



**Maynooth University**  
**Ollscoil Má Nuad**

**Department of Sociology**  
**Smart City Ecosystem Manager Dublin 8**  
**(SFI ADAPT & Dublin City Council / D8)**  
(21-month contract)

## Background

ADAPT is a Science Foundation Ireland funded National Research Centre for AI Driven Digital Content Technology. It brings leading academics and researchers from 8 Irish universities and industry partners together to deliver excellent science, engage the public, develop novel solutions for business across all sectors and enhance Ireland's international reputation.

[Smart Dublin](#) is an initiative of the four Dublin Local Authorities to engage with smart technology providers, researchers and citizens to solve challenges and improve city life. It aims to position Dublin as a world leader in the development of new urban solutions, using open data, and with the city region as a test bed. Founded by the four Dublin Local Authorities, the goal is to future-proof the Dublin region by trialling and scaling innovative solutions to a wide range of local challenges. Established in 2019, Smart D8 is the fifth smart district operating under the Smart Dublin umbrella.

[Smart D8](#) is a testbed for innovation, collaboration and engagement, located in Dublin 8. The initiative aims to explore new technologies and pilot innovative health and wellbeing solutions to improve quality of life; and to address challenges facing local communities in the area. With a number of Ireland's leading hospitals, research institutes and a vibrant start-up community-based in the area, Dublin 8 is the ideal location for a Smart District focused on the health and wellbeing of citizens.

ADAPT is collaborating with Smart D8 to develop the Smart D8 district as a world-class 'Smart Health and Community Well-being' testbed that offers the opportunity for R&D with the ability to test products and services locally. Smart D8 applies a people-centric approach, with the engagement and active participation of the local community at its core.

## The Role

The ADAPT Centre team will work with Smart D8 through Dublin City Council in a 2-year project to deliver objectives relating to the Smart D8 programme of work for 2022-2024 as part of a collaboration agreement.

This project seeks to recruit a researcher who will work as part of the Smart City team located in Dublin City Council to ensure the delivery of the Smart D8 project. The researcher will have regular engagement with ADAPT research experts, led by Prof. Aphra Kerr from Maynooth University, who will provide feedback and guidance on the research programme, outputs and impact.



The researcher will be expected to take a hands-on approach to deliver against the following distinct programme activity areas:

- Driving, managing and monitoring the development and implementation of the Smart D8 Programme of Work for 2022-2024 including engaging relevant stakeholders in workshops to develop a vision and roadmap for Smart D8 2.0 and providing regular updates on Smart D8 progress.
- Supporting the development, oversight and facilitation of engaged research projects; utilising ADAPT's research expertise in advanced technology, artificial intelligence, education and public engagement, data interoperability, data and technology governance and ethics, and domain expertise in healthcare.
- Applying and evaluating public engagement methodologies, such as living labs.
- Cultivating, growing and maintaining a strong ecosystem of relevant stakeholders and project partners including; researchers, industry partners, local communities, government and public services, patient representative bodies and local authority staff through in person and online engagement activities and events.
- Identifying and engaging with relevant stakeholders in relation to potential sources of funding to support health and wellbeing initiatives at local, national and international levels and provide support to prepare and submit funding applications and proposals.
- Data analysis, report writing and funding proposal development.

The successful candidate will coordinate the development of a vision for developing the Smart D8 district as a world-class 'Smart Health and Community Well-being' testbed that offers the opportunity for R&D with the ability to test products and services locally.

The successful candidate will work with partners to investigate the extent to which 'smart' technology can be used to help and support those in the Dublin 8 area who are living with short or long-term ill health. They will explore environmental factors like how air quality, access to green spaces, government services and amenities and the local economy can influence quality of life in an area. They will work with partners to investigate how digital applications, content and technology could be used to improve general population health and well-being.

The role is based in Dublin 8 and involves the post holder working outside of standard working hours to attend relevant community, industry or professional networking events. Some travel may be required from time to time

## Principal Duties

The successful candidate will support the research and programme goals of the ADAPT Centre and the Smart D8 programme. Main duties will include but are not limited to the following:

### **Programme Management and Monitoring**

- Coordinate the development of a vision for developing the SmartD8 district and programme specific research policies.
- Ensure the overall efficient project management and delivery of the Smart D8 programme including; requirements gathering and stakeholder engagement for needs analysis, project monitoring, and reporting.
- Establish metrics and key performance indicators to support ongoing monitoring and reports.
- Plan, organise and schedule Smart D8 steering committee meetings and other partner update meetings including drafting meeting minutes and agendas.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

- Engage with the Smart D8 stakeholders, enterprises, organisations and researchers in ADAPT to identify opportunities for research and innovation collaboration and funding.



