



Maynooth University Ollscoil Má Nuad

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI) 3 artists/creative writers-in-residence

ERC-funded project **Data Stories:** *Telling Stories About and With Planning and Property Data*

About the Residency

Applications are invited by artists and writers of established reputation for three positions to work on the Data Stories project. All three positions run from January 2025 to December 2025, with duties expected to average 3 days a week working on two case studies, each running in parallel for the twelve months. We have a broad view of what constitutes an artist or creative writer and will consider applications from the full spectrum of artists, including performance and installation artists and digital and media artists, craft workers, novelists, short story writers, playwrights, poets, cartoonists, essayists, and film and documentary makers. The 2023-24 artists-in-residence have been working on the first 6 case studies, the new cohort will work on the remaining 6 cases.

The work associated with the positions is:

- 1) To work on two of the Data Stories case studies.
- 2) To aid the research team to produce data stories relating to planning and property in Dublin.
- 3) To produce at least one data story for each case study through the artist/writer's own creative practice, drawing on the case study research findings and planning and property data relating to Dublin.
- 4) To produce at least one data story for each case study in collaboration with a sector stakeholder and research team using a research creation approach. This will involve several meetings with the stakeholder and researchers and running at least two workshops per case study.
- 5) To help with the artistic direction in public exhibitions of the produced data stories.
- 6) To document their creative practice on the project work, take part in interviews with the research team about the process of producing data stories, and discuss their experiences and viewpoints at public events relating to the project.

A contract-for-services fee of €32,000 inclusive of expenses is offered for the 12 month period, with €16,000 payable for each case study. The candidate will be a self-employed person for tax purposes in Ireland and will be solely responsible for all income tax, PRSI and other such payments due in respect of the remuneration paid. Payment of fees will comply with the University Finance rules.



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Overview of the Data Stories project

The key idea of the Data Stories project is to focus critical attention on the underlying evidence base for planning and property activity (see <https://datastories.maynoothuniversity.ie/>). Planning and property data are a key to how cities are understood and managed. They inform government policy, shape public perception, and guide billions of euros of investment relating to land use and development, public and private housing, homelessness, commercial real estate, and infrastructure. Yet, relatively little close, critical attention has been paid to such data beyond some technical considerations related to data access, coverage, quality and interoperability. The Data Stories project is addressing this lacuna by undertaking a five year programme of research in order to examine the data politics, praxes and power operating within the planning and property domains. It is divided into two phases.

Phase 1 of the Data Stories project has sought to map the planning and property data ecosystem for Dublin – all the databases, their content and their interconnections across state, business, civic society stakeholders, including transnational exchanges, and interviewing key actors about their data work and experiences. The aim has been to chart what data are generated, how they are processed, shared, and governed, and to identify any gaps. To date over 120 formal interviews have been conducted, over 60 additional meetings with stakeholders have been undertaken, and a number of audits conducted.

Phase 2 consists of 12 case studies that are either working more closely with sector stakeholders to understand their data practices, governance and use, or examining particular housing and planning issues in more depth by working with relevant stakeholders. Phase 2 is using a mix of traditional social sciences methods (such as interviews, focus groups, observation of data generation procedures, walk-through interviews of data practices, in-situ ethnographies), but also research-creation methods utilising fiction and art practices (e.g., improvisational writing, word play techniques and facilitated conversations, and data art workshops that utilise data visualisation, physicalisation and creative media techniques). Half of the case studies will produce data stories about, and half data stories with, planning and property data.

Information Session

We will hold an information session on the project and posts where prospective applicants can find out more about the expected work and can ask questions. It will take place on August 13th 2024 at 14.00 (the link is: [Join the meeting now](https://datastories.maynoothuniversity.ie/)). The session will be recorded and then shared on the project website. <https://datastories.maynoothuniversity.ie/>

Who May Apply ?

To be eligible to apply, applicants must have:

Essential

- An established track record of artistic or writing practice, including public exhibitions and published work.
- A commitment to using creative practice to explore social, political and technical issues.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to be an active workshop facilitator.



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- Experience of working collaboratively on creative practices with community members or professional stakeholders.
- Good project management skills, including an ability to seed, develop and organise research-creation workshops, manage workloads and timetables, and meet deadlines.
- Good communication skills and ability to present and discuss their creative practice with the public.
- Ability to work autonomously and responsibly to meet project goals.

Desirable

- Experience of employing a research-creation approach and producing data stories.
- Experience of reflecting on housing, planning, property issues.
- Experience of handling and working with planning, property or spatial data more broadly.

