



# Maynooth University

## Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

### Maynooth University PhD Teaching Studentship

in

### Applied Social Studies

#### (Graduate Teaching Studentship)

The Department of Applied Social Studies is pleased to announce that a departmental PhD Teaching Studentship will be available for one student intending to commence PhD studies in October 2018.

Full time research degree students commencing study in October 2018, and who have a relevant first class or 2.1 honours in their primary degree, or have a relevant Master's degree, are eligible to apply for studentship support in the department. Students who are in receipt of a university scholarship or who have fees paid from external sources are not generally eligible.

The studentship will entail:

1. Full annual tuition fees support (approximately €6200 per annum);
2. A fixed stipend of €9007 per annum;
3. Duties as a Graduate Teaching Assistant with a requirement to undertake teaching support duties for up to 25% of the notional study year. This will entail 455 hours of teaching support duties in the course of a year, with not more than 20 hours in any one week. These duties will be carried out under the direction of the Head of Department, or a member of staff nominated by the Head.

The studentship will be awarded for the expected duration of the studies, subject to satisfactory annual review of progress in research, and performance in teaching support. PhD students may benefit for not more than 5 years.

The studentship will be awarded by the department on the basis of (i) research potential in an area aligned with the research priorities of the Department of Applied Social Studies and (ii) potential and aptitude to provide high quality teaching support.

#### **The teaching support role**

A Graduate Teaching Assistant is a registered postgraduate student of the University who, within the duration of his/her studies is also employed by the University to play an important role in the delivery of the academic programmes of the University by providing teaching support (e.g., as a teaching assistant, tutor or demonstrator) under the direction and guidance of a supervising member of staff.

#### **Main duties and responsibilities**

The Graduate Teaching Assistant will be required to undertake such duties as may be specified by the Head of Department or his/her nominee within the stipulated maximum of 455 hours per annum. These duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To assist the delivery of a range of teaching and assessment activities, including seminars and tutorials, in support of the required teaching commitments of undergraduate students;
- To contribute, under supervision, to the development of appropriate teaching materials to ensure that content and methods of delivery meet learning objectives;

- To contribute, where appropriate and under supervision, to the assessment process, using a variety of methods and techniques and to provide effective, timely and appropriate feedback to students to support their learning;
- To be available for consultation by undergraduate students;
- To lead classes with groups of students and/or participate in the supervision of practical work, advising on skills, experimental methods and techniques to assist the transfer of knowledge.
- To undertake limited administrative duties as requested by the Head of Department;
- To attend meetings associated with the course they support as requested/ appropriate.

### **Knowledge, skills and experience**

It is essential that studentship holders have the following:

- First class or 2.1 honours primary degree, or a masters degree, in an applied social studies discipline.
- Excellent communication and language skills both orally and written
- Excellent interpersonal skills and presentation skills
- Time management skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to work under supervision
- Self-motivation
- Ability to accept collegiate responsibilities and act accordingly.

### **Terms and Conditions**

The studentship may be held by full-time registered students only, with a part-time (maximum of 20 hours per week) teaching assistant commitment, which is offered on a fixed-term basis during the successful graduate's course of study. The teaching support commitment is consistent with and governed by the University's HR policy on Graduate Teaching Assistants.

### **Stipend**

A fixed stipend of €9007 per annum will be offered. This will be paid in twelve equal instalments from October to September. The studentship will be awarded for the expected duration of the studies, subject to satisfactory annual review of progress in research, and performance in teaching support. Master's degree students may benefit for not more than two years and PhD students for not more than 5 years, and this benefit is cumulative i.e. a maximum of 5 years is available where a student on a PhD-track progresses from Masters to PhD.

The stipend will include 8% holiday pay. The stipend will be subject to such personal taxation and social insurance contributions as will be determined by the Revenue Commissioners; these will be the responsibility of the student<sup>1</sup>.

The stipend is notionally equivalent to a payment of €18.33 per hour of teaching support duties (basic tutorial or intermediate demonstrator standard hourly rate).

There will be no pension entitlements arising from the studentship.

### **Application Procedure**

Candidates should submit:

- (a) a cover letter outlining their interest in and suitability for the position, highlighting their experience in teaching/tutoring and related activities and the relevance of their proposed research to the Department of Applied Social Studies;

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<sup>1</sup> If the student is receiving no other income and they are eligible for the standard PAYE and single person's tax credits then they would not be liable to pay tax, as their earnings would be under the threshold.

- (b) a Curriculum Vitae;
- (c) an outline of their proposed PhD research (2500-3000 words).

Applications should be submitted by email to [appliedsocialstudies@mu.ie](mailto:appliedsocialstudies@mu.ie) (please put "Graduate Teaching Studentship" in subject line).

**Deadline:** 5.00pm on Monday 10 September 2018.

Applications will be assessed by the Departmental Postgraduate Research Committee. Applicants may be shortlisted for interview.

#### **Successful application to funded scholarship**

If a studentship holder is successful in securing a funded scholarship that covers tuition fees, then this Graduate Teaching Studentship will lapse at the commencement of the scholarship. In those circumstances, and if the scheme remains in operation, then the departmental commitment will also lapse, and the department may choose to commence a new studentship.

#### **Termination**

A Graduate Teaching Assistant's employment with the University is contingent on them being a registered graduate student, and their employment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant will terminate automatically when they cease to be a registered graduate student. The grounds for termination are that a Graduate Teaching Assistantship is primarily a training role offered to postgraduate students to gain experience of teaching: it is a legitimate objective of the university to provide education and training for successive cohorts of postgraduate students, that providing an opportunity to students to develop skills in teaching by serving as a teaching assistant, tutor or demonstrator is an important part of postgraduate training, so where work as a teaching assistant, tutor or demonstrator is available, the University makes such work available to postgraduate students as a priority.

In addition, the GTA appointment may be terminated for misconduct, or poor performance, or for other reasons under the general HR policies of the university.