- Cultivate and grow a strong ecosystem of relevant stakeholders and project partners including; researchers, industry partners, local communities, government and public services, patient representative bodies and local authority staff.
- Organise and evaluate pilot applications in line with programme vision and research policies
- Identify, support and evaluate new projects.

### **Communication**

- Develop a communications and social media plan for Smart D8.
- Prepare, draft and disseminate research findings.
- Develop and manage a community education & outreach programme of events to highlight Smart D8 projects and initiatives.
- Attend relevant meetings, learning events and conferences as required.
- Work with relevant groups in DCC to advance the wider smart city and innovation ecosystem.
- Other duties as assigned by line managers in ADAPT and in DCC Smart City.

### **The ideal candidate will have:**

#### **Mandatory Experience, Skills and Knowledge**

- Candidates must have a recognised degree (level 8) in social science, computer science or other disciplines relevant to role. In addition, the candidate must have a postgraduate masters qualification (level 9).
- Strong project management skills with at least 3 years' experience working in interdisciplinary teams.
- Experience managing internal and external partner and stakeholder relationships to enable project delivery (should include exposure to public bodies or agencies).
- Experience of managing reasonably complex projects through the full project lifecycle in a relevant area (e.g. science, technology, health, wellbeing).
- Facilitation or workshop delivery skills with experience of engaging different audiences (both technical and non-technical).
- An appreciation and understanding of technology research and innovation (including Responsible Research Innovation).
- Understanding of the process of academic research and knowledge of research ethics
- Fluent in spoken English and strong writing skills in English with experience of crafting communications for different purposes, including online communications.
- Excellent IT skills including experience with spreadsheets, word processing, presentation software, collaboration tools, databases and digital communication tools.

#### **Desirable Experience, Skills and Knowledge**

- Experience conducting research esp. engaged or participatory research methods
- Experience of managing and/or coordinating Industry - academic research projects from idea to conclusion
- Experience or strong interest in Smart Health and Community Well-being ecosystem in Ireland and/or abroad (key organisations, statutory bodies and companies)
- Ability to identify, develop and deliver new funding opportunities with experience in grant/bid writing and a practical understanding of national, European funding schemes.
- Knowledge of Smart City technology developments.

### **Smart Dublin and Smart D8**

Smart D8 has brought together public authorities, academia, healthcare, local community and industry in a partnership model. Smart D8 is supported by a steering committee of local partners including: Dublin City Council, the Digital Hub, St. James Hospital, St. Patrick's Mental Health Services, Trinity College Dublin, Tyndall Institute, NCAD, Health Innovation Hub (HIH), Guinness Enterprise Centre (GEC) and the HSE Digital Academy.



Smart D8 aims to improve, understand, and investigate how new and innovative approaches and smart technologies, can be used to improve citizens' health and wellbeing in Dublin 8. The observation and analysis of the challenges and opportunities explored in Smart D8, the development and growth of an ecosystem of innovation and collaboration and the ability to pilot and evaluate solutions in a real world environment will provide valuable learnings, insights and knowledge that can be shared and potentially be applied to other communities.

From tackling the climate crisis to bridging the digital divide, we believe that through collaboration and innovation we can build a better, more resilient Dublin.

## ADAPT

ADAPT is a Science Foundation Ireland funded National Research Centre for AI Driven Digital Content Technology. It brings leading academics, researchers and industry partners together to deliver excellent science, engage the public, develop novel solutions for business across all sectors and enhance Ireland's international reputation.

Hosted by Trinity College Dublin, ADAPT's partner institutions include Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Maynooth University, Munster Technological University, Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, and the National University of Ireland Galway.

ADAPT's research vision is to pioneer new forms of proactive, scalable, and integrated AI-driven Digital Media Technology that empower individuals and society to engage in digital experiences with control, inclusion, and accountability with the long-term goal of a balanced and inclusive digital society by 2030. ADAPT 2 was funded by Science Foundation Ireland in 2021 for a period of six years.

## Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI)

The postdoc will have access to office space and supports at Maynooth University via the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI). **MUSSI** consolidates and scales existing social scientific research expertise and research infrastructure at the university, including twelve Faculty of Social Sciences academic departments (Adult and Community Education; Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Business; Design Innovation; Economics, Finance and Accounting; Froebel Department of Childhood and Primary Education, Education; Geography; International Development; Law; Psychology and Sociology).

MUSSI's current component research groups and centres include the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and the National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) and the Edward M Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention. The institute also consolidates, develops and supports a number of associated critical national data infrastructures including the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA), ICLRD (Irish Centre for Local and Regional Development) and Digital Repository Ireland (DRI).

## Department of Sociology

The **Department of Sociology** has 18 full time staff and offers undergraduate degrees in both sociology and politics as well as postgraduate degrees, based on its research strengths in political economy, work and inequality; technology, media and society; and political sociology, power and civil society. The department fosters a vibrant research and learning environment, is committed to public sociology and makes a significant contribution to public discourse in Ireland and internationally. The postdoc will be supported by a PI from this Department.



## The University

Maynooth University is a very distinctive university, a collegial institution focused on science and engineering, humanities, and social sciences, and equally committed to research, teaching and community engagement. Located in Ireland's only university town, its distinctive features and character owe much to its unique history and heritage. It provides a high-quality educational experience to over 13,500 students on a campus with 18<sup>th</sup> century roots and 21<sup>st</sup> century dynamism.

The strategic trajectory and accomplishments of Maynooth University, in the twenty years since its establishment as an autonomous public university, are exceptional, and a source of great pride to the university community, staff, students and alumni. Maynooth University is now acknowledged to be one of the leading young universities in the world, ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) 'Young Universities' list. Maynooth University's growing global reputation is based on the originality, quality, importance and impact of its research and scholarship, commitment to teaching and learning, the quality of academic programmes, and its leadership in widening participation in higher education. The sources of success are the dedication of its staff and the energy and engagement of its students.

Maynooth University is a place of lively contrasts – a modern institution, dynamic, rapidly-growing, research-led and engaged, yet grounded in historic academic strengths and scholarly traditions. With over 13,500 students Maynooth offers a range of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level in the humanities, science and engineering and social sciences, including business, law and education. The University also offers a range of international programmes and partnerships.

Maynooth's unique collegial culture fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research, which its world-class academics bring to bear in tackling some of the most fundamental challenges facing society today. The University's research institutes and centres consolidate and deliver this impact as vibrant communities of learning, discovery and creation. Research at Maynooth also is very much central to its teaching and the University prides itself on placing equal value on its research and teaching missions.

## 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;
- Operational excellence, organisational flexibility and responsiveness;
- Dignity, respect and care for the individual.

## Strategy 2018 - 2022

The University's Strategic Plan 2018-22 builds from a position of confidence. Maynooth University is a University with ambition, vision and values, a clear identity and sense of purpose, a history of achievement, and a future of considerable promise. The Strategy builds on the University's accomplishments and concentrates institutional energy and resources on further development of research and postgraduate education. **For more information please visit <http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/about-us/university-strategic-plan>**

## Selection and Appointment

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview;
- Candidates invited for interview will be required to make a brief presentation;
- Appointments will be approved by the President based on the report of the selection board;



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

- It is anticipated that interviews will be held in July 2022;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 2<sup>nd</sup> August, or as soon as the candidate is available.

## Equality and Diversity

Maynooth University values the enrichment that comes from a diverse community and seeks to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of each individual. To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](#). Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) Institute, we are committed to advancing gender equality across the University.

We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals, in particular from people underrepresented in our workforce.

## Terms and Conditions

The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

## Data Protection Law

Maynooth University will process any personal data provided by you in connection with an application for this role in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Acts 2018.

If your application is successful and you accept an offer of employment at Maynooth University, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance with Maynooth University's Staff Data Privacy Notice.

Both the privacy notices and further information relating to data protection, including Maynooth University's other data protection policies and processes, can be viewed at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection>

## Salary

Salary scale: €46,906 - €58,584 (6 points)

Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.

## Application Procedure

### Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

Please note all applications must be made via our **Online Recruitment Portal** at the following link:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies>

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Any applications which are still in progress at the closing time on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system.





Late applications will not be accepted.

**Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer**

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

