



Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MU_SSI) Postdoctoral Researcher / Digital Archivist (24-month contract / until 31/05/2023)

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.

The successful candidate will be a core member of DRI staff and will contribute as part of a team on the Wellcome Trust funded project *Digital Preservation of Reproductive Health Resources*.

The appointee's tasks will be to catalogue data from the InherShoes facebook page, to write a literature review and reports on the project, as well as to assist the PIs in project management and collaborate with them in academic publications and presentations. The successful applicant will be expected to work effectively as part of a team, maintain active liaison with stakeholders and collaborators, make a significant contribution to the dissemination of project outputs (incl. workshops, publications, web site, etc.). The successful applicant will have a proven ability in report writing, with academic publication an advantage, and organisational experience, including the ability to work both under their own initiative and collaboratively as part of a team.

Digital Preservation of Reproductive Health Resources: Archiving the 8th is a three year research project which began in June 2020, sponsored by the Wellcome Trust.

The aim of this post is to assist in the development of a strategy for archiving data from sensitive social movements and reproductive rights campaigns, and pilot this strategy through the preparation and ingest of the InherIrishshoes Facebook page data, as well as data from academic research projects and civil society organisations, to the Irish Qualitative Data Archive and Digital Repository of Ireland. Through this process we also intend to identify and create a registry of additional digital content about the Irish 2018 abortion referendum which is held by Irish cultural and heritage organisations. In preparing the material for digital preservation we will identify the appropriate vocabulary and, if necessary, develop or expand existing materials for use in an Irish based collection pertaining to reproductive health and bodily autonomy.



Principal Duties

Administrative and other duties:

This will include:

- Collaborate with PIs on research project
- Develop a bibliography, literature review, training and protocol on the archiving of grass roots, women's movements and reproductive health research data sets, particularly focusing on sensitive data, from an ethical and social science perspective.
- Identify reproductive health research data sets and liaise, assist and advise researchers on archiving for long term digital preservation.
- Assist other DRI project staff in Vocabulary/Taxonomy development for reproductive health research data sets.
- Metadata enrichment and archival preparation of reproductive health research data sets
- Ingestion, review and publication of reproductive health research data sets
- Liaise with stakeholders group and assist in the organization of training seminar and meetings
- Collaborate in academic publications and presentation at conferences
- Assist in research, data archiving and ongoing project management
- Assisting in project management activities such as project planning, reporting and project metrics, helping to organise and run events and meetings, publicity/dissemination of project results, responding to enquiries.
- Participate in DRI staff and project meetings, DRI cross-functional Task Forces, and other DRI activities as required.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential:

- A postgraduate degree qualification in sociology, social sciences or related discipline, or a higher qualification in digital archiving or equivalent professional experience in digital archiving
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Ability to work as part of a team including across sites and collaboratively;
- Ability and willingness to help organise and attend workshops and conferences.

Desirable:

- Expertise in digital preservation;
- Understanding of social and/or political movements and contemporary Irish history;
- Experience in qualitative data or oral history research methods;
- Expertise in research data management;
- Experience in library, information or archival studies.

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MU_SSI)

Maynooth University enjoys an eminent reputation as a centre for research excellence and influence in the social sciences, and is committed to supporting high quality fundamental research, publicly engaged scholarship, evidence informed policy making and innovation based commerce and enterprise.

Established in 2015 as part of the University's ambitious [Research Strategy \(2012-2017\)](#), the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MU_SSI) brings together, consolidates and scales existing social scientific research expertise and research infrastructure across the campus as part of a single enterprise.



The purpose of MU_SSI is to coordinate and direct a collaborative network which includes twelve [Faculty of Social Sciences](#) academic departments, and three existing [Faculty of Social Science](#) based research Institutes ([National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis](#), [National Centre for Geocomputation](#) and the [Edward M Kennedy Institute](#)).

MU_SSI also manages, supports and develops, a number of critical national data infrastructures including the [All-Island Research Observatory \(AIRO\)](#), the [Irish Qualitative Data Archive \(IQDA\)](#), and [Digital Repository Ireland \(DRI\)](#).

Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI)

The Digital Repository of Ireland (<https://www.dri.ie/>) is a CoreTrustSeal-certified Trustworthy Digital Repository for Ireland's cultural and social data. It consists of a consortium with staff in three partner institutions in Ireland: Trinity College Dublin, the Royal Irish Academy and Maynooth University.

Maynooth University, along with the other DRI consortium members, is a partner in the Wellcome Trust funded project "Digital Preservation of Reproductive Health Resources: Archiving the 8th" which runs from January 2020 to December 2022. This project will provide long term preservation and access to the many at-risk archives generated by grassroots women's reproductive health movements during the campaign.

These campaigns took place largely online and created a large amount of digital content including documentation of the campaign process, advocacy materials and stories of the many women whose lives were affected by the 8th amendment. This content includes websites and social media posts, as well as more traditional archival formats. The project will attempt to identify, export and preserve these various different digital formats of campaign material and will research best practice for archiving and preserving such material.

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;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from April 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 up to 24 months/ until 31/05/2023.

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

Post-doctoral Researcher (Level 2): €38,632 – €44,657 per annum (6 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 **Monday, 5th 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

