)
- HCert Spanish & Latin American Literature [MHZ54](#)
- MLitt (Research) [MHZ04 (FT)][MHZ05 (PT)]
- PhD Spanish [MHZ02 (FT)][MHZ03 (PT)]

### The Language Centre
- Dioplóma iarchéime san Aistriúchán agus san Eagarthóireacht (Ar Líne) [MH51C](#)
- MA san Aistriúchán agus san Eagarthóireacht (Ar Líne) [MH53C](#)
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www.maynoothuniversity.ie/postgraduate

### Social Sciences

**Adult & Community Education**

- MEd Adult Guidance Counselling MHA51
- M.Ed. Adult Community Education MHA92
- PGDip Arts (Adult Guidance counselling) MHA55
- HDip Further Education MHA90
- HDip Further Education (PT) MHA91
- Doctorate in Higher & Adult Education MHA07
- MLitt (Research) MHA04 (FT) MHA05 (PT)
- PhD Adult & Community Education MHA02 (FT) MHA03 (PT)

**Anthropology**

- MA Anthropology MHC60
- MA Anthropology MHC61 (PT)
- MA Anthropology (Anthropology & Development) MHC62
- MA Anthropology & Development MHC63 (PT)
- MA Anthropology (Linguistic Anthropology) MHC66
- MA Anthropology (Linguistic Anthropology) MHC67
- MA Cultural Differences & Transnational Processes MHC58
- PG Cert Anthropology MHC65
- PG Cert Anthropology Development MHC57
- MLitt (Research) MHC04 (FT) MHC05 (PT)
- PhD Anthropology MHC02 (FT) MHC03 (PT)

**Applied Social Sciences**

- HDip Social Policy MHB60
- HDip Social Policy (PT) MHB61
- MSOCSC (Community and Youth Work) MHB54
- MSOCSC (Community and Youth Work) (PT) MHB55
- MSOCSC Social Science (Rights & Social Policy) MHB56
- MSOCSC Social Science (Rights & Social Policy) (PT) MHB57
- MSocSc (Social Work) MHB62 (FT)
- MLitt (Research) MHB04 (FT) MHB05 (PT)
- Doctor of Social Science MHB06
- PhD Applied Social Science MHB02 (FT) MHB03 (PT)

**Business**

- MSc Business Management MHS2D
- MSc Business Management (PT) MHS3D
- MSc IT - Enabled Innovation MHS4D
- MSc IT - Enabled Innovation (PT) MHS5D
- MSc Strategy Innovation MHS4D
- MSc Strategy Innovation (PT) MHS5D
- MLitt (Research) MHS04 (FT) MHS05 (PT)
- PhD Business & Management MHS02 (FT) MHS03 (PT)

**Centre for Teaching & Learning**

- PGDip Higher Education MHS1H
- PG Cert Conflict Resolution in Education (PT) MHS77M

**Design Innovation**

- MSc Design Innovation MHS0K
- MSc Design Innovation (PT) MHS1K

**Education**

- PME (Secondary Teaching) PEM01
- Master of Education MHS2G
Courses A-Z
(continued)

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<td>MSc Finance</td>
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| PG Cert Conflict Resolution in Education (PT) | MH77M |
| PG Cert Mediation & Conflict Intervention (Family Support Agency) | MH63D |
| MA Mediation & Conflict Intervention (PT) | MH51M |
| PG Cert Mediation & Conflict Intervention (Peace Process Practices) (PT) | MH85M |
| PG Cert Restorative Practice (PT) | MH83M |
| PG Cert Organisational & Workplace Mediation (PT) | MH75M |

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For full course details visit www.maynoothuniversity.ie/postgraduate

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How humans communicate in the digital age

Dr. Jeneen Naji
Department of Media Studies

What is the most surprising thing to date you’ve learned from your research?
That Instagram poets are the Emily Dickinsons of the future. Critics bemoan the fact that literature is dead, but they fail to recognise the huge followings that Instagram poets such as Rupi Kaur have online.

What’s unique about Maynooth University?
Its friendliness. Despite growing in size, Maynooth University has managed to retain its collegial atmosphere. It sounds corny, but you really can knock on people’s office door, or pick up the phone and get a response.

