



John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Supervisor Research Areas Advertised

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Department of English

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: English
Supervisor: Dr Oona Frawley
Supervisor Email: oona.frawley@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Creative Writing (fiction; non-fiction); Environmental Humanities; Irish Literature; Memory and Trauma Studies

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I welcome students working in the following areas:

- Creative Writing (particularly fiction; memoir; hybrid and experimental forms);
- Environmental humanities/ extractivist narratives of Ireland, Australia and / or New Zealand;
- Contemporary Irish literature;
- Memory and Trauma Studies.

As a creative writer, I am particularly interested in fiction (the novel and shorter forms); memoir; creative non-fiction; hybrid essays; fragmentary writing.

As an academic, I have published extensively in the areas of Irish literature; memory and trauma studies; and in ecocriticism. I am interested in projects focusing on contemporary Irish writing, and on writings of Australia and New Zealand, particularly in relation to the environment and environmental catastrophe.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My creative work aligns with the University's Beacon of 'Heritage, Culture and Languages'. Creative Writing is an area of swift growth at MU, as seen in the launch of the new BA in Creative Writing and English (2025) and the expansion of staffing as a result of the highly successful MA in Creative Writing. My supervision of Creative Writing PhDs is in line with the University's expansion into 'creative industries' and practice-based research, and draws on my work as a published novelist and memoirist interested in hybrid forms.

My current academic project is at the interface between the Beacons 'Heritage, Culture and Languages' and 'Sustainability and Climate Change': I analyse what I call extractivist narratives in Australian, Irish and New Zealand fiction, considering how the climate emergency is represented in narrative form, and asking what role literature can play in impacting our ideas, policies, and reactions to the climate emergency. This interdisciplinary project draws on critical work from the humanities and the sciences and springboards from my earlier published work on environmental nostalgia and cultural memory; I welcome projects that similarly work across disciplinary boundaries and at different scales.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: English
Supervisor: Dr Rita Sakr
Supervisor Email: rita.sakr@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Arab literary and cultural production; literatures of forced displacement; postcolonial/decolonial studies; environmental humanities

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in supervising PhD projects engaging with the interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary fields of Arab literary, cultural and artistic production (especially Palestinian and Lebanese), whether in Arabic and translated or anglophone, and with literary, cultural and artistic approaches to forced displacement (particularly within and from South West Asia and North Africa), taking into consideration postcolonial and decolonial dimensions, as well as relevant political history and political philosophy in these respects. Projects examining aesthetic devices, drawing on trauma studies and/or the environmental humanities are particularly welcome.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas reinforce the university's focus on achieving interdisciplinary research excellence while aligning with national, European and international priorities with respect to engaging with the SWANA region and with the Global Compact on Refugees and its links to SDGs. The research areas that I indicated fall within both the 'Heritage, Culture and Language' and the 'Society and Public Policy' frameworks.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: English
Supervisor: Dr Catherine Gander
Supervisor Email: Catherine.Gander@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Documentary/social poetics; hybrid forms and radical texts; intermediality; American literature and culture

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

William Carlos Williams famously wrote that “It is difficult / to get the news from poems / Yet men die miserably every day / for lack / of what is found there.” Difficult perhaps, but certainly not impossible, and as Williams and other of his contemporaries were to demonstrate, poetry and the reporting of reality can intersect in deeply productive and provocative ways.

In our current moment, poetry is increasingly becoming one of the most vital and responsible arenas for the uncovering of historical and present truths, for political protest and social collectivity, for the speaking back to structures, figurations, and manifestations of power. Documentary poetry works to correct historical narratives promulgated by the powerful, addressing archival and historiographical lacunae, drawing out voices and stories hitherto overlooked, marginalised, or buried.

Alongside this is the growth of hybrid literature—books and other material texts that trouble or ignore borders between disciplines and genres, blending the creative and critical, word and image, subjective and objective. These literatures open shared, discursive spaces for the articulation of, and resistance to, the structures of separation and categorisation that shape our lives—whether disciplinary, geopolitical, racial, ecological, or gendered.

