Applications open for SFI-IRC Pathway PhD Studentship.

Deadline May 30th, 2022. Project start date September 1st, 2022. Contact niamh.wycherley@mu.ie for further details.

The Department of Early Irish, School of Celtic Studies, MU is pleased to invite applications for a four-year PhD, fully funded by the Irish Research Council as an SFI-IRC Pathway Award. The position is part of the Pathway project ‘Power and patronage in medieval Ireland: Clonard from the sixth to twelfth centuries’, led by Dr Niamh Wycherley. This project entails a historical case study of a significant institution, of strategic political and religious importance, which allows for an articulation of new paradigms of power in medieval Ireland. These are revealed through the entanglements of ecclesiastical and royal elites during a time of radical political change. The chronological parameters of the study range from the earliest ‘historical’ evidence for a church at Clonard up until the diocesan seat was moved to Trim in 1202. The project promises to shed new light on the religious landscape of pre-modern Ireland and the ways in which it was shaped by the interests of aristocratic elites, as much as by (and in tandem with) ecclesiastics.

The PhD student will be supervised by Dr Wycherley and co-supervisor Dr Elizabeth Boyle, and will address the topic of women associated with Clonard, especially the founding of the Arrouaisian order in the twelfth century and the patronage of aristocratic women donors.

The successful candidate will be enrolled in the Structured PhD Programme in the Dept of Early Irish, see <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/courses/phd-medieval-irish>. The award includes tuition fees, €18,500 annual stipend, travel/work expense budget and graduate training. **Applicants for whom English is a second language will be required to meet English language requirements, see** <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/international/study-maynooth/postgraduate>.

Applicants should satisfy the following criteria:

Essential

* A first class or upper second class Master’s degree in Medieval History, Celtic Studies, or a cognate discipline that broadly aligns with the subject of research
* Ability to write well in English

Desirable

* Knowledge of Latin and/or Old Irish (these are essential skills for the project but student can undertake modules on these languages during the PhD)
* Excellent communication skills
* Good understanding of the Church in medieval Ireland
* Reading knowledge of French
* Excellent organisational skills
* Some understanding of medieval palaeography

Please submit the following application materials by email to niamh.wycherley@mu.ie before 12pm, Monday, May 30th, 2022:

* Cover letter (max. 2 pages) which should include a discussion of how you will address the PhD research project described above
* CV, which should include the names and contact details of two academic referees
* Writing sample (e.g. an academic essay/article or section of MA dissertation)
* Two academic references (which can be sent separately, direct from the referee, if desired)

The Selection Panel will shortlist candidates for interview, which will take place either remotely or in person (to accommodate all) in the second half of June. Successful applicants will be informed by email.