



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

Department of Biology Research Assistant (Specified Purpose, Part-time 0.43FTE)

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 part-time research assistant in the Department of Biology at Maynooth University. The research assistant will work with Dr John Devaney (Biology) and the wider Future Forests research team. Funded by Research Ireland, Future Forests is a collaborative project, led by Maynooth University with partners in University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, the Smithsonian Institution (USA), and Kyoto University in Japan. A key part of the Future Forests project is to construct field-based open-top plant growth chambers that can actively control temperature (via infra-red heating lamps and soil warming cables) and atmospheric CO₂ (via the addition of CO₂ gas). A bespoke microprocessor-based feedback control system will be used to maintain a fixed temperature (+2°C) and CO₂ (+400ppm) differences between treatment and ambient chambers. The research assistant will assist in the design and build of a suite of sensors (e.g., temperature, CO₂, humidity) and feedback control systems using open-source, low-cost, arduino based platforms. The research assistant will work closely with Post Doctoral and PhD researchers on the project and will also contribute to the day-to-day maintenance of the field experiment. The role is suited to candidates with good programming and design skills, and those with an interest in sustainable land management and climate adaptation.

Principal Duties

Administrative and other duties:

This will include:

The successful candidate will:

- Assist in research on the development of open-source, Arduino-based feedback control systems for atmospheric CO₂ and temperature.
- Assist in the establishment and maintenance of an open-top chamber global change field experiment.



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- Assist with measurements of sapling growth traits, including leaf gas analysis, chlorophyll fluorescence, phenology and sapling biomass.
- Assist the project management team and interact with project partners in University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, the Smithsonian Institution, and Kyoto University.
- Carry out administrative and management work associated with the programme of research.
- Promote the work of the project through conference and workshop presentations, and in peer-reviewed publications.
- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of the research group, Department and Institute.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- Experience in intelligent devices, microprocessor-based feedback control systems
- Excellent Communication Skills (Oral, Written, Presentation etc).
- Excellent data analytical experience
- An understanding of the operational requirements for a successful research project
- Excellent Organisational and Administrative skills including a proven ability to work to deadlines.

Desirable

- BSc Environmental Science or BE in Engineering/Robotics, or similar.
- Experience of plant ecology research, including outdoors work maintaining large experiments
- Experience working in interdisciplinary research teams.
- Analysis of large datasets using R

Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Science & Engineering comprises the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Experimental Physics, Theoretical Physics, Mathematics and Statistics and Psychology. 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, including the Maynooth University Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research, to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines.

The Department

Maynooth University Department of Biology provides teaching in multiple degree programmes to >1000 students, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral level. The Biology Department offers BSc Honours degree programmes in Biology, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, and Biotechnology and an award-winning taught MSc programme in Immunology and Global Health. Together with the Department of Geography, it also offers a new BSc Honours degree programme in Biological and Geographical Sciences that commenced in September 2020. The Biology Department has a strong tradition in PhD education and currently directs a number of structured PhD programmes. It has a strong international reputation in research with particular strengths in Environmental Biology and Sustainability and Biomedical and Health Sciences,

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 uaimhianach agus cheannródaíoch a leagadh amach do thodhchaí ár nOllscoile. Soiléiríonn an treochlár seo ár dtiomantas do dhul i dtaithe 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 November
- The appointment is expected to be effective 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](#) / [Polasáí 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 part time (0.43FTE), temporary post for a specified purpose, anticipated to be 7 months duration.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Salary	Research Assistant Level 1 (2025): €33,292 p.a pro rata (0.43FTE) (1 point) 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	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: https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/workplace-and-skills/employment-permits/employment-permit-eligibility/ 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.



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 Wednesday, 5th of November 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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