



# Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

## Department of Physics Senior Postdoctoral Researcher / Postdoctoral Researcher (Specified Purpose)

### The Role

The Department of Physics at the Maynooth University is inviting applications for a **Postdoctoral Position in Astrophysics**. The successful applicant will join the research group led by Dr Patrick Kavanagh focussed on studies of the matter cycle in galaxies. This position is funded through a Research Ireland Pathway Grant. The successful candidate will work on JWST observations of the supernova SN 1987A, with a particular focus on dust modelling. The group actively collaborates with researchers in Europe and the United States and are currently engaged in research topics relating to stellar feedback and star formation using multi-wavelength facilities such as XMM-Newton and JWST. Dr Kavanagh is a member of the JWST Mid-infrared Instrument (MIRI) European Consortium.

More information on research group activities can be found here:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/physics/research/matter-cycle-in-galaxies>

### Principal Duties

#### Administrative and other duties:

This will include:

- Conducting project tasks and related administrative work necessary to support the programme of research as appropriate
- Actively assisting and contributing to writing reports and academic papers for publication and wider research dissemination
- Presenting results at workshops, conferences and other relevant outlets
- Assisting in the development and submission of new research/observing proposals
- Carrying out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

**The ideal candidate will have:****Essential**

- PhD in astronomy, astrophysics, or a closely related field.
- To be appointed at the grade of Senior Post Doctoral researcher, candidates will need at least two years post-doctoral relevant relative research experience.
- Solid knowledge of observational astrophysics and analysis
- The ability to work in close partnership with others as part of a team
- Excellent attention to detail, flexibility, initiative, and good problem-solving abilities
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

**Desirable**

- Ideal applicants will have at least 1-3+ years of experience in a research position
- Have experience working with JWST data, advanced analysis methods, and dust modelling
- A background in supernovae studies in the infrared would be highly advantageous.

**Faculty and Research Institutes**

The Faculty of Science and Engineering comprises the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Physics, Mathematics and Statistics, and Psychology.

The role of the Faculty is to co-ordinate the academic activities of individual departments and to oversee the strategic development of departments, and to support interdepartmental and interdisciplinary activities and programmes.

**Department**

The successful candidate will join a vibrant academic environment at Maynooth University. The Department of Physics comprises multiple research groups working in astrophysics on star and planet formation, cosmology, supermassive black holes, and instrumentation. Maynooth itself is a beautiful University town situated approximately 25 km from Dublin City centre. It is well connected to Dublin by both public train and bus interconnects.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> century roots and 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

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>

Our Strategic Plan sets out an ambition to be an excellent place to learn and work, and an inclusive community where students and staff can flourish and make a distinctive contribution to the national system of higher education and the public good. Achieving this requires staff to have a strong sense of connection to the University and support from colleagues. We recognise that our people are our greatest resource and actively seeks to attract, develop, and retain a talented workforce by creating a positive and welcoming University environment. As well as offering a competitive salary, access to a public

sector pension scheme, and annual leave allowance, the University also provides other facilities and benefits including, but not limited to:

- Family-friendly leave schemes
- Tax Saver travel scheme and Cycle to Work scheme
- On-campus crèche
- On-campus restaurants and coffee shops
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Health and Well-Being programmes
- Education support opportunities
- Continuous Professional Development opportunities, including leadership programmes, mentoring, Aurora programme.
- Study and Exam leave
- Sports facilities and gym

To learn more about being part of the Maynooth University team, please visit our website at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/come-work-with-us>

## 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 week of the start of October 2025.
- 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

<b>Tenure</b>	This a full time, temporary post for a specified purpose, anticipated to be 7 months duration.  Project end date is anticipated to be 30 April 2026.
<b>Location</b>	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

<b>Salary</b>	<p>Post-doctoral researcher €46,305–€52,862 p.a. (6 points)</p> <p>Senior Post-doctoral researcher €54,308–€59,064 p.a. (4 points)</p> <p>Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.</p>
<b>Hours of work</b>	<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>
<b>Annual Leave</b>	<p>Annual leave and public holidays are provided for in the University policy: <a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy</a></p> <p>Annual leave will be allocated on a pro-rata basis for part-time and temporary positions.</p>
<b>University policies and schemes</b>	<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><a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies</a></p>
<b>Pension</b>	<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: <a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information</a></p>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>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: <a href="https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/workplace-and-skills/employment-permits/employment-permit-eligibility/">https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/workplace-and-skills/employment-permits/employment-permit-eligibility/</a></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><b>Former Irish Public Service employees - Certain Restrictions on Eligibility</b></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"> <li>• Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants</li> <li>• Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)</li> <li>• Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010)</li> <li>• Department of Environment, Community &amp; Local Government (Circular Letter LG(P) 06/2013)</li> </ul> <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>

<b>Garda vetting</b>	Garda vetting or clearance may be required by the University.
<b>Medical</b>	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 **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 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**