



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

Department of Geography Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher in Food Sovereignty (Specified Purpose Contract / 0.2 FTE)

The Role

Maynooth University (MU) 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 excellent academic to join our staff as a Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher. The person appointed will have a proven record of research and publication, appropriate to career stage. They will be expected to collaborate on a three-year research and teaching impact initiative called the Maynooth University Food Sovereignty Lab (FSL) within the Department of Geography. The candidate will work closely with Dr. Patrick Bresnihan to develop the FSL and enable academic exchange regarding food system change among researchers and students in Maynooth University, as well as in Ireland and internationally. The candidate will also conduct research, contribute to public knowledge, and engage policy-making communities shaping Ireland and the world's food system.

Principal Duties

This is a senior position, suited to a candidate who has a well-developed understanding of environmental issues, a detailed knowledge of national and international policies shaping the food system.

The candidate will also:

- Collaborate with Dr. Bresnihan on the development of a three-year programme of work which will distinguish the FSL as an innovative, imaginative and



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appropriate third-level response to the issue of food sovereignty, and which further enhances MU as a leader in sustainability and climate action.

- Engage diverse groups inside and outside of the academy through participatory processes and on-going dialogue and collaboration.
- Establish and develop national and international linkages with other academics and practitioners, especially through the creation of initiatives on MU campus.
- Present research findings at national/international conferences.
- Produce op-eds and/or publications/documentaries to create research impact regarding sustainability, climate action, and food sovereignty.
- Deliver occasional guest lectures across the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum in the Department of Geography with the purpose of developing teaching impact regarding sustainability, climate action, and food sovereignty.
- Conduct occasional research field trips to farms or other sites within Ireland.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- Applicants will have a PhD in a relevant discipline and a minimum of 4–6 years of relevant post PhD research experience, in a relevant field.
- A strong academic record in research, demonstrated through peer-reviewed publications and research funding commensurate with career stage.
- Advanced knowledge of food sovereignty scholarship.
- A commitment to excellence in engaging with undergraduate and postgraduate students, the general public, and policy-making communities.
- Experience of, and commitment to, working in an interdisciplinary setting.
- Good administrative, organisational, teamwork and communication skills.

Desirable

- Knowledge of generating research and teaching impact via music, storytelling, poetry, art or other media.
- Capacity to translate research into real-world impact and a commitment to promoting evidence-based decision-making and planning.

Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Social Sciences comprises the Departments of Adult and Community Education; Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Design Innovation; Economics, Finance & Accounting; Education; Geography; International Development; Law; Sociology; the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education; and the School of Business. 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.



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Department

The Department of Geography has approximately 22 permanent academic staff, supported by contracted staff and dedicated professional support, administrative and technical assistance. We offer undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, based on our research strengths across many aspects of physical and human geography, in a vibrant learning environment.

Currently, we offer single major and double major undergraduate awards in Geography as part of the MH101 BA programme at Maynooth University and, initiated in 2020, the MH203 BSc degree in Biological and Geographical Sciences. This crosses faculties to provide innovative teaching and learning in this important interdisciplinary subject area. The department also offers MScs in Climate Change, GIS and Remote Sensing, and MAs in Geography and Spatial Justice.

In addition to a strong research reputation, the department has a major emphasis on teaching innovation with several innovative climate-related participatory learning assignments having been published in the peer-reviewed literature. The department hosts the flagship ICARUS (Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units) Climate Research Centre. It also has many well established and founding links to the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute, the National Centre for Geocomputation and The Hamilton Institute.

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



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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



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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;
- 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 May or June 2026;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 1st 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.



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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 part-time (0.2 FTE / one day per week) temporary post for a specified purpose, anticipated to be 36 months duration. Project end date is anticipated to be 31/08/2029.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Salary	Senior Post Doctoral Researcher (2026) €54,851 p.a. pro-rata (1 point with annual increment) Post Doctoral Researcher (2026) €46,805 - €53,301 p.a. pro-rata (6 points) 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



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	<p>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</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: 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 **Sunday, 10th May 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



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