



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

School of Business Research Assistant: Duck-FEED Project (Specified Purpose 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 Research Assistant to join the project "Duck-FEED: Duckweed as a novel, sustainable source of protein for Ireland", which is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland". The Duck-Feed project, that brings together researchers from Maynooth University (MU), Technological University Dublin (TUD), Teagasc, and University College Cork (UCC). The central objective of the Duck-Feed project are to develop improved, small scale outdoor cultivation systems, develop Lemna growth on farm waste-streams, optimise protein extraction technology, assess feed quality, economic and environmental viability, and public acceptance of duckweed as a native, protein-rich feedstock.

We seek to appoint a Research Assistant for a 13-month period, with the objective to support the Primary Investigator and the co-applicants in conducting a Political, Economic, Social, and Technological (PEST) analysis to evaluate opportunities and challenges for future adoption and marketing of the innovative and environment-friendly value chain from Duckweed and develop a Decisions Support Tool (DST). Specifically, the candidate will review international knowledge to conduct the Political, Economic and Technological assessment while Social assessment will be conducted by a questionnaire-based consumer study.

Principal Duties

- Conduct a specific programme of research and scholarship under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.
- Disseminate the outcomes of this research and scholarship including peer-reviewed academic publications of international standing.
- Assist in the further development of the research programme and in seeking and pursuing appropriate external funding.
- Take responsibility for and manage and conduct administrative tasks associated with the programme of research.



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- Prepare progress reports on research for funding bodies as required.
- The postholder will carry out any other duties within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the PI.
- Comply with all MU policies and regulations, including those in relation to Research Ethics and Health and Safety.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- MSc (Level 9) degree in environmental management; business or related discipline
- Knowledge and experience of conducting literature review (preferably scoping or systematic literature review).
- Knowledge and experience of conducting large scale survey and semi-structured interviews.
- Excellent organisational, administrative and team work skills.
- Excellent writing skills and experience in drafting reports and/or publications.

Desirable

- Commitment to high quality research.

Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Social Sciences comprises the Departments of Adult and Community Education; Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Design Innovation; Economics; Education; Froebel Primary and Early Childhood Education; Geography; International Development; Sociology, the School of Law and Criminology the School of Business. The role of the Faculty is to co-ordinate the academic activities of individual departments, to oversee the strategic development of departments and to support interdepartmental programmes. The University has also developed a number of interdisciplinary institutes to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines.

The School of Business

The School of Business community includes approximately 80 faculty and professional service staff coming from over 20 countries, and a small team of occasional lecturers. We are currently actively recruiting additional faculty and professional service staff to reinforce enacting our mission and values. Together we support a community of approximately 2,600 full-time equivalent students across 19 undergraduate, 12 taught postgraduate, and PhD degrees. Our research active faculty work in partnership with our full-time university tutors and doctoral scholarship students to implement research-informed, practice engaged education. Our university tutors are especially targeted at supporting our Living Laboratory learning experiences, where industry projects and skills are integrated into the student learning journey.

Our faculty regularly publish in leading peer-reviewed journals, as well as engage with practice and the wider community in providing research-informed insights in their areas of expertise. The research of the School of Business was recently ranked in the top 20% worldwide in terms of research impact out of over 3200 Business Schools worldwide (GRP database 2020). 80% of our faculty hold a PhD degree.



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Our faculty have published in a wide range of peer-reviewed international journals, received awards for their research in conferences (e.g., Academy of Management, Academy of Marketing, and European Academy of Management amongst others), and raised several million euros in competitive grants in the last five years (e.g. from the European Union, Science Foundation Ireland, and Enterprise Ireland). Our faculty actively participate in the leadership of local and international research communities. Different members of our faculty have, for example, served in Journal Editorial roles in multiple ABS 4*, 4, 3 and 2 journals, as the Chairperson and in other leadership roles of AOM divisions, the Irish Academy of Management, Schumpeter Society, and expert evaluators for the European Commission.

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 in 2024 ranked in the top 90 global Times Higher Education (THE) Young University rankings, placing 86th in the world. 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.

Maynooth University's Values

Our values define who we are, what we believe in and how we act as a community. They underpin our future success and guide our expectations of ourselves and each other. Our values apply to everyone in the University community:

- Integrity
- Collegiality
- Responsibility
- Freedom of expression
- Ambition



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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 the month of the July;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 1st August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter

Equality and Diversity

Maynooth University actively works to ensure equality, celebrate the diversity of our community, and promote inclusion. To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](#) / [Polasaí Comhionannais agus Éagsúlachta](#), our policy on the [Employment of People with Disabilities](#), and our [Gender Equality Action Plan 2023-2026](#). We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals across our society.

Terms and Conditions

Tenure	This a full time, temporary post for a specified purpose, anticipated to be 13 months duration. Project end date is anticipated to be 31/07/2026.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



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Salary	Research Assistant (Level 1): €32,962 p.a. (1 Point)
Hours of work	<p>A 37-hour working week is in operation in respect of full-time positions (pro-rated for part-time positions).</p> <p>This can be reviewed or adjusted from time to time through national agreements.</p>
Annual Leave	<p>Annual leave and public holidays are provided for in the University policy: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy</p> <p>Annual leave will be allocated on a pro-rata basis for part-time and temporary positions.</p>
University policies and schemes	<p>Employees of the University will be subject to the terms of the University policies and schemes, available on the University website at:</p> <p>https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies</p> <p>https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies</p>
Pension	<p>This is a pensionable post. Employees of the University will enter into a public sector pension scheme, and as such, applicants must ensure they are eligible to become a member of a public sector pension scheme for the duration of the appointment. Details of the public sector pension schemes are available at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information</p>
Eligibility	<p>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/</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Former Irish Public Service employees - Certain Restrictions on Eligibility</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <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.



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Medical	The University may require a medical examination as a condition of employment.
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Data Protection Law

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>

Application Procedure

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Monday 30th June 2025**.

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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