What’s your greatest ambition for your own research and that of your postgraduate students?
International reach – generating research relating to how humans communicate in the digital age that has a global impact. For my postgraduate students, my ambition is that their postgraduate study opens up an international job market for them and they can apply for jobs anywhere in the world, which is pretty exciting and not only that but the depth of knowledge generated by postgraduate study can really change how you look at the world.

What is the impact of Maynooth University in the context of national and international research?
Maynooth’s strongest reputation is as an Arts University and the Arts faculty in Maynooth contains many members who have incredibly strong international research profiles and who have had enormous impact in their respective fields but are too busy working to blow their own trumpet. Maynooth also has quite an innovative approach to Arts, welcoming and encouraging the growth of contemporary fields of interest such as my own in digital arts.

What in your experience defines third-level education?
Freedom to fail – and succeed – third level education is a time and a place in which you can shape your own destiny and that has its own risks and rewards, but I do know education has the greatest impact on poverty, health, and economic growth.
How to Apply

Apply using the Postgraduate Application Centre (PAC)
Online portal: www.pac.ie/maynoothuniversity

Applicants will register their details on the PAC website before selecting their course. Programmes should be selected in order of preference. There is a €50 fee (non-refundable) to apply for up to three postgraduate programmes at Maynooth University.

The following information MUST be uploaded to your online application form (or be forwarded to PAC, 1 Courthouse Square, Galway, Ireland) before your application will be considered:

- Certified copies of all official transcripts of results for all non-Maynooth University qualifications listed MUST accompany the application. Non-Maynooth University applicants who are currently completing undergraduate/postgraduate programmes and have not completed final exams should submit certified copies of academic transcripts with details of subjects studied and results to date. Final results and the proposed date of conferring should be submitted as soon as they become available.

- Non-Maynooth University students must provide two academic references and a copy of a valid passport or birth certificate. All documentation which is not in English must be officially translated to English.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Each postgraduate programme has an indicated closing date.

Where programme places have not been filled it may be possible to make a late application. Please contact the Department where you wish to study to confirm whether you can make a late application.
The Fees & Grants office’s primary function is the setting and collection of all student fees due to the University. Our aim is to provide as much information and practical advice for Undergraduate & Postgraduate students pertaining to the SUSI, payment of fees, refunds, tax relief, stipends, research funding, etc. Please check the Fees & Grants Office website on a regular basis for up-to-date information for each Academic year www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-fees-grants.

Postgraduate Fees & Grants information - www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-fees-grants/postgraduate. A non-refundable deposit of €200.00 is required when you accept your place on your programme.

Please feel free to call in person to the Fees & Grants Office, at any stage throughout the Academic year, where any member of the team will gladly assist with your query or contact us by email at fees.office@mu.ie
Entry Routes

1. UNDERGRADUATE

When planning postgraduate studies, it is essential for undergraduates to start to consider their postgraduate course options early in the final academic year of their BA/BSc degree studies.

The PAC application system will open in November 2018 for 2019 applications with sample module content, entry requirements and closing dates available online at: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/postgraduate

Undergraduates should review current course timetables to get an understanding of the time commitment involved in their preferred programmes, as this will help with financial planning for postgraduate studies. While programmes may run with different modules and timetables may change from year to year, the current information provides the most up-to-date guidance on what to expect from the postgraduate experience.

At Maynooth University, prospective students are encouraged to make contact with course coordinators to ask for more information about programme content in advance of making an application.

2. POSTGRADUATE CONVERSION COURSES

It is possible to move into a new area of study via a conversion Master’s programme. These popular programmes offer level 8 Bachelor degree holders (or equivalent) a ‘no experience necessary’ path into a new field of expertise.

Maynooth University offers conversion opportunities in 2019 through its Master’s programmes in Business Management, IT Enabled Innovation, Design Innovation, Economics (2 year programme), Finance (2 year programme), Accounting (2 year programme), the Higher Diploma in Legal Studies and the Professional Master of Education (primary and secondary teaching) and more.
Life-long education

For candidates without an academic degree, a Taught Master’s qualification is still an option at Maynooth University. Through its recognition of prior learning (RPL) policy, Maynooth University acknowledges the value of labour market participation to life-long education.

