Maynooth University
Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI)
& ADAPT
Creative Technologist (Games)
(6-month temporary contract)

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 creative technologist with experience creating and programming interactive games and installations to work on the recently funded Algowatch project. The focus of the project is on creating interactive experiences, games and resources that support knowledge and skill development related to algorithmic literacy and mis/disinformation. The goal is to create resources that can be used in schools, museums, and libraries. The primary focus group of the project will be young people (aged 12-15 years).

The project is funded under the Creative Europe Programme. The project team involves partners in France, Croatia, and Portugal. The project began in October 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 leading the co-creation, design, programming and testing of interactive digital mini games, that seek to improve young people’s knowledge and skills related to algorithms and AI. We are planning to conduct co-creation sessions with young people to help develop the scenarios and approach. A second task will be to contribute to the content of help guides and educational resources that could be used by teachers and trainers.

The creative technologist will: 1) Help plan and run co-creation sessions with young people. 2) lead the design and prototyping of digital game experiences for young people. 3) Programme the interactive experiences. 4) Work with a wider team to support the development of educational resources and project evaluation. 5) Contribute to wider project delivery.

The successful applicant will be located with 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 also have access to the resources and supports of the Science Foundation Ireland funded ADAPT research centre, a national multi-institutional research centre focused on digital content technologies and AI.
The post is full time for 6 months. Candidates wishing to work on a part-time basis may be considered for interview.

**Principal Duties**

**Administrative and other duties:**

This will include:

- Take technical and design lead in the creation and testing of interactive experiences/games.
- Collaborate on the running of co-creation workshops with young people.
- Lead the prototyping, development and testing of these interactive experiences/games.
- Work with project partners to evaluate the interactive experiences/games in different contexts.
- 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 and findings through academic (e.g. peer reviewed journal articles, presentations at peer reviewed international conferences) and non-academic means (e.g. blogs, events, other);
- Assist in the development of new research proposals on the research topic.
- 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 creative technology, creative design, digital games, computer science, interactive technology design or related, or 3+ years post degree equivalent research/industry experience with an undergraduate degree in the same disciplines.
- A strong working knowledge of developing creative media or digital media projects or serious games for young people (under 18) for PC and/or mobile platforms
- Good expertise and programming skills in one or more web-relevant programming languages such as Javascript, PHP, Python or C#
- Good interactive design skills, such as UI/UX design or game design
- Excellent writing and presentation skills in English.
- Willingness to travel in Europe to attend meetings, research and conduct public outreach

**Desirable**

- Experience with Unity 3D Engine.
- Good project management experience.
- Experience working in a multidisciplinary team
- Experience conducting co-creation workshops
- Knowledge of serious games, game design and interactive storytelling.
- Experience conducting playtesting and usability research
- Knowledge of algorithms and AI
- Experience working on public exhibitions, shows or events.
- Experience writing academic or non-academic publications - appropriate to career stage
ADAPT

ADAPT is an SFI Research Centre focussed on Human Centric AI and Digital Content Technologies. 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, Athlone Institute of Technology, and University of Galway.

ADAPT 2 was funded by Science Foundation Ireland in 2021 for a period of six years. Prof. Kerr is a co-PI in the ADAPT research centre.

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 two ERC funded advanced projects - DataStories and LinLoss.

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;
- 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/

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 demonstrating previous projects;
- Appointments will be approved by the President based on the report of the selection board;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held during April 2024;
- The appointment is expected to be effective as soon as possible.

Léigh anseo le haghaidh breis eolais faoi thodhchaí Ollscoil Mhá Nuad: https://strategy.maynoothuniversity.ie/?lang=ga
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](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies) / Polasaí Comhionannais agus Éagsúlachta. Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pensions-information) 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 6 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 - €37,180 p.a. (4 points) 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 (prorated 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](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/university-policies) [https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/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](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information) |
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:

- Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants
- 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)

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garda vetting</th>
<th>Garda vetting or clearance may be required by the University.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>The University may require a medical examination as a condition of employment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection)

**Application Procedure**

**Closing Date:**

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Sunday, 7th April 2024**.

Please note all applications must be made via our [Online Recruitment Portal](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies) at the following link:

[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies](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 specified closing time 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."