It is expected that interviews will be held in Mid-September 2024.

Terms and Conditions

The posts are expected to average 3 days a week of work to undertake the prescribed work. A plan of action and deliverables will be agreed with the project director at the start of each case study and the work will be assessed every three months to monitor progress and to evaluate the process, the success of endeavour, and lessons learned.

Delivery of each case study has a payment of €16,000 (total €32,000 for two case studies), including expenses (e.g., materials, equipment, consumables, travel). The payment of the fee for each case study will be every two months.

The candidate will be a self-employed person for tax purposes in Ireland and will be solely responsible for all income tax, PRSI and other such payments due in respect of the remuneration paid. Payment will be VAT exempt and cannot be made to a 3rd party on the contracted person's behalf. Payment of fees will comply with the University Finance rules.

The artists and writers will need to interact regularly in person with the research team and with the stakeholders. They do not need to live in Dublin, but must be prepared to visit regularly during the case study fieldwork and to facilitate the workshops.

The project will provide some support for the work undertaken in terms of helping with accessing data and the use of specialist equipment already owned by the project. The organisation costs for the research-creation workshops (e.g., room hire, catering) will be provided by the project. The project will also procure exhibition space for the works produced and help defray publication costs where possible.

The artists and writers will maintain the intellectual and creative rights to the works produced through the commission. Maynooth University and the project will have the right to publish about the commissioned work and the process of working with the artists and writers, to display images of the commissioned work in publications, and to exhibit the works in public exhibitions. In addition, the artists and writers must comply with Article 16 (intellectual property rights) of the EU Annotated Model Grant Agreement (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf).

Display and publication of the produced works must acknowledge the project funding, including the logos of Maynooth University, the Data Stories project, and the European Research Council and European Union.



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The University has the right to terminate the contract due to poor or non-delivery of the case study work.

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute

Maynooth University enjoys an eminent reputation as a centre for research excellence and influence in the social sciences, and is committed to supporting high quality fundamental research, publicly engaged scholarship, evidence informed policy making, and innovation-based commerce, and enterprise.

Initially established in 2001 as the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI) was constituted in 2015 to bring together, consolidate and scale existing social scientific research expertise and research infrastructure across the campus as part of a single enterprise. MUSSI coordinates and directs a collaborative network which includes twelve Faculty of Social Sciences academic departments, and a number of centres and initiatives, including the National Centre for Geocomputation, Edward M Kennedy Institute, International Centre for Local and Regional Development, Centre for Mental Health and Community Research, and Scholars at Risk Europe. MUSSI also manages two national data infrastructures, the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA), and is a partner of the Digital Repository Ireland (DRI). To date over MUSSI has received over 550 grants, generating over €72M in research funds to Maynooth University.

The University

Maynooth University is a collegial institution focused on social sciences, humanities, science and engineering, 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 18th century roots and 21st century dynamism.

The strategic trajectory and accomplishments of Maynooth University, in the twenty years since its establishment as an autonomous public university separate from St Patrick's College, 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 43rd 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:



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- 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/>

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 uaillmhianach 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>

Equality and Diversity

Maynooth University is committed to being a community that promotes and advances equality, respects and values diversity, and develops a collegiate environment of excellence with equality, in which the human rights and diversity of all are recognised and respected. We value the enrichment that comes from a diverse community and seek to promote equality and diversity, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of each individual. We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals across our society.

To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](#) / [Polasaí Comhionannais agus Éagsúlachta](#), and our policy on the [Employment of People with Disabilities](#). Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) Institute, we are committed to advancing gender equality across the University.

Data Protection Law



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Applications to the University will be treated in accordance with the University Data Protection Policies. For information on the University's Data Protection Policies and Privacy Notice, please see our website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection>

Selection and Appointment

The applications will be assessed and shortlisted by a panel chosen by the University. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to interview by the panel.

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview;
- Candidates invited for interview may be asked to provide an expanded portfolio of examples of previous work and will be required to make a brief presentation;
- Appointments will be approved by the Vice-President for Research or President based on the report of the selection board;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held in September 2025;
- The posts are expected to start 1st January 2025.

Application Procedure

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Tuesday 3rd September, 2024.**

Submit the following information

- A cover letter explaining: your key achievements to date; why you would like to be considered for the role; your facilitation experience; and indicative ideas of what you would like to work on (no more than 3 pages).
- A CV and portfolio of previous works (no more than 15 pages).

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



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