



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education

Professor (B) of Primary Education: Policy and Practice (Permanent)

The Role

Maynooth University seeks an outstanding academic to join our staff as Professor of Primary Education: Policy and Practice. This new Professor post is part of the university commitment to our Society and Public Policy research beacon of our university Strategic Plan 2023-2028. The appointee will contribute research informed, practice engaged, education, scholarship and societal impact that demonstrates Maynooth university's impact in supporting research-informed social policy, regulation and professional practice in Ireland and Europe

This role forms part of a coordinated Faculty-wide investment in the Society & Public Policy research beacon, with multiple Professor B appointments being made simultaneously to build critical mass, collaboration, and impact across disciplines.

We are seeking an internationally recognised scholar with an excellent track record in international peer reviewed publications, teaching and education innovation, and in the development of education programs at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level. They will have a proven capability in mentorship and development of faculty and research students, and experience in academic leadership. They will be expected to have a strong record and pipeline of externally won funding. The successful candidate will foster interdisciplinary collaboration across the university and with external stakeholders, including policymakers and practitioners in the field, contributing to the University's impact and knowledge exchange agenda. Applicants should demonstrate the capacity to translate research into policy-relevant insights and professional practice, particularly within primary education systems.



Primary education is an important strategic development area for the Froebel Department in line with the ambitions of the Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2023-2028 and the ongoing research and funded work in the broader area of education. The successful candidate will work to consolidate existing activity and support the development of research and teaching in the Froebel Department.

Candidates are invited to outline in their cover letter how their experience, research, and leadership equip them to contribute to primary education policy and practice, with awareness of Irish and international contexts.

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. Professors will be expected to provide significant intellectual leadership, through a demonstrated commitment to both education and research, and also to contribute to the effective leadership and management of the department, the faculty and the university.

Principal Responsibilities

A Professor of the University is expected to:

- Be an international leader in research and scholarship and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of Primary Education: Policy and Practice;
- Provide leadership in research and scholarship within the Department, Faculty and University;
- Promote excellence in teaching and learning, and encourage innovation in teaching and learning amongst staff;
- Contribute to the teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate students, including lecturing, consultations with individual students, and supervision of research students;
- Contribute to the development of the curriculum and academic programmes within the discipline and more generally;
- Assume responsibilities for management and administrative tasks associated with the Department, Faculty and University;
- Be an active member of the University and contribute to the work of the University in outreach, collaboration, internationalisation, engagement and policy development.

Professors of the University are required to serve as Head of Department when requested to do so by the President, (or their delegate)

Please note that as part of the workload allocation process, teaching duties and service duties related to the Department, Faculty, or University may be assigned by the Head of the Department, their delegate, or the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

Research:

- A doctorate in Policy and Practice in Primary Education (or a cognate area).
- An established track record of publication in top tier international peer reviewed journals, and internationally excellent research books, reflected in an excellent publication profile expected of a Professor of Primary Education.
- An active research pipeline with potential for international peer reviewed publication, demonstrating the ability to sustain and deepen their research contribution over time.
- A demonstrated capability to undertake external research funding applications.
- Experience of leading funded research programmes.
- Experience of successfully raising external research funds at a national or international level.
- A productive research network and international academic experience in the areas of primary education policy and practice.

Teaching:

- An outstanding academic record as a university teacher, with extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate, postgraduate and executive levels in the area of primary education.
- A demonstrated record as an educational innovator, with a proven track record of curriculum development, especially within the discipline of primary education.
- Experience of supervising postgraduate and doctoral students to completion.
- Willingness to teach outside core areas of research focus in the broad fields of primary education.

Leadership:

- The capacity to offer strong academic leadership within the department and across the University;
- Experience of and commitment to working in an interdisciplinary setting.
- Excellent administrative and management skills, including experience of programme development and leadership.
- The ability to build effective relationships with a wide variety of internal and external colleagues.
- A willingness to undertake leadership roles within the Department and Faculty, such as academic direction of undergraduate or postgraduate degree programmes, Teaching and Learning director, Research director, or Head of Department if requested to do so.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

External Environment:

- Experience of external media and stakeholder communications raising the profile of the discipline in the wider community.
- Editorial board and journal development experience.
- Experience of leadership roles in the accreditation process of primary 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 17,000 students on a campus with 18th century roots and 21st century dynamism.

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. We offer a range of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level in the humanities, science and engineering and social sciences, including business, law and education, along with a range of international programmes and partnerships.

