



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

Department of Applied Social Studies Professor (B) of Social Work: Policy-Practice (Permanent)

The Role

Maynooth University seeks an outstanding academic to join our staff as Professor of Social Work: Policy-Practice. This new Professor post is part of the university's commitment to our Society and Social Policy research beacon of our university Strategic Plan 2023-2028. The appointee will contribute research informed, practice engaged, education and societal impact that demonstrates Maynooth university's impact, including influencing policy from a practitioner standpoint.

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

The person appointed will have an excellent record in research, scholarship and publication, in teaching and educational innovation, social work practice, policy-practice and in academic leadership. They will be expected to make a strong contribution to the teaching, research and profile of the university, and to provide ongoing leadership for the discipline.

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.



The Professor of Social Work: Policy-Practice will have a background in social work practice and policy-practice, and 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. They will be expected to make a strong contribution to the teaching, research and profile of the university, and to provide ongoing leadership for the discipline. Practice regulation of the social work is also an important strategic development area within the Department of Applied Social Studies in line with the wider expansion of social professionals' education and scholarship at Maynooth 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;
- 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.

Teaching Duties:

As part of the workload allocation process, teaching duties are assigned by the Head of the Department, their delegate or the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

- Teaching and assessing students at undergraduate level. This may include lecturing, tutoring, leading practical learning activities, project supervision, and setting, supervising and grading assessments;
- Teaching, supervising and assessing postgraduate students, including lecturing, leading seminars, contributing to practice-learning and other learning activities; supervision of student research activities, and setting, supervising and grading assessments;
- Enhancing and innovating in teaching and assessment practice;
- Contributing as required, to the assurance and enhancement of teaching quality;
- Outreach and promotional activities and the recruitment and selection of undergraduate and post-graduate students;
- Developing and enhancing the curriculum;
- Designing and delivering of new courses.

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:

- Administrative and service duties;
- Leading or contributing to strategic projects and initiatives;
- Contributing to the internationalisation of the university;
- Outreach and engagement activities;
- Collaborative work with external partners;
- Activities to promote the University locally, nationally and internationally;
- Carrying out any other duties within the scope, spirit and purpose of a Maynooth University academic post.

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

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

Professional Qualification & Experience

- A PhD in Social Work or a closely related field (the candidate needs to make a



- clear case why the latter would be so);
- Demonstrated experience of working as a professionally qualified social worker
- Strongly evidenced expertise in social work policy-practice
- A professional qualification in Social Work
- Registered, or eligible to be registered, with CORU the regulatory body

Research:

- An established track record of publication in top tier international peer reviewed journals, and internationally excellent research books, reflected in an excellent publication profile;
- 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.

Teaching:

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

Leadership:

- 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, Assessment Director, or Head of School 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 programmes within the Department.

Desirable

- Experience and expertise in the area of practice regulation.

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 treochlár seo ár dtiomantas do dhul i dtáithí 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 specialised 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 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 spaces of both Society and Public Policy, and 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

The Department of Applied Social Studies has 15 academic staff and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, based on its teaching and research strengths in Social Policy, Social Work, Community Work and Youth Work in a vibrant learning environment.

The Department of Applied Social Studies has an established record for innovative, transformative professional and academic work reflecting its mission which is

‘To promote human rights, social justice, equality and sustainability, nationally and internationally through excellence and innovation in education, research and public engagement that contribute to the development of the social professions and applied social sciences.

Forty years ago, in the early 1980’s, Maynooth was the first university in Ireland to offer professional programmes in Community Work and Youth Work. Since then, the Department of Applied Social Studies has earned an unrivalled reputation for teaching, research, and development in these areas. Professional programmes are offered at both Bachelor and Masters levels. The Department also offers a Doctor of Social Science programme.

In 2002 the Department established Social Policy as the core subject in a Bachelor of Social Science Degree programme, which has grown in popularity since. A Master of Social Science (Rights and Social Policy) programme was introduced in 2011. Staff in the Department supervise a growing number of PhD students in Social Policy and Applied Social Studies. Particular areas of interest currently include inequality, and poverty; inequality and identities; state-civil society relations and public policy; policy analysis; social policy as it relates to community, youth, children and families, gender, age, sexuality, disability, race and ethnicity; criminal justice, drugs, housing, education, mental health, care, domestic violence, human trafficking; comparative and European social policy; environment, sustainability and social justice.

More recently the Department has introduced a professional approved postgraduate Masters programme in Social Work. The programme combines rigorous academic education with supervised field work practice towards the aim of developing competent, ethical and reflective social work practitioners who are committed to the promotion of human rights and social justice in social work and in the policy arena. The MSocSc Social Work programme shares this focus on social justice and human rights with other programmes in the Department of Applied Social Studies (the MSocSc Community and Youth Work and the MSocSc Rights and Social Policy) and

like them engages with practitioners working at the forefront of human rights and policy-practice activity.

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 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	<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>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:</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) • 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.</p>

	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