Our RPL policy facilitates a review of the professional skills and relevant life experience of the individual, particularly for applicants without significant academic qualifications. In the last 6 months, 13 RPL/non-standard entry applications for postgraduate study have been approved for individuals who do not hold a primary degree or who hold a level 7 degree.

3. RECOGNISING PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Starting my career as a graphic designer in the ’80’s, there was just no academic route for me to take, as it was all about on-the-job training. I never thought a Master’s would be something I would be considered for, let alone graduate at the top of my class. It was incredible to think that my career as a whole was considered as part of my application.

As a self-employed professional working alone, having the opportunity to work in teams with graduates from marketing, business, IT and product design as part of the Master’s in Design Innovation was fantastic. Having the MSc opened doors to new clients and projects and broadened my skills for work in new areas.

Mike Murray, MSc

Open doors to new clients and projects
Dr. Tim McCarthy
Computer Science, National Centre for
Geocomputation, Social Sciences
Institute (MUSSI), Hamilton Institute

What is the most surprising thing to date you’ve learned from your research?
What surprises me most is the level upon which we, as a society, are already dependant on software that isn’t sufficiently robust, even in areas as critical as transportation and medical devices. Software safety and reliability emerges from the core of computation and formal software development, where we use mathematical and formal models to derive software. In this fast moving world with new languages, tools and techniques continuously evolving, it is easy to forget that this solid grounding in logical reasoning and problem-solving skills is fundamental for a career in Computer Science, both in research and in the software industry.

What’s unique about Maynooth University?
Maynooth University is unique in the community of people and disciplines that it brings together. This is achieved through a range of international programmes, diverse entry routes into degree programmes, links with local schools and links with local industry. For example, our postgraduate programmes in Computer Science offer integrated programmes with other European universities, as well as opportunities to complete internships in international research laboratories and local software industries.

What’s your greatest ambition for your own research and that of your postgraduate students?
Unreliable software costs money and, in too many cases, costs lives. My ambition is to improve our interaction with technology by increasing software dependability and reliability. As our dependence on software increases rapidly, it is vital that we address the issue of enabling the development of dependable software.
A supportive, challenging and exciting place

Professor Mary Gilmartin
Department of Geography

What is the most surprising thing to date you’ve learned from your research?
Research is always surprising, especially when you think you know all the answers.

What’s unique about Maynooth University?
Maynooth University has maintained a commitment to students and to socially-relevant knowledge that makes it a supportive, challenging and exciting place to study and work.

What’s your greatest ambition for your own research and that of your postgraduate students?
My ambition for my postgraduate students is that they develop as critical, engaged thinkers who care about their research and the world they live in. In doing so, they shape my research: their interests and their concerns encourage me to explore new topics in new ways; and their commitment and curiosity continues to show me the value and the excitement of research.

What is the impact of Maynooth University in the context of national and international research?
Maynooth University has an influence way beyond its size. The Department of Geography at Maynooth University has an outstanding national and international reputation. Maynooth geographers are known for their cutting-edge research on topics of crucial societal importance, such as housing and migration and climate change; and shape the discipline of Geography internationally by editing leading academic journals.

What in your experience defines third-level education?
Third-level education offers a place to explore new ideas and to develop new ways of understanding the world.
In 2016, the University was ranked first in Ireland by international students for excellence in Teaching and Learning, Student Experience and Support Services. In 2015, the University received the Outstanding International Student Satisfaction Award by StudyPortals, one of only five universities in Europe to achieve this accolade.

**Academic and English-Language Requirements for non-EU citizens**

International applicants must have a recognised primary (undergraduate) degree which is considered equivalent to an Irish University primary degree. Some programmes may have additional requirements.

The minimum English-language requirements for postgraduate study are a IELTS 6.5 score, TOEFL (IBT) 92 score or equivalent.

Non-EU students can submit their applications directly to Maynooth University or through one of the University’s trusted educational agents. In cooperation with EduCo International Group, the University offers a postgraduate pathway programme for students who don’t meet the academic and English-language requirements for direct entry. For more information, see: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/international/postgraduate
The Graduate Work Visa Scheme

After completing a degree programme at Maynooth University, international students can apply for the Graduate Work Visa Scheme.