The strategic trajectory and accomplishments of Maynooth University, 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 ranked in the top 90 global Times Higher Education (THE) Young University rankings in 2024. 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'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 ár nOllscoile. Soiléiríonn an treoclár 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>

Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Social Sciences is a wonderfully diverse team of over 358 full time staff, and 64 researchers, in addition to a community of occasional staff providing specialise practice and disciplinary knowledge. As a community we support the learning journey of over 53% of all Maynooth University undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students (8,239 FTE students). We are committed to publishing our research and community impact. We have published over 1,220 journal and book contributions in 2022-25 and obtained over €17.7 million (2024-25) in research funding from multiple sources including the European Union, the Irish Research Council, Enterprise Ireland, and Science Foundation Ireland amongst others. At the heart of our community is the impact that our students make as graduates and the interaction that our researchers have with communities on the ground to improve the lives and welfare of people in Ireland, Europe and worldwide.

The Departments and Schools in our community are led by the Heads of Adult and Community Education, Anthropology, Applied Social Studies, Design Innovation, Economics, Education, Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Geography, the School of Law and Criminology, the School of Business, and Sociology. Several of our communities are ranked higher than the University



ranking in the Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings 2026, including Law (251-300), Social Sciences (301-400), Business and Economics (401-500), Education (401-500).

As a faculty team we work to support the formation and implementation of the Maynooth University Strategic Plan. We are proud of our contributions to the Research Beacons of the University, especially our work in the fields of Sustainability and Climate Change, Data and Digital Transformation, Society and Public Policy, Health and Wellbeing. We have been at the heart of growth and transformation of education programmes in Maynooth University.

We have launched multiple new undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes, resulting in significant growth in domestic and international student numbers of 8.5% since 2022, in addition to new doctoral programmes. We are proud of our focus on providing both research informed and practice engaged education for our students so that they have fast burn skills and concepts they can use immediately upon graduation, and foundational concepts and experiences that will enable them to adapt to changing conditions over time.

Impactful education and research require a community of staff that can take the time to support students and projects effectively. To this end we have increased the academic staffing of the faculty by over 15% since 2022. Our recruitment has focused on attracting the best talent from around the world. We are proud of the diversity of our staff in terms of disciplines, local and international experience. We hope that you will consider applying for this post and strengthening our research and education impact.

The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences has executive responsibility for units within the faculty, including resource allocation, strategic development, and operational alignment with university policy and, processes, and leadership of the faculty. The Heads of Department, Schools and Associate Deans (including research, teaching and learning, and international amongst others) report directly to the Dean.

The role of the Faculty is to coordinate the academic activities of individual departments/schools, to oversee the strategic development of departments/schools, manage risk, governance, and to support interdepartmental programmes. Several of the university's Designated Research Institutes and Centres are primarily associated with the Faculty of Social Sciences, including the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI), ICARUS, IVI and the ALL Institute. Our research is particularly strong at an interdisciplinary level in Society and Public Policy, and Education.

The Faculty of Social Sciences is committed to supporting implementation of the university Strategic Plan 2023-28, including its impact agenda in the space of Society and Public Policy, hence it is recruiting a team of Professors in this space across the Faculty. These will work within their Departments and Schools, to advance teaching, research, and impact in this area, as well as coordinating their work across the faculty and university to maximize collective impact in the Society and Public Policy field for Ireland and Europe.

Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education

In the Froebel Department, we are deeply committed to teaching, driven by our research, and our service to national and local partners and agencies. Maynooth University is widely recognised as a national leader in widening participation, in line with the university's strategic focus on equality, diversity, inclusion and interculturalism. The mission of the Froebel Department is to prepare and inspire caring educators in their pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning and research towards the holistic education of every child in a changing Ireland. The Froebel Department embraces a diverse range of approaches to early childhood and primary education.

The Froebel Department currently has 30 academic staff and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, based on its research strengths in a diverse range of educational themes in a vibrant learning environment. The Froebel Department currently offers the following programmes: Bachelor of Education; Professional Master of Education; Post Graduate Diploma in Inclusive and Special Education; Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Teaching & Learning (Full-time and Flexible) and a Master of Education – Research in Practice.

Selection and Appointment

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview;
- Candidates will be required to make a brief presentation within the University as part of the selection process;
- Appointments will be made by the President based on the report of the selection board;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held during months of May or June 2026;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 1st of September 2026

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	<p>This is a full-time, permanent post.</p> <p>The appointment will be made at Professor B level. The professorship will be a permanent appointment to the academic staff and subject to the Statutes of the University.</p>
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Salary	<p>Professor B Salary scale (2025): €105,554- €141,089 (6 points)</p> <p>Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.</p>
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
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:</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 **Monday, 6th of April 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