



Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Department of Law Research Assistant (ReCreating Europe Project) (6-month 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.

Due to recent success in the competitive EU Horizon 2020 funding, we are seeking a Research Assistant to join our ReCreating Europe - *Rethinking Digital Copyright Law for a Culturally Diverse, Accessible, Creative Europe*.

The project aims to assess the regulatory framework for copyright in the digital society, with a view to enhancing cultural diversity and access to culture. The project as a whole has been awarded 3.1million euro, and includes partners from Estonia, The Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, the UK and Denmark.

The Maynooth team, led by Prof. Ferri and Dr Higgins, will conduct research on the legal and technological challenges in accessing copyrighted materials of selected vulnerable end-users who face structural inequalities, such as people belonging to minority groups and people with disabilities, and will evaluate the adequacy of existing EU regulatory responses to tackle such problems.

We are looking to appoint a candidate to conduct legal research in respect of access to digital culture for people with disabilities and members of minority groups. We are looking for a candidate willing to undertake empirical research, including undertaking interviews with stakeholders, with excellent knowledge of international human rights law, especially with regard to the rights of minorities and the rights of people with disabilities, and very good knowledge of EU law.

Principal Duties

Research, Administrative and other duties:

This will include:

- Working under the supervision of principal investigators Prof. Delia Ferri and Dr. Noelle Higgins;



- Contributing to project tasks in collaboration with other project researchers, and taking initiative in terms of work package administration;
- Conducting legal research on access to cultural material for selected vulnerable groups and on the relevant EU and international human rights law framework;
- Conducting interviews with various stakeholders and analysing data;
- Conducting literature reviews and writing reports;
- Contributing to the preparation and timely delivery of high quality project deliverables;
- Actively assisting with, and contributing to, the writing of academic papers for publication.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- A postgraduate qualification in Law;
- Good knowledge of issues related to EU law and international law and policies on people with disabilities and members of minority groups;
- Excellent legal research skills;
- Knowledge of socio-legal research;
- Excellent writing skills in English;
- Excellent attention to detail, flexibility, initiative and good problem-solving abilities;
- Ability to work with flexibility and manage deadlines;
- General computer skills, including proficiency in Excel, Word, Adobe Acrobat;
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Desirable

- Working knowledge of one or more European languages other than English;
- Excellent communication and presentation skills;
- Experience in interdisciplinary research.

Faculty of Social Sciences

The post holder will be part of the Department of Law, which is in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The Faculty of Social Sciences comprises the School of Business; Departments of Design Innovation; Economics, Finance & Accounting; Adult and Community Education; Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Education; Geography; Law; Sociology; the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education; and International Development. Collectively we are members of the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI), which provides shared research services and an environment supportive of funded research projects and inter-disciplinary research. 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 programmes. The University has also developed a number of interdisciplinary institutes to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines.

The Department of Law

Maynooth University Department of Law is one of the newest academic units within the University. The Department has 35 staff members, and is the fastest growing Law Department in Ireland. It offers a number of popular undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, educating over 1000 students. The Department places a very strong emphasis on research, and staff members regularly publish in leading international academic journals. The Department of Law has undergone a period of



rapid expansion of its range of programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as in its research activities.

The University

Maynooth University is one of the four constituent universities of the National University of Ireland and in 2019 was placed in the global top 50 universities under 50 years old in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Formally established as an autonomous university in 1997, but tracing its origins to the foundation of the Royal College of St. Patrick in 1795, Maynooth University draws on a heritage of over 200 years' commitment to education and scholarship. It is located in the University town of Maynooth, 25km from the centre of Dublin, Ireland's capital city.

The University is a modern institution - dynamic, research-led, engaged, and grounded in the traditions of liberal education. With more than 12,000 students, Maynooth is Ireland's fastest-growing university, yet we retain a collegial campus culture that is central to our ability to bring significant interdisciplinary expertise to bear in tackling some of the most fundamental challenges facing society today. MU has a distinctive disciplinary profile compared to other universities in Ireland, with research and teaching strengths in humanities and social sciences, science, electronic engineering, business, law and teacher education. The University has major research institutes and centres in the areas of: humanities; social sciences; mathematics, computation and communication; human health; business and service innovation; climate change; and Geocomputation.

The University has, under the *University Strategic Plan 2012-17*, further enhanced its capacity and reputation for research, transformed its undergraduate curriculum, grown postgraduate enrolments and become even more international, diverse and engaged. MU makes, and is seen to make, an important and distinctive contribution to our national system of higher education.

Maynooth University is now embarking upon a new and exciting phase with the development of the *University Strategic Plan 2018-22*, with a vision to consolidate the international reputation of Maynooth University "as a university known for outstanding teaching, excellent research, a global outlook, effective engagement with the society we serve, and our distinctive approach to the challenges facing modern higher education."

The *University Strategic Plan 2018-22* builds on the institution's strengths and accomplishments, concentrating energy and resources on further development in research and postgraduate education. The strategy focuses on:

- targeted investment in research capacity in a number of priority areas;
- extending the postgraduate portfolio and growing the postgraduate community;
- realising the full benefits of our innovative undergraduate curriculum;
- enhancing the student experience;
- comprehensive and ethical internationalisation;
- equality diversity inclusion and interculturalism as enablers of academic excellence

These strategic goals are underpinned by a commitment to invest, first and foremost in people and opportunities for their development and success, and also in the systems and infrastructure required to achieve scholarly and educational objectives.

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;



- The appointment is expected to be effective from May 1, 2021.

Equality and Diversity

Maynooth University values the enrichment that comes from a diverse community and seeks to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of each individual. To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](#). Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) Institute, we are committed to advancing gender equality across the University.

We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals.

Terms and Conditions

Appointment will be on a fixed term contract of 6 months.

Data Protection Law

Maynooth University will process any personal data provided by you in connection with an application for this role in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Acts 2018.

If your application is successful and you accept an offer of employment at Maynooth University, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance with Maynooth University's Staff Data Privacy Notice.

Both the privacy notices and further information relating to data protection, including Maynooth University's other data protection policies and processes, can be viewed at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection>

Salary

Research Assistant (2020): €23,061 - €26,609 per annum (pro-rata) (5 points)

Appointment will be made in accordance with the Department of Finance pay guidelines.

*New entrants to the public sector will be appointed on the first point of the pay scale above.

Application Procedure

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Friday, 9th April 2021**.

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

“This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870626.”

