



Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Department of Psychology/ALL Institute Post-Doctoral Researcher (SHAPES Project) (45 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 competitive EU Horizon 2020 funding, we are seeking an energetic and enthusiastic postdoctoral researcher to work on an EU Horizon 2020 project on the subject of smart and healthy ageing. The project titled SHAPES (Smart and Healthy Ageing through People Engaging in Supportive Systems) is concerned with the development and piloting of a platform to assist and empower the ageing population to remain independent with improved quality of life. Maynooth University is coordinating this project, as well as participating in work packages on organisational, structural and sociotechnical factors, design, ethics, project management, and clinical issues. We are looking to appoint a candidate with experience of working with largescale cross-sectional and/or longitudinal data and experience in the design and evaluation of pilot interventions. The successful candidate will work with multi-disciplinary researchers and international partners. The successful candidate may also be asked to contribute to the teaching activities within the department corresponding to their own interests, knowledge, and experience. This post will be for up to 45 months, depending on start date, with an anticipated commencement month of February 2020.

Overview of the SHAPES project

SHAPES aims to create the first European open ecosystem enabling the large-scale deployment of a broad range of digital solutions for supporting and extending healthy and independent living for older individuals who are facing permanently or temporarily reduced functionality and capabilities. SHAPES builds an interoperable Platform integrating smart digital solutions to collect and analyse older individuals' health, environmental and lifestyle information, identify their needs and provide personalised solutions that uphold the individuals' data protection and trust. Standardisation, interoperability and scalability of SHAPES Platform sustain increased efficiency gains in health and care delivery across Europe, bringing improved quality of life to older individuals, their families, caregivers and care service providers. SHAPES Large-scale Piloting campaign engages +2k older individuals in 15 pilot sites in 10 EU Member States, including six European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (AHA) Reference Sites, and involves hundreds of key stakeholders to bring forth solutions to improve the health, wellbeing, independence and autonomy of older individuals, while enhancing the long-term sustainability of health and care systems in Europe. SHAPES's multidisciplinary approach to large-scale piloting is reflected across seven themes that, together, provide a clear understanding of the reality of European health and care systems and enable the



validation of cost-efficient, interoperable and reliable innovations capable of effectively supporting healthy and independent living of older individuals within and outside the home. Building an ecosystem attractive to European industry and policy-makers, SHAPES develops value-based business models to open and scale-up the market for AHA-focused digital solutions and provides key recommendations for the far-reaching deployment of innovative digital health and care solutions and services supporting and extending healthy and independent living of older population in Europe.

Principal Duties

Research, administrative, and other duties:

This will include:

- Working under the supervision of principal investigators Dr Rebecca Maguire and Dr Deirdre Desmond, and in collaboration with a team of researchers in the Department of Psychology, and Maynooth University Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute;
- Leading project tasks and carrying out administrative work to support the programme of research.
- Conducting statistical analyses of largescale cross-sectional and longitudinal datasets;
- Conducting systematic reviews of the literature;
- Contributing to the design and evaluation of SHAPES pilot implementation.
- Liaising with other members of the SHAPES consortium;
- Leading the preparation and timely delivery of high quality project deliverables;
- Representing the University at consortium and work package meetings and workshops;
- Presenting results at workshops and conferences;
- Actively assisting and contributing to the writing of reports and academic papers for publication and wider research dissemination;
- Assisting in the development and submission of new research proposals to EU and other funding agencies.
- Carrying out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- Applicants will have a PhD in a relevant area such as psychology, social science, public health or related disciplines relevant to the research topic.
- Advanced implementation research design and statistical skills (for example, knowledge of longitudinal data analysis, and/or structural equation modelling)
- The ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary, multi-centre team.
- Excellent attention to detail, flexibility, initiative and good problem-solving abilities.
- Excellent research, analytical and oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work with a great degree of autonomy, manage workloads, deadlines and responsibilities.
- General computer skills, including proficiency in Excel, Word, Statistical Software
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Desirable

- A publication track record, including peer-reviewed publications.
- Familiarity with conducting systematic reviews.
- Experience of working with older adults
- Experience with stakeholder or engaged research
- Experience of working in international teams.



Faculty and Research Institutes

The post holder will be part of the ALL (Assisting Living & Learning) Institute which has members from each of the faculties in Maynooth. The post holder will be based in the Department of Psychology, which is in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Assistive Living and Learning Institute (ALL Institute)

The SHAPES Project is led by the ALL (Assisting Living & Learning) Institute, Maynooth University, Ireland. This recently established Institute is involved in a number of large-scale research projects concerned with ageing, disability and chronic illness; where people may benefit from human, technological, systems or policy assistance or support of some kind, and where the inclusion, participation, empowerment and rights of the person are seen as a central aim of the project. We are involved in projects globally, with strong connections to civil society organisations, United Nations agencies, governments and industry. By thinking through the context and meaning of people's lives we seek to assist them to enhance their quality of life and we provide an unparalleled interdisciplinary environment to achieve this.

Faculty of Science and Engineering

The Faculty of Science and Engineering comprises the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Experimental Physics, Mathematical Physics, 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 of Psychology

The Department of Psychology currently has seventeen full-time academic staff members. The Department offers undergraduate programmes in psychology accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland, as part of the Science (BSc) and the Arts (BA, BA International in Psychology) degrees of the University and offers a taught MSc (conversion) in Psychology. Further, the Department offers a joint major BA degree programme in Psychological Studies, and structured PhD and MSc research degrees.

The Department of Psychology at Maynooth University is a unique and dynamic environment for research; and we are leading globally in several key areas. Maynooth psychology makes an internationally distinctive and vibrant contribution to research and practice with a focus on four themes: (1) Rehabilitation, Disability & Health Psychology; (2) Mental Health, Community & Positive Psychology; (3) Neuroscience, Behaviour & Cognition; and (4) Organisations, Systems and Policy. Importantly, and unusually, most of our staff are active across more than one of these areas. This is something we deliberately cultivate, allowing for insights and initiatives to flourish beyond narrow research or disciplinary boundaries. As a university, Maynooth embraces an ethos of Engaged Research; nowhere is this more apparent than in the Department of Psychology. Our staff members lead the Centre for Community and Mental Health (<https://cmhcr.eu/>), and the Assisting Living & Learning Institute (<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/all-institute>). Our staff are also affiliated to other lively interdisciplinary research institutes; Maynooth University Social Science Institute (<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/social-sciences-institute>) and Maynooth Human Health Institute (<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/research/human-health>).

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;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from February 1st 2020.

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

This is a fixed-term contract post up to 31st October 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 1) €37, 874 - €41,373 per annum (4 points)

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

The successful applicant will be appointed on the first point of the above scale.

Application Procedure

Closing Date: 23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Sunday, 12th January 2020.**

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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