This enables students to remain in Ireland for up to two years after they graduate to actively seek full-time employment. During this time, students may also apply for further permission to remain in the state under green card or work permit arrangements.

Financial Aid

North American students (citizens or permanent residents) may apply for US aid to fund their studies at Maynooth University, including the US Federal Direct Loan Program, Sallie Mae private loans, and Veterans Affairs Benefits.

Please see www.maynoothuniversity.ie/international/key-information/us-financial-aid
Maynooth University invests €1.4 million annually in our postgraduate students at Master’s and PhD level. Our postgraduate scholarships are open for application in January 2019.

ACROSS ALL DISCIPLINES

John and Pat Hume Doctoral Awards
Each year, Maynooth University provides up to thirty John and Pat Hume doctoral awards to support student research. Established in honour of John Hume, an alumnus of Maynooth University, these awards recognise his contribution to Ireland.

There are three levels of award, offering up to €18,000 annually and full fees for 4 years of study. The application process is open to EU and non-EU citizens and both Maynooth and non-Maynooth University graduates.

Closing Date for online applications:
1st April 2019
Apply online:
www.maynoothuniversity.ie/jphawards

Dean of Graduate Studies with 2017 John and Pat Hume scholarship award winners.
Alumni Scholarships
If you are/will be a graduate of Maynooth University and have not undertaken a Taught Master’s programme elsewhere, you are eligible for a Taught Master’s Alumni Scholarship of €5,000 at Maynooth University.

Apply online at: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/postgradscholarships

Closing: 15th June 2019

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Taught Master’s Scholarships
€2,000 Taught Masters Scholarships

Maynooth University offers scholarships of €2,000 cash to support full-time taught Master’s study at Maynooth University. These Master’s Scholarships are open to EU and non-EU citizens, and to Maynooth and non-Maynooth graduates.

A 2.1 final honours undergraduate degree result or equivalent is the minimum requirement to apply.

Closing Date: closing 15th June 2019

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FOR MAYNOOTH GRADUATES

Alumni Scholarships
If you are/will be a graduate of Maynooth University and have not undertaken a Taught Master’s programme elsewhere, you are eligible for a Taught Master’s Alumni Scholarship of €5,000 at Maynooth University.

Apply online at: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/postgradscholarships

Closing: 15th June 2019

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SUPPORT

Teaching Studentships
Maynooth University awarded 8 Teaching Studentships in 2018 to postgraduate students commencing their PhD studies. Offering €9,000 each year for 5 years, these doctoral scholarships require a set of teaching/demonstrating hours during the PhD.

In recognition of their workload, Teaching Studentship recipients are given 5 years to complete their funded PhD studies.

For more information visit: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/postgradscholarships

Closing Date: 31st July 2019

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Apply online
www.maynoothuniversity.ie/postgradscholarships
Pumped-up cells to calm inflammation in disease

Dr. Karen English
Biology Department
Winner of the 2018 Early Career Research Achievement Award in the Faculty of Science and Engineering

Our body’s immune system protects us, but if it goes awry it can underpin inflammatory diseases. Dr. Karen English is developing stronger, ‘calming’ cells for therapies to get things back on track.

Your immune system is amazing: not only does it fight off invaders such as bacteria and viruses, it also rushes in to help when tissues and organs are ailing. This ‘inflammation’ response to disease and injury is important for keeping us healthy – but what happens when we really do want an invader in our body in the form of a replacement organ or a bone marrow transplant? Or what if the fire of inflammation burns too long and damages our tissues, fuelling conditions such as diabetes and chronic lung damage?

Dr. Karen English is on a mission to calm inflammation when it goes out of control, and her approach harnesses the power of cells. “We are using a type of cell called a mesenchymal stem cell, which the body naturally makes in places such as the bone marrow,” explains Dr. English, a Principal Investigator in Maynooth University Department of Biology and head of the Cellular Immunology Lab.

