Ollscoil Mhá Nuad
Maynooth University

Department of Design Innovation & School of Business
Professor (B) in Health Design
(Permanent)

The Role

Maynooth University seeks an outstanding academic to join our staff as Professor (B) in Health Design. This is an opportunity for you to shape our research, teaching and impact in the field of Health Design. You will be embedded in a large community of design and business academics, and our growing field of Health and Wellbeing across the University. This role fits into a strategy of sustained investment and growth in capacity in both Design Innovation and the School of Business, resulting in growth in education programmes, research grants, research impact and multiple awards by students (e.g. Dyson Innovation awards) and staff for their work. This is one of three new Health and Wellbeing Professorships in the Faculty of Social Sciences, as part of our commitment to deepen capacity and impact in this field.

The University is making a strategic investment in the field of Health and Wellbeing, involving creation of new education programmes, and widening our research impact in this field. Together, the Health and Wellbeing Professors will collaborate across Departments, Schools and the wider University to strengthen interdisciplinary research, education and engagement, and to maximise collective societal impact in this area.

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.

This new Professor post is part of the university commitment to our Health and Wellbeing research beacon of our Strategic Plan 2023-28. The appointee will contribute research informed, practice engaged, education and societal impact that demonstrates Maynooth University's impact in the Health and Wellbeing of Ireland and Europe.

We seek an exceptional internationally recognised scholar with an outstanding portfolio of high-ranking publications, significant grant awards, and evidence of demonstrable impact on health policy, governance, and systems transformation; and evidence of excellent service must include leadership in programme development that has generated scale in students, and internationalisation. This is a unique opportunity to shape a growing field at the intersection of design, health, and systems innovation. This post supports Maynooth University's strategic goals in research excellence, societal impact, enhancing teaching and learning, and internationalisation.

This is a full-time role and is likely to be incompatible with an active career in design practice.

Research

At Professor B level, the postholder is expected to provide intellectual and academic leadership, shape strategic direction in their field, secure and lead externally funded research at scale, and deliver demonstrable impact in research, education, and engagement at national and international levels.

The successful candidate will lead co-disciplinary research that integrates design thinking, user-need approaches, and business strategy to address complex challenges in health systems and environments. A salutogenic perspective, focusing on the creation of conditions that support health and well-being, is appreciated, alongside expertise in process-driven, applied research. The postholder will lead the research and the development of toolkits, technologies, and strategies that promote well-being at individual, community, and population levels.

This role offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of health design through collaboration with business scholars, health professionals, and policymakers and address the complex interplay between physical and mental health, social determinants, and environmental factors. Candidates should demonstrate a track record of influencing health service delivery or governance frameworks, and a commitment to research that delivers real-world impact.

Teaching

We welcome applicants with a proven excellence for interdisciplinary teaching and mentoring, and a vision for advancing design-led innovation in health through academic and industry partnerships.

The successful candidate will assist with important developments in the suite of Undergraduate, Masters and Research programmes in the Department of Design Innovation and School of Business. This will involve (amongst other initiatives) taking a role in scoping out a Masters in Design for Healthcare Futures (or other programmes that are student demand lead), drawing on their knowledge of the health innovation space to help develop a programme that responds to the needs of future healthcare innovators.

The successful candidate will have the ability to teach advanced design-led innovation techniques, drawing on the toolkits of design thinking and strategic design to ensure that students on the BSc Product Design & Innovation and Design Innovation's PG programmes continue to understand the value of integrating design methods into the innovation process. They will also contribute to the integration of design perspectives into Healthcare Management programmes in the School of Business.

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 Health Design;
- 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.

Principal Duties

Research & Scholarship:

Building a research and scholarly profile is an essential part of an academic career. This will include:

- Leading research and engaging in Health Design scholarship of international quality, impact, and substance.
- Disseminating research and scholarly outcomes through: top international peer-reviewed publication outlets; presentation at leading international and national conferences; preparation of professional reports; commercialisation; or other appropriate means.
- Generating significant external research income and resources from national and international funding bodies to sustain, deepen and expand the health design research profile and capacity of the School/Department and of Maynooth University.
- Fostering links with other institutions that will benefit both research and teaching at Maynooth University.
- Supervising research students and post-doctoral fellows.
- Affiliating with a University Research Institute, where appropriate;
- Integrating research into the teaching curriculum.

Teaching:

Please note that as part of the workload allocation process, teaching duties are assigned by the Head of the School of Business and the Head of Department of Design Innovation, their delegate or the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. For joint appointments to two or more Departments/Schools workload allocation is discussed between the Heads and the Dean to ensure appropriate resource allocation.
These duties will include:
- Teaching and assessing students at undergraduate and postgraduate level. This may include lecturing, tutoring, leading practical learning activities, project supervision, and setting, supervising and grading assessments;
- Demonstrating excellence and innovation in teaching and learning and encouraging innovation in teaching and learning amongst colleagues.
- Contributing to the development and enhancement of the curriculum and academic programmes within the discipline, including designing and delivering new programmes and modules.
- Contributing to the assurance and enhancement of teaching quality.
- Engaging in outreach and promotional activities and the recruitment and selection of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Administration and Service:

