



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

Department of Early Irish (School of Celtic Studies) Postdoctoral Researcher (Specified Purpose Contract / 0.9 FTE)

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 an experienced postdoctoral researcher for the research project *DiAgnostic – Tracing Diatopic Variation in a Corpus of Old Irish*. This project is conducted with the financial support of an Advanced Laureate Award from Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland under Grant number IRCLA/2023/ 2124 and is led by Professor David Stifter. DiAgnostic aims at making methodological progress in trying to answer the question if the Early Irish language, especially in its Old Irish form, showed regional diversification, i.e. dialects. We expect to make a significant contribution to the description and the understanding of the development of the Early Irish language and of its sociohistorical context, including implications for its prehistory. Work is carried out primarily within the discipline of historical linguistics with a strong emphasis on methods of digital humanities, but other aspects of linguistics such as syntactic theory, sociolinguistics, and the philology of Early Irish texts play a role as well.

The position of the postdoctoral researcher will involve adding data to the project database *Corpus PalaeoHibernicum* (CorPH), in particular with regard to filling gaps among the major contemporaneous sources of Old Irish, as well as assisting in and contributing to other project deliverables.



Principal Duties

Administrative and other duties:

This will include:

- Engaging methodologically and critically with the question of the regional diversification of Early Irish.
- Developing and improving the existing project database (CorPH), by adding more text, and contributing to the improvement of the functionality of data entry to CorPH.
- Contributing to the development of innovative methods of analysing and representing linguistic variation and change in Early Irish.
- Ensuring public dissemination of the project work.
- Carrying out any other project-related tasks assigned by the project director, e.g. organising workshops or public relations work, or assisting in the publication of research results.
- Reporting to the project leader on a regular basis.
- Ensuring that project milestones are met in a timely fashion.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- A PhD in a relevant discipline;
- An excellent knowledge of Old and Middle Irish and of its philology;
- Experience with tools and methods of digital humanities, such as linguistic annotation of texts (tagging), creation and maintenance of databases, development of new digital humanities tools, as well as website maintenance, etc.

Desirable

- Experience with research dissemination inside and outside an academic environment;
- A record of and commitment to promoting research in medieval Irish literature and culture;
- A proven capacity for creating and sustaining collegial and inter-institutional linkages;
- Experience of, and commitment to, working in an interdisciplinary setting;
- Good administrative, organisational, teamwork and communication skills.



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Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities comprises the Departments of Classics, History, Music, Philosophy and the following Schools: Celtic Studies (Early Irish, Nua-Ghaeilge, Lárionad na Gaeilge, and Irish Cultural Heritage); English, Media and Theatre Studies (English and Media Studies); Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (Chinese, French, German and Spanish) and the Language Centre.

The Arts and Humanities Research Institute, housed in the Iontas Building, is closely associated with Faculty research activity. The role of the Faculty is to coordinate the academic activities of individual departments, to oversee the strategic development of departments and to support interdepartmental programmes. The University has also developed several interdisciplinary institutes to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines.

The School of Celtic Studies

The School of Celtic Studies is a multidisciplinary unit with a strong tradition in teaching and research. It comprises the Department of Early Irish, Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, Lárionad na Gaeilge, and a leading study abroad programme in Irish Cultural Heritage. The School offers a wide range of teaching programmes for undergraduate students, post-graduate students, and university staff. The School has a strong, multidisciplinary international research profile, and hosts a number of highly prestigious research grants. The School is currently in the process of expanding its international profile in both teaching and research.

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 treo-chlár 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;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held in early May;
- 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 / 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.



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Terms and Conditions

Tenure	This is a part-time (0.9FTE), temporary post for a specified purpose, anticipated to be 18 months duration. Project end date is anticipated to be 30/11/2027.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Salary	Post Doctoral Researcher (2026): €46,805 p.a. pro-rata (Point 1) Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.
Hours of work	A 37-hour working week is in operation in respect of full-time positions (pro-rated for part-time positions). This can be reviewed or adjusted from time to time through national agreements.
Annual Leave	Annual leave and public holidays are provided for in the University policy: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy Annual leave will be allocated on a pro-rata basis for part-time and temporary positions.
University policies and schemes	Employees of the University will be subject to the terms of the University policies and schemes, available on the University website at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies
Pension	This is a pensionable post. Employees of the University will enter into a public sector pension scheme, and as such, applicants must ensure they are eligible to become a member of a public sector pension scheme for the duration of the appointment. Details of the public sector pension schemes are available at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information
Eligibility	Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. Applicants should note that eligibility is determined by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Further information regarding eligibility is available at:



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	<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. 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

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 **Thursday 16th April 2026**.

Please note all applications must be made via our **Online Recruitment Portal** at the following link:



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<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies>

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Any applications which are still in progress at the closing time on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer

The position is subject to the Statutes of the University



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