



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

School of Law and Criminology Post-Doctoral Researcher in Criminology (SPIRS Project) (Specified Purpose Contract)

The Role

We are seeking a post-doctoral researcher to join the SPIRS project team. This role is anticipated to be a 14-month duration in the first instance. SPIRS (Studying Prison In-Reach Services) is a 2-year project led by Principal Investigator, Dr Joe Garrihy. The study will examine the user experience of 'in-reach services' in the Irish Prison Service (IPS). The Research Team will analyse the experiences of those in prison engaging in 'in-reach services' who provide essential support to people in custody. The study seeks to understand how service users approach, make sense and find meaning in their interactions with these services. The study is funded by the Irish Prison Service.

The collective centrality of in-reach services in supporting people in prison and addressing their intersecting needs is inarguable. The experiences of service users and staff throughout their engagement and outcomes are underexplored yet are essential to account for their nature and functioning. The post-doctoral researcher will work with the Research Team to address this lacuna through comprehensive analysis across multiple in-reach services. The post-doctoral researcher will achieve this through the voices of the service users and staff, in addition to other stakeholders, including prison officers, psychologists, and others.

The post-doctoral researcher will be an integral part of a mixed-methods two-year study with a Research Team led by Principal Investigator, Dr Garrihy, and a Research Assistant. The post-doctoral researcher will undertake empirical participant fieldwork, mixed methods data collection and analysis with associated writing up informed by the relevant literature. The post-doctoral researcher will also support the Principal Investigator in carrying out other tasks related to the project.

The post offers the researcher the opportunity to join a dynamic, well-supported multi-disciplinary team within the research-intensive School of Law and Criminology – the largest criminology team in Ireland - while developing their professional and intellectual skillsets, publication record, lecturing experience and network.



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Principal Duties

Administrative and other duties:

This will include:

- Working under the supervision of Principal Investigator, Dr Joe Garrihy, and in collaboration with a Research Assistant in the School of Law and Criminology.
- Contributing to project tasks under the direction of Dr Joe Garrihy.
- Conducting research in areas, which will include penology, criminology and penal policy.
- Conducting literature reviews.
- Conducting desk-based research on penal policy, social policy, education policy, and contemporary discourse on prisons.
- Conducting qualitative research, e.g. co-creation sessions, focus groups, interviews and participatory observation.
- Potentially conducting quantitative research e.g. survey.
- Writing, and contributing to, academic papers for publication.
- Presenting findings in conjunction with the Principal Investigator at workshops and international/national conferences.
- Complying with all University policies.
- Participation in School/University activities is encouraged.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- Applicants will have a PhD in Criminology/Sociology/Anthropology or a related discipline, ideally in a topic related to prisons.
- Excellent research skills.
- Knowledge and experience of qualitative research methods.
- A record of scholarly work and publication appropriate to the career stage.
- Excellent English language writing and speaking skills.
- Ability to work with a great degree of autonomy, and manage workloads, deadlines and responsibilities.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Desirable

- Extensive knowledge of areas related to penology, criminology, penal policy, sociology of punishment, prison education and/or prison education.
- Previous experience in prison research including data collection in prison environments.
- Experience in designing, implementation and analysis using quantitative research methods.
- Previous experience in interdisciplinary research.
- Experience working in a research team and independently.

Faculty and Research Institutes

The post holder will be based in the School of Law and Criminology in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The Faculty of Social Sciences comprises the Departments of Adult and Community Education; Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Design Innovation; Economics, Education; Geography;



International Development; School of Law and Criminology; Sociology; the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education; and the School of Business. The role of the Faculty is to coordinate the academic activities of individual departments, to oversee the strategic development of departments, and to support interdepartmental programmes.

School of Law and Criminology

The School of Law and Criminology has 58 full-time, permanent staff members. It offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, based on its research strengths in Law and Criminology, in a vibrant learning environment. The School is one of the newest academic units within the University and is amongst the largest common law academic units in the EU. It offers a number of popular undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, educating over 2,000 students.

The School places a very strong emphasis on research and is currently home to two European Research Council (ERC) awardees. Four research centres anchor the School's approach to research: the Centre for Criminology, the Centre for European Law, the Centre for International Justice, and the Centre for Technology Law and Policy. Staff members regularly publish in leading international academic journals, and with leading international publishing houses. The School has particular research strengths in the areas of international justice and human rights, law and technology, environmental law, EU Law and policy, intellectual property law, health law, global business perspectives, criminology and criminal justice, and comparative legal theory. In addition, our programmes highlight the practical application of legal study, and underline the importance of legal skills, such as negotiation and advocacy.

The School is student-focused and outward-facing; it collaborates widely with colleagues within the University and beyond. The School of Law and Criminology has undergone a period of rapid expansion of its range of programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It offers, amongst others, the LLB (single major), a suite of BCL (double major) degrees at undergraduate level (including Ireland's first BCL (Law and Criminology) degree), a new BA Criminology (single major) and a suite of postgraduate programmes, including the LLM programmes in International Business Law, International Justice, and Global Legal Studies, and the MA in Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice.

The School was one of the first two Law Schools in Ireland to successfully secure an Athena SWAN Bronze award, which recognises work undertaken to advance gender equality for staff and students in Higher Education.

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

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>

Selection and Appointment

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview.
- Appointments will be approved by the President based on the report of the selection board.
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held during September 2025.
- The appointment is expected to be effective as soon as possible thereafter.



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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 is a full-time, temporary post for a specified purpose, anticipated to be 14-month duration.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Salary	Post-Doctoral Researcher Level 1 (2025): €45,847 p.a. (1 point - with increment) 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, 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
Eligibility	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/



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	<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.
Medical	The University may require a medical examination as a condition of employment.

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 **Sunday, 17th August 2025**.

Please note that 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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