The academic staff members of the University are critical to achieving the strategic objectives of the University, and as such are required to engage in work that serves the collective strategic needs of the University. This may include:
- Assuming responsibilities for management and administrative duties as assigned by the Head of School/Department, their delegate, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, or President of the University.
- Attending and serving on Departmental/School, Faculty, Institute and University committees as appropriate;

- Leading or contributing to strategic projects and initiatives;
- Supporting the strategy development and implementation of the Department/School and University with advice, support, and assuming service leadership roles and committee memberships as requested by the Head of School or university leadership.
- Leading initiatives that contribute to the internationalisation of the University.
- Collaborative work with external partners;
- Being an active member of the Departmental/School, Faculty and University and contributing to the work of all three in outreach, collaboration, engagement, and policy development.
- Attending courses and engaging in other activities associated with professional development as appropriate;
- Complying with all University policies.

Please note that service duties as they relate to the School, Department, Subject, Faculty, or university may be assigned as part of the workload allocation process by the Head of School, their delegate or the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. For joint appointments to two or more Departments/Schools workload allocation is discussed between the Heads and the Dean to ensure appropriate resource allocation.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

Qualifications

- A PhD in Design or a cognate Design-related discipline (Innovation, Anthropology, Health, Development Studies, Business Design).

Research:

- A research focus on and extensive scholarship in the field of health, wellbeing and design.
- Be able to demonstrate an outstanding record of research and scholarship, reflected in an excellent research funding record, and an outstanding publication profile.
- In particular, have 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 full Professor of Health Design.
- Have an active research pipeline with potential for further international peer-reviewed publication, demonstrating the ability to sustain and deepen their research contribution over time.
- Demonstrate capability to undertake and achieve success in substantial 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.
- Demonstrable experience of Human-Centred Design / Innovation process;
- Demonstrable skills in applied Qualitative / Design research methods.

Teaching:

- An outstanding academic record as a university teacher, with extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate, postgraduate and executive levels in the field of design.
- A demonstrated record as an educational innovator, with a proven track record of programme and curriculum development, especially within the discipline of design.
- Extensive experience supervising doctoral level students to completion and mentoring early career academics.
- Capacity to teach in the field of health design with a willingness and capacity to teach outside core areas of research focus in the broad field of design innovation.

Leadership:

- The capacity to offer strong academic leadership within the School/Department, Faculty and across the University.
- Experience of and commitment to working in an interdisciplinary setting (particularly, the capacity to collaborate with colleagues inside and outside the University with a view to developing interdisciplinary initiatives in the field of health and wellbeing).
- Excellent administrative and management skills, including experience of programme development and leadership.
- A willingness to undertake leadership roles within the School/Department, Faculty and University, if requested to do so.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

External Environment:

- The ability to build effective relationships with a wide variety of internal and external colleagues.
- Experience of external media and stakeholder communications raising the profile of the discipline and of the University in the wider community.
- Editorial board and journal development experience.
- Experience of leadership roles in national and international research and/or professional development bodies in the broad field of health design.
- Demonstratable experience in Patient & Public Involvement (PPI);

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 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

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 lead 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 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.

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 Health and Wellbeing, 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 Health and Wellbeing field for Ireland and Europe.

Department of Design Innovation

In the last five years we have been undertaking a process of sustained investment in the next generation of Design Innovation faculty, actively recruiting new staff. To learn more about our Design Innovation research, education programmes, impact, and our staff please do take the time to review our website: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/design-innovation

The Department of Design Innovation utilises interdisciplinary expertise to combine industrial, entrepreneurial and academic excellence in Design. It is focused on developing research and user- centred, applied practitioners that create impact through design innovation in industries across Ireland and Europe. It distinguishes itself from other design courses by placing emphasis on research methods, user experience, marketing, business models and the commercial justification of new product proposals, as well as core science and engineering subjects.

It offers a four-year undergraduate degree in Product Design, and a one- to two-year MSc Design Innovation and MSc Design for UX&I. The Department has a number of PhD students in Design and multi-disciplinary subjects.

School of Business

In the last five years we have actively recruited many new faculty from around the world in the field of business. This has been our fastest growing unit in the university. To learn more about our School of Business's research, education programmes, impact, and our staff please do take the time to review our website: **https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/school-business**

The School of Business has grown rapidly in the last ten years in student numbers and research output, supported by an investment in new staff. Current developments in the School of Business are guided by our 2020-25 strategic Plan, "Consolidating Growth, Deepening Impact". At the heart of this strategy is our focus on Quality Assurance, Development, and the Student Experience. This strategy continues the implementation of our mission, to develop critical thinkers and create impactful knowledge for society. It is informed by our five values: research-informed, practice-engaged, liberal, egalitarian, and sustainable organisations and careers. Our 2022-25 strategy is shaped by our continued commitment to this mission and values. In the last seven years we have invested significantly in research active faculty educators and will continue to do so. This enables us to bring our value of research informed education into all our degrees

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 made by the President based on the report of the selection board;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held during the months of May or June 2026;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 1st of September 2026, or 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 / 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.

Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to supporting applicants to enable their full participation in the recruitment process.

Applicants are invited to disclose a disability during the recruitment process to ensure adequate measures are in place to enable their full participation.

Terms and Conditions

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

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, the 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