



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

Department of Psychology Postdoctoral Researcher (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 to recruit a Postdoctoral Researcher as part of a project entitled “PROMISE: Improving Mental Health Supports for People with Multiple Sclerosis in Ireland”. This project, a partnership between academics, clinicians and knowledge users, with significant integrated public and patient involvement (PPI), aims to identify the characteristics of effective mental health supports for people with multiple sclerosis (PwMS) and the strategies that can be implemented to improve the delivery of mental health services and supports for PwMS in Ireland. The PROMISE project is led by Principal Investigator (PI) Dr Rebecca Maguire in the Department of Psychology and the Assisting Living and Learning Institute, Maynooth University. This project is funded by the Health Research Board with co-funding from Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Ireland.

The appointed researcher will be responsible for conducting many of the research and dissemination activities in the project under the supervision of the PI, with input from a wider project management group and a PPI steering committee.

Activities will include:

- Conducting a rapid review on effective mental health interventions for PwMS.
- Mapping currently available mental health supports for PwMS in Ireland.
- Co-designing and conducting a mixed methods survey with PwMS to explore the predictors of mental health support needs, services and supports availed of, and barriers and facilitators to support seeking.
- Co-designing and conducting a multistakeholder Delphi study with healthcare professionals, MS Ireland community workers, researchers, PwMS, and MS caregivers to develop consensus recommendations for the provision of mental health support for PwMS in Ireland.



Athena
Swan
Ireland



Athena
SWAN
Bronze Award



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

1



- Taking a leading role in knowledge dissemination and translation activities, working closely with MS Ireland and the PI to achieve the project aims.

The successful candidate will have a PhD in Psychology, Social Science, Health or a related discipline, with experience in a range of different methodological approaches, including quantitative and qualitative research methods. Experience embedding public and patient involvement (PPI) in research, familiarity with multiple sclerosis or related conditions, and/or experience with mental health research and service provision in Ireland would be an advantage. Excellent organisational, academic writing and presentation skills are essential, as well as the ability to work both independently and collaboratively to meet project milestones.

The researcher will be based in the Assisting Living and Learning Institute and the Department of Psychology at Maynooth University where they will join a supportive community of interdisciplinary researchers.

Principal Duties

- To co-design various studies as part of the PROMISE project, including a rapid review, a mixed-methods survey of PwMS and a Delphi study.
- To recruit participants in collaboration with MS Ireland.
- To appropriately analyse the data collected, performing a range of quantitative and qualitative analyses to meet the study objectives.
- To record and write up the results of the research, maintaining a record of methodologies and outcomes, and archiving data in alignment with FAIR principals.
- To liaise with, and seek feedback from, a PPI panel of PwMS in relation to project activities.
- To engage in knowledge translation activities, including disseminating project findings to MS Ireland and the MS community through the development of lay reports and presentation of findings at relevant workshops and events.
- To contribute to the writing, submission and revision of papers to appropriate journals and conferences, collaborating with other co-authors as required.
- To undergo personal and professional development as appropriate.
- To carry out other duties related to the PROMISE project as assigned by the PI.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- A PhD in Psychology, Social Science, Health or a related discipline.
- Publication record appropriate to career stage, including lead-author research publications in peer-reviewed journals, full-paper conference proceedings, policy reports, or similar outputs.
- Experience with a range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
- Experience conducting quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
- Project management skills, including ability to ensure that project timelines are met.



- Excellent written communication skills, including the ability to communicate research to nonspecialists.
- Effective interpersonal skills, including evidence of working collaboratively within a team, as well as the ability to work independently.

Desirable

- Experience embedding PPI in research.
- Experience in the conduct of systematic or rapid reviews.
- Experience in Delphi study methodology.
- Knowledge and experience working with MS or similar conditions.
- Awareness of mental health service provision in the Irish context.

Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Science and Engineering comprises the Departments of Chemistry, Computer Science, Biology, Physics, Mathematics and Statistics, Psychology and Electronic Engineering. 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 activities and programmes. The University has also developed a number of interdisciplinary Institutes to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines including the Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute and the Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health.

The Assisting Living and Learning Institute

The Assisting Living & Learning (ALL) Institute is an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research institute focused on advancing human rights, social inclusion, and equitable participation across the life course. Its work spans appropriate technologies, person-centred systems, and evidence-based policy and legal research, with particular attention to groups who experience marginalisation. ALL's projects engage with all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and include research on autonomy, participation, health and wellbeing, education, and inclusive digital and assistive technologies. Its researchers are internationally recognised for excellence, future-focused leadership, and contributions that shape policy and practice at regional, national, and global levels.

Department

The Department of Psychology is a vibrant and internationally recognised centre of high-quality teaching and research. Since 2022 the Department has ranked within the top 200 Departments or Schools of Psychology worldwide (THE ranking). The Department is a unique and dynamic environment for research. Engagement is an established and important aspect of our research, involving collaborations and partnerships with citizens and groups in the national and international community, including service users and providers, practitioners, schools, hospitals, industry, governments, NGOs, United Nations agencies and other civil society representatives/actors. Impact, global presence and recognition is evidenced through these partnerships and the research, practice and policy impacts they generate. Staff of the Department have been recognised with awards and honours of national and international standing for distinguished contributions to research in psychological science, humanitarian and EDI work, amongst others.

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 17,000 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 17,000 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 uailmhianach agus cheannródaíoch a leagadh amach do thodhchaí



Athena
Swan
Ireland



Athena
SWAN
Bronze Award



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



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 month of January/early February 2026.
- 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	<p>This a full time, temporary post for a specified purpose, anticipated to be approximately 20 months in duration.</p> <p>The project end date is anticipated to be the 31st October 2027.</p>
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Salary	<p>Post-doctoral researcher €46,305 – €46,905 p.a (with increment after 12 months)</p> <p>Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.</p>
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>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/</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>



Athena
Swan
Ireland



Athena
SWAN
Bronze Award



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

6



	<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 **Tuesday the 6th of January 2026.**

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



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