These mesenchymal stem cells, or MSCs, are naturally able to calm down inflammation in the body, and Dr. English is looking to make them even stronger and use them as a form of therapy in inflammatory diseases.

“In inflammatory diseases, the immune system has an overzealous response and causes damage to tissues,” she explains. “That’s what we see happening in the lung in conditions such as COPD and pulmonary fibrosis, and in the pancreas in Type 1 diabetes.”

Dr. English’s lab explores the possibilities for MSCs in a range of ‘models’ of diseases in the lab, and the research has shown the positive effects of MSCs in animal models of lung fibrosis (particularly when the cells are given early in the development of the condition) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD.

Dr. English has also recently made strides to understand why an incoming graft, such as a bone marrow transfusion, might reject the host. This ‘graft versus host disease’ can have serious implications for the recipient patient, and while it can often be overcome with steroid drugs, in some patients the incoming graft continues to attack the body. "MSC therapy can be used to treat these patients who don’t respond to steroids, but again the cell therapy doesn’t work well in all of those patients,” says Dr. English. “So we are trying to figure out why MSC therapy works in some people and not in others, and we want to make the cell therapy more potent in general.”
Her lab’s research has shown that if you give the MSCs a naturally occurring molecule called interferon-gamma before the cells are used as cell therapy, they are more effective. “Giving the cells interferon-gamma before they are administered sets in motion a train of events that starves another cell type in the body’s immune system called T cells, giving the MSCs more of an opportunity to work,” explains Dr. English.

Dr. English is now looking at other ways to boost the performance of MSCs, including switching off various genes in the cells, and she is keen that the discoveries made in Maynooth will move towards the clinic to help patients.

Her lab works with companies Athersys in the USA and Regenesys in Belgium, which produce cell therapy products, and she has a long-standing collaboration with Irish pharmaceutical company Sigmoid Pharma, which specialises in delivering therapies to specific sites in the body.

“We are aligned to the people who are key to getting this therapy translated into the clinic and that is absolutely my goal,” says Dr. English. “We want to make sure that our findings are relevant for tackling diseases and that they get to patients.”
Tá pobal bríomhar Gaeilge anseo in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad.

Cuirimid ócáidí ar siúl ar an gcampus go rialta do chainteoirí Gaeilge agus do dhaoine a bhfuil spéis acu sa teanga. Bionn an-tóir ag mic léinn agus ag bailí foirne ar ár ranganna Gaeilge. Tá Cuallacht Cholm Cille, Cumann Gaelach na hOllscoil, ar cheann de na cumainn is mó agus is rathúla ar an gcampus.

Oifig na Gaeilge
Tacaionn Oifig na Gaeilge le húsáid na Gaeilge i measc fhoireann agus mhic léinn. Má tá spéis agat sa Gaeilge, bí linn agus tapaigh na deiseanna atá ar fáil anseo oifig.nagaeilge@mu.ie

Scéim Chónaithe
Cuirtear seomraí in árasáin ar an gcampus thuaidh ar fáil do mhic léinn (mic léinn idirnáisiúnta san áireamh). Bionn an deis ag rannpháirtithe scrúdú Gaeilge TEG (Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge) a dhéanamh agus cáiliocht phroifisiúnta a fháil, rud a chuireann le deiseanna fostaíochta san earnáil phoiblí, in earnáil an oideachais agus eile. Tuilleadh eolais ó teanga@mu.ie

Ranganna Gaeilge (ILASP)
Cuirtear ranganna Gaeilge, ag leibhéal éagsúla, ar fáil do mhic léinn (mic léinn idirnáisiúnta san áireamh). Bionn an deis ag rannpháirtithe scrúdú Gaeilge TEG (Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge) a dhéanamh agus cáiliocht phroifisiúnta a fháil, rud a chuireann le deiseanna fostaíochta san earnáil phoiblí, in earnáil an oideachais agus eile. Tuilleadh eolais ó teanga@mu.ie

Coiste na Gaeilge
Oibrionn an coiste ar mhaithe le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge in obair laethúil na hOllscoil.
There is a vibrant Irish language community here in Maynooth University.

