



# Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

## Department of Chemistry Post-Doctoral Researcher (Temporary contract to 31.12.25)

### 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 excellent postdoctoral researcher to join the Supramolecular Chemical Systems Group in the Chemistry Department at Maynooth, led by Dr. Rob Elmes. The position will be on a multidisciplinary collaborative project between the Departments of Chemistry and Biology at MU and SSPC (SFI's Centre for Pharmaceutical Research). The primary objective of the project is the design and synthesis of supramolecular receptors and their application to medicinal chemistry and chemical biology. The successful candidate will carry out the chemical synthesis of a range of candidate supramolecular receptors with the ultimate goal of achieving demonstration of potential for new therapeutic agents against anti-microbial resistant bacteria. This will involve evaluating all synthesised candidates through spectroscopic measurements as well as through a range of traditional chemical biology methods.

The candidates should have a PhD in Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry or Chemical Biology within the field of organic chemistry/supramolecular chemistry/chemical biology/biotechnology with an interest in the application of novel materials to studying biological systems. Experience in cell biology and biological evaluation of compounds in cell-based assays would be highly advantageous.

**Applications should consist of a cover letter highlighting the fit for the position and a scientific CV (combined in one unique PDF document).**

### Principal Duties

The candidates are expected to prepare compounds and compositions to explore and develop new anti-microbial agents. Capable of the synthesis of small/medium sized organic compounds, and experience in the most common characterisation techniques (NMR, IR, UV, HPLC, and others) are highly recommended.

The ideal candidates will have:



## Essential

- PhD in Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry or Chemical Biology.
- Extensive and proven experience in organic synthesis or chemical biology.
- Experience in spectroscopic evaluation of small/medium sized organic molecules.
- Creativity in experimental design and effective team-working skills.
- Excellent communication skills.
- The ability to mentor PhD students and co-supervise undergraduate final year projects.

## Desirable

- Extensive and proven experience in synthesis/characterisation/purification of supramolecular receptor compounds.
- Experience in analysis of analyte binding through physical and spectroscopic methods (e.g. UV, fluorescence, NMR, ITC etc).
- Capabilities in the development of therapeutics (e.g. in vitro cell culture assays, cell uptake studies, proteomic analysis etc.)

## Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Science and Engineering comprises the Departments of Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Mathematics and Statistics and Psychology. 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.

## Department

The Department of Chemistry has 14 academic staff members and more than 40 researchers between MSc, PhD and Postdocs in a vibrant learning environment. It provides teaching in multiple degree programmes to over 700 students enrolled on undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes. The Department of Chemistry offers well-established BSc Honours degree programmes in Chemistry, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Chemistry and Science Education. It has a strong record of PhD student supervision and current research strengths include synthesis of small and large molecule therapeutics, sensor discovery and diagnostic development. The Department was awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze Award in 2021 and has a strong commitment to promoting gender equality.

More detailed information on research activity in the Department of Chemistry can be found at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/chemistry>

## About SSPC

SSPC, The Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Pharmaceuticals is a world-leading hub of Irish research expertise developing innovative technologies to address key challenges facing the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry. In-depth scientific and engineering research expertise aids companies who need tailored solutions to their bespoke challenges. Over the last 15 years, the SSPC research community has been working to drive research and innovation in the field of (bio)pharmaceuticals forward and the centre has maintained an excellent record of academic – industrial collaboration. SSPC has built a strong foundation of trust with industry partners which fosters further collaborations, and currently collaborates with over 50 leading (bio)pharmaceutical and life sciences companies, both nationally and internationally. Due to the breadth of expertise available within



the Centre, SSPC supports projects from early-stage phase 1 clinical trials through to scale-up and manufacturing in both small and large molecule 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 13,500 students on a campus with 18<sup>th</sup> century roots and 21<sup>st</sup> century dynamism.

The strategic trajectory and accomplishments of Maynooth University, in the twenty years 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 is now acknowledged to be one of the leading young universities in the world, ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) 'Young Universities' list. 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 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. With over 13,500 students Maynooth offers a range of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level in the humanities, science and engineering and social sciences, including business, law and education. The University also offers a range of international programmes and partnerships.

Maynooth's unique collegial culture fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research, which its world-class academics bring to bear in tackling some of the most fundamental challenges facing society today. The University's research institutes and centres consolidate and deliver this impact as vibrant communities of learning, discovery and creation. Research at Maynooth also is very much central to its teaching and the University prides itself on placing equal value on its research and teaching missions.

## 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 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>

### 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 month of November 2024
- The appointment is expected to be effective from as soon as possible thereafter.

### Equality and Diversity

Maynooth University is committed to being a community that promotes and advances equality, respects and values diversity, and develops a collegiate environment of excellence with equality, in which the human rights and diversity of all are recognised and respected. We value the enrichment that comes from a diverse community and seek to promote equality and diversity, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of each individual. We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals across our society.

To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](#) / [Polasaí Comhionannais agus Éagsúlachta](#), and our policy on the [Employment of People with Disabilities](#). Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) Institute, we are committed to advancing gender equality across the University.

### Terms and Conditions

<b>Tenure</b>	This is a full-time, temporary contract post up to 31.12.25.
<b>Location</b>	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
<b>Salary</b>	Postdoctoral Researcher (2024): €44,847 (1 point) Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.



<b>Hours of work</b>	<p>A 37-hour working week is in operation in respect of full-time positions (pro-rated for part-time positions).</p> <p>This can be reviewed or adjusted from time to time through national agreements.</p>
<b>Annual Leave</b>	<p>Annual leave and public holidays are provided for in the University policy: <a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy</a></p> <p>Annual leave will be allocated on a pro-rata basis for part-time and temporary positions.</p>
<b>University policies and schemes</b>	<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><a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies</a></p>
<b>Pension</b>	<p>This is a pensionable post. Employees of the University will enter into a public sector pension scheme, details of the schemes are available at: <a href="https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information">https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information</a></p>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Applications from <b>non-EEA citizens</b> are welcomed, applicants should note that eligibility is determined by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Further information regarding eligibility is available at: <a href="https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/workplace-and-skills/employment-permits/employment-permit-eligibility/">https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/workplace-and-skills/employment-permits/employment-permit-eligibility/</a></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><b>Former Irish Public Service employees - Certain Restrictions on Eligibility</b></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"> <li>• Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants</li> <li>• Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)</li> <li>• Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010)</li> <li>• Department of Environment, Community &amp; Local Government (Circular Letter LG(P) 06/2013)</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Garda vetting</b>	<p>Garda vetting or clearance may be required by the University.</p>
<b>Medical</b>	<p>The University may require a medical examination as a condition of employment.</p>



## Data Protection Law

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, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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**

