



Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Maynooth University Social Science Institute Research Assistant (5 Month Temporary Contract Post)

The Role

Maynooth University is committed to a strategy in which the primary University goals of excellent research and scholarship and outstanding education are interlinked and equally valued.

We are seeking a Research Assistant with experience in educational technology, media literacy and interactive games to work on the recently funded Algowatch project. The focus of the project is on creating interactive experiences, games and resources that help to develop algorithmic literacy and can be used in schools, museums and libraries. The primary focus group of the project will be young people (aged 12-14 years).

The project is funded under the Creative Europe Programme. The project team involves partners in France, Croatia and Portugal. The project began in Oct. 2023 and will run for two years. The Irish project lead is Prof. Aphra Kerr from the Department of Sociology and the Maynooth Social Sciences Institute at Maynooth University and PI at the Science Foundation Ireland funded ADAPT research centre.

The primary focus of this role is on supporting the design, development and testing of interactive experiences, including, but not exclusively small digital games, that focus on developing the algorithmic literacy of young people. A second task will be to oversee and contribute to help guides and associated educational resources.

The RA will 1) Lead the development of educational resources 2) support the co-creation, design and testing of interactive and game experiences for young people 3) Co-author project reports and academic outputs.

The RA will primarily be located with other postgraduate researchers and academic staff working on externally funded research projects in the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI) at Maynooth University in Co. Kildare, Ireland. They will have access to the wider resources and supports of the ADAPT research centre which includes 7 other Irish universities. Some travel to project meetings in Europe will be expected.

The role is full-time, but candidates wishing to work on a part-time basis may be considered for interview.

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Project ID: 101136224



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Principal Duties

Administrative and other duties:

This will include:

These will include the following:

- Collaborate with PI and project partners to develop and pilot educational resources with target users.
- Support the project design lead in the creation and testing of interactive digital content
- Contribute to project tasks and deliverables under the guidance of PI Prof. Aphra Kerr, and in collaboration with the wider consortium.
- Work with project partners to disseminate outputs through academic (e.g. peer reviewed journal articles, presentations at peer reviewed international conferences) and non-academic means (e.g. blogs, podcasts, events, other);
- Help to organise group meetings, workshops and seminars.
- Comply with all University research and related policies

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- An MA/MSc. in Digital Media, Creative Media, Multimedia, Educational technology, Creative design, digital or serious games or related interdisciplinary field.
- Experience working on creative digital media projects aimed at young people (12-16 years)
- Previous experience with co-creation workshops and/or user experience testing
- Excellent writing skills in English;
- Excellent presentation skills in English – to both academic and non-academic audiences;
- Excellent organisation and administration skills;
- Willingness to travel around Ireland to conduct meetings, research and public outreach;
- Willingness to travel internationally to attend project meetings and present at international conferences.

Desirable

- Knowledge of national and international media literacy projects or programmes.
- Experience working on public exhibitions, shows or events.
- Experience contributing to a peer reviewed publication, appropriate to career stage
- Experience applying for research funding.

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute

The postdoc will be based at Maynooth University and located in 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). It is also home to the ERC funded Data Stories project.

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 digital societies, work and inequality; technology, media and society; families, and political sociology, power and civil society. It also runs an MA programme in Social Science Research with a focus on social science research methods. The department fosters a vibrant research and learning environment, is committed to public sociology and makes a significant contribution to public discourse and public policy in Ireland and internationally.

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 15,000 students on a campus with 18th century roots and 21st century dynamism.

The strategic trajectory and accomplishments of Maynooth University, in the 25 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, and in 2022 ranked # 1 in Ireland in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) Best Young University Rankings. 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 15,000 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;

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- 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.

Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028

The University's Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028 builds on our rich academic history and strong foundations to set out an ambitious and forward-looking path for the future of our University. This roadmap underscores our commitment to adapt to a changing world while staying true to our values.

Our vision is to be a university of excellence, opportunity and impact, having a significant stake in all three.

For more information about Maynooth University's future direction, please visit:
<https://strategy.maynoothuniversity.ie/>

Plean Straitéiseach Ollscoil Mhá Nuad 2023 - 2028

Tógann Plean Straitéiseach na hOllscoile 2023 - 2028 ar ár stair acadúil shaibhir agus ar ár mbunchlocha láidre chun conair uailmhianach agus cheannródaíoch a leagadh amach do thodhchaí ár nOllscoile. Soiléiríonn an treochlár seo ár dtiomantas do dhul i dtaithí ar dhomhan atá ag síorathrú agus ár ngníomhaíochtaí a chur in oiriúint dó, agus san am céanna a bheith dílis dár luachanna Ollscoile. Is í an fhís atá againn a bheith mar ollscoil feabhais, deiseanna agus tionchair, agus lámh láidir a bheith againn i ngach ceann de na trí ghné seo.

Léigh anseo le haghaidh breis eolais faoi thodhchaí Ollscoil Mhá Nuad:
<https://strategy.maynoothuniversity.ie/?lang=ga>

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;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held during February 2024;
- The appointment is expected to be effective as soon as possible thereafter.

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](#) / [Polasaí Comhionannais agus Éagsúlachta](#). 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

Tenure	This a temporary contract post, of 5 months duration. Contract cannot exceed 30/09/2025. Depending on date of commencement, contract duration may vary.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Salary	Research Assistant Level 2 (2023): € 34,812 p.a pro-rata (Point 1) Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.
Hours of work	A 37-hour working week is in operation in respect of full-time positions (pro-rated for part-time positions). This can be reviewed or adjusted from time to time through national agreements.
Annual Leave	Annual leave and public holidays are provided for in the University policy: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy Annual leave will be allocated on a pro-rata basis for part-time and temporary positions.
University policies and schemes	Employees of the University will be subject to the terms of the University policies and schemes, available on the University website at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies
Pension	This is a pensionable post. Employees of the University will enter into a public sector pension scheme, details of the schemes are available at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information
Eligibility	Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed, applicants should note that eligibility is determined by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Further information regarding eligibility is available at: https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/workplace-and-skills/employment-permits/employment-permit-eligibility/ Non-EEA applicants are responsible for ensuring they can secure a visa to travel to Ireland. Any offer of employment is conditional on applicants securing the appropriate employment permissions. Former Irish Public Service employees - Certain Restrictions on Eligibility Eligibility of applicants formerly employed by an Irish Public Sector body, and who availed of an Irish Public Service Redundancy or Incentivised Retirement Scheme under the Schemes below, may be affected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) • Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010) • Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (Circular Letter LG(P) 06/2013) <p>Applicants should ensure that they are eligible to be re-engaged in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Applicants should address queries with their former Irish Public Sector employer.</p>
Garda vetting	Garda vetting or clearance may be required by the University.
Medical	The University may require a medical examination as a condition of employment.

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>

Application Procedure

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Sunday, 11th February 2024.**

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

“Funded by the European Union under grant number 101136224. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

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