We hold regular events on campus for Irish language speakers and for those with an interest in the Irish language. Our Irish language classes are very popular amongst students and staff. Cuallacht Cholm Cille, the University’s Irish language society, is one of the largest and most successful societies on campus.

The Irish Language Office
The Irish Language Office supports the use of the Irish language among staff and students. If you have an interest in Irish, join us and make the most of the opportunities available here oifig.nagaeilge@mu.ie

Follow the Irish Language Office on social media for the latest news and events:
📍 @OnaGaeilgeMU
.flatMap
📍 @OnaGaeilgeMU

SU Irish Language Officer
The Students’ Union Irish Language Officer promotes Irish among the student body gaeilge@nuimsu.com

Irish Language Society
Cuallacht Cholm Cille promotes the use of Irish through various events and campaigns. Follow them on social media:
📍 @Cuallacht
📍 @CuallachtMaNuad
📍 Cuallachtnag

Irish Language Room, Arts Building
A social space for Irish language speakers.

Irish Language Residency Scheme
Rooms in apartments on the north campus are available to those who wish to speak and promote Irish on campus.

Irish Language Classes (ILASP)
Irish language classes, at various levels, are available to students (including international students). Participants have the option of taking a TEG (Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge) examination and getting a recognised qualification in the Irish Language, which enhances graduates’ employability in the public sector, in education and in many other areas. Email teanga@mu.ie for further information.

Irish Language Committee
The committee works to promote the use of Irish in the day-to-day affairs of the University.
Maynooth University has a reputation for excellence in teaching and learning and support for students to challenge themselves, with access to an academic staff which is second to none.

The Library offers a wealth of support, services and information. Our dedicated team of librarians supports students and researchers in finding and using information as part of their studies. Further information can be found here http://nuim.libguides.com/support_training

Services include book borrowing, laptop and kindle lending, a dedicated Postgraduate Study Room, bookable Group Study Rooms and a range of study spaces equipped with power, and Wi-Fi facilities.

Library resources include print and electronic formats, with over 470,000 printed publications and online access to the full text of 107,615 e Journals and 652,097 eBooks.

The Library also holds a unique collection of rare books, pamphlets, manuscripts and archives dating back to the 15th century that is available in both the JP2 and Russell Libraries.
The Writing Centre offers free, friendly, non-judgmental writing help to postgraduate students. Students can make an appointment to meet with a Writing Centre tutor to discuss their work or their writing processes. The Writing Centre also supports the University’s interdisciplinary doctoral writing group, run by doctoral researchers, for doctoral researchers.

The Centre for Irish Language at Maynooth University provides quality language teaching and training. The Centre’s work has developed to include expertise in language testing, training of professional translators and training of teachers of Irish and adult learners.

The Career Development Centre is available to help you at every stage throughout your studies, providing: a student-focused, professional and informative service careers education, information, advice and guidance; a drop-in Help desk; help with career planning, feedback on CV preparation and help with job applications.
Getting to Maynooth

We are located in the heart of Ireland’s only university town. We are located just 25 kilometres from Dublin.

Maynooth is at the heart of a dynamic regional town with a wide selection of dining and recreational options.

TRAVEL

Approximately 1,400 parking spaces on campus.

Irish Rail
The Sligo train line passes through Maynooth to Dublin via Collooney, Ballymote, Boyle, Carrick-on-Shannon, Dromod, Longford, Edgeworthstown, Mullingar, Enfield and Kilcock.

Traveling to Maynooth
Maynooth is served by two Dublin Bus routes, the 66 and the 67. Bus Eireann services also link to Maynooth, and range of bus operators organise daily and weekly coach services to the campus.
Approximately 1,200 students live on campus. The main campus accommodation is situated just a short walk from all lecture, sports and recreational facilities on the North campus. Postgraduates who are continuing to a second or subsequent year of studies may book campus rooms in the Quiet Zone (expressions of interest open online at the accommodation website from 8 April 2019 at 10am online on the accommodation website. New Postgraduates or postgraduates in their first year of studies will be able to book rooms on campus from 13 August 2019, once they have their academic offer. This will open online on the accommodations website. (www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation)

Home Finder Service There are many accommodation options available locally from self-catering in owner-occupied homes to private rented apartments and houses. We also offer an online Listing Service which assists property owners and Maynooth students with initial contact: www.maynoothstudentpad.ie

Occasional or Guest Accommodation -
Your programme may only run 2-3 days a week on campus. It may suit your needs to commute to campus weekly and stay in our affordable short stay on-campus guest accommodation.

Postgraduate students may avail of the guest accommodation on campus at a discounted rate.

In addition to the restaurants and eateries in Maynooth village, the campus dining options include:
- The Little Coffee Co., Arts Building
- Subway, John Hume Building
- The Kitchen, Phoenix Building
- The Living Room, Phoenix Building
- Starbucks, JP 11 Library
- Students’ Union Bar, North Campus
- Pugin Hall, St. Patrick’s House

Sports halls badminton, basketball, fencing, karate, raquetball, aerobics, circuit training and yoga.
- Fitness centre
- Fully equipped gym
- Natural turf playing fields for Gaelic football, hurling, soccer, camogie and rugby
- River Liffey canoeing and kayaking
- Floodlit all-weather playing pitch
- Golfing and horseriding on the Carton Estate
Better understanding of our solar system, galaxy and beyond

Brian Shortt, 2001 PhD
Head of the Payload, Technology Validation Section,
Future Missions Department, Directorate of Science,
European Space Agency

Brian Shortt 1996 BSc, 2001 PhD Head of the Payload Technology Validation Section, Future Missions Department, Directorate of Science, European Space Agency Wicklow man Brian Shortt has come a long way since his Maynooth days – you might even say he’s in a different stratosphere. Now living in The Netherlands, Brian has been working at the European Space Agency (ESA) since 2009. He’s currently the head of a group testing instrument technologies for future science missions.

“In a laboratory environment, the group of specialists that I lead test critical enabling technologies to ensure that they will do their job once launched into space and return the data which will allow a better understanding of our solar system, galaxy and beyond.”

Returning to Maynooth in 2015 to deliver the inaugural Science & Engineering Alumni Lecture, Brian shared his ESA experience with alumni, family and current students. He believes that the technical side of his job draws heavily on the solid foundations laid during his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in physics at Maynooth.

“I particularly remember the open and relaxed atmosphere within the Department of Experimental Physics and the helpfulness and friendliness of the staff and postgraduate students – it all made for me a very enriching and rewarding experience.”

Campus network, interdisciplinary approach

David Reynolds
2000 BSc, 2004 MSc Computer Science
Talent Partner, Deloitte

A Talent Partner for Deloitte in Dublin, David Reynolds earned both his undergraduate and Master’s degrees in Computer Science at Maynooth. Foreshadowing the exciting changes to Maynooth’s approach to education, David said he loved his undergraduate experience because was able to start with a broad sampling of courses before he narrowed his degree to computer science and maths.

Even David’s graduate degree had an interdisciplinary flair as he looked at human-computer interactions. David credits the close campus network, interdisciplinary approach – and perhaps his time as Entertainment Chair! – for his later success as a Partner at Deloitte. He speaks passionately about encouraging teamwork and personal motivation with business KPIs. David emphasises that “access to faculty was formative” during his time at Maynooth, so his own accessibility and commitment to team development at Deloitte is a fitting outgrowth of that rich student experience.
Maynooth University
Open Days 2019
6 April 2019
22 June 2019

Postgraduate Open Day
26th February 2019,
4 – 8pm,
Maynooth University
Library

If you would like to visit Maynooth University but are unable to attend one of our Open Days, we will arrange for you to meet a Department to discuss postgraduate studies.

Email graduatstudies@mu.ie
Phone 00 353 1 708 6018
The information contained in this publication is intended as a guide for those seeking admission to Maynooth University and does not constitute a contract or any terms thereof between the University and any intending applicant or any third party. Neither is it intended to give rise to legal obligations of any kind on the part of the University or its employees. The University reserves the right at any time, or from time to time, to cancel, revise, amend, or alter programmes of study and academic regulations. The University is not responsible for and shall not be bound by any errors in, or omissions from this publication.

Information may be subject to change. See www.maynoothuniversity.ie for the latest information.