As an specialist in modern and contemporary American literature, I welcome applications that align with my research specialisms and creative practices in:

- Documentary/archival/social poetics
- formally and politically radical literatures / intermediality
- literature and the body (including figurations of the politicised/racialised/precaritised body; embodiment and phenomenology; neurohumanities)
- Indigenous poetry and art of the Americas
- literary and cultural interventions in climate justice and responses to environmental ecologies (including theorisations of the Capitalocene and the more-than-human)

Please see my MU webpage for more detailed information on my research. Applicants seeking to pursue projects with a feminist, antifascist, antiracist, anticolonial impetus are always--and particularly--welcome.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Research in these areas connects to Maynooth University's "commit[ment] to social justice and to the development of a sustainable future for our planet and its people." The MU Strategic Plan states that the university is a community that sees itself "as a catalyst for creativity, imagination, critical thinking, constructive challenge and citizen empowerment," all of which play a vital role in the areas of research and creative output I have described above. As such, projects in these areas fall under the research strand of 'Heritage, Culture, and Languages', which MU has named a 'Beacon' of their sustained commitment to community-engaged research excellence, buoyed up by values that are also at the heart of the research I have outlined: Integrity, Collegiality, Ambition, Freedom of Expression, and Responsibility.

The research recognises that none of the three elements of this research 'beacon' can exist in isolation from the others. Taking an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach, it seeks to interrogate and understand how literary and cultural interventions in historiographic and political narratives can respond to, challenge, and even change dominant discourses of power and control.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: English
Supervisor: Dr Stephen O'Neill
Supervisor Email: stephen.oneill@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Shakespeare studies; adaptation; climate fiction; environmental humanities; and critical arboreal studies

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in supervising PhD proposals in Shakespeare studies and Shakespeare adaptation, with a particular emphasis on projects focused on anti-racist and queer adaptations of Shakespeare's works, as well as Shakespeare in digital media. I am also interested in projects that focus on the environmental humanities, with a particular interest in the new field of critical arboreal studies that examines the intersection of cultural productions and plant thinking. Projects addressing representations of trees and new arboreal imaginaries across cultural productions are welcomed, as are cultural responses to living-with-climate change and the Anthropocene.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Heritage, Culture and Language; Sustainability and Climate Change.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: English
Supervisor: Dr Catherine Morris
Supervisor Email: Catherine.Morris@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Irish Cultural Revival, Drama, Creative Nonfiction, life writing, curation, archives, non tangible culture, human rights & memory studies

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would welcome doctoral students in the areas of Irish Drama; Irish Cultural Revival; theatres of transformation; curating human rights; creative nonfiction; writing from the archive & life writing.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research connects with the Heritage, Culture and Languages beacon as well as Sustainability within areas of tangible and non-tangible culture and memory

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: English
Supervisor: Dr Denis Condon
Supervisor Email: denis.j.condon@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Film Studies, Cinema History and Contextualized Audiovisual Analysis

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to consider any project with a focus on film, television or other forms of audiovisual or text/image media. My own main research interests lie particularly in cinema, film and audiovisual culture, most often considering these from a historical perspective and exploring their intermediality or how approaches such as audience studies, the new cinema history or reception studies complicate received narratives. I have a particular interest in Irish cinema, both contemporary and historical. The relationship between music and image in screen media is an abiding concern, which I have most recently pursued in highlighting the careers of Irish women silent cinema musicians.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research aligns most often with the Maynooth University strengths in Heritage, Culture and Language, where I would place the aspects of my research that focus on Irish cinema in its historical and contemporary aspects. I also use data analysis and geographical information systems in my research that would align more comfortably with Data and Digital Transformation.

END

Department of History

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Dr Niamh Wycherley
Supervisor Email: niamh.wycherley@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Medieval Irish History, approximately 400–1200 AD

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would gladly accept PhDs seeking to research and illuminate any area of medieval Irish history from the fifth to the twelfth centuries, including, but not limited to, the following subject areas:

- the vikings;
- the cult of saints;
- Ireland in the wider world;
- the distribution of power both within and across institutions (Church and State);
- intersectionality in the Middle Ages (gender, ethnicity, social status, religion, sexuality, motherhood);
- patronage of the arts (including the Book of Kells);
- the role of women leaders (including women authors, heads of churches, female saints, queenship);
- the English Conquest of Ireland.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas clearly align with the Heritage, Culture and Languages beacon. Early Ireland is the most under studied area of Irish history across Irish Universities, despite the fact that it is a period which we, as a country, promote globally as a defining epoch in our history and culture. This historical period is Ireland's self-styled 'Golden Age': the Isle of saints, scholars, shamrocks, vikings, exquisite art & architecture and much more. Maynooth University has made a strong commitment to the study of medieval Irish history and recognises that this has great potential for helping Ireland, as a modern nation, re-evaluate its identity and its past. At the core of my research is an exploration of Ireland within wider international structures and movements. Meaningful scholarship in this area has been stifled by persistent notions of Irish exclusivity, so-called sacral kingship, mythical goddesses and 'Celtic' identity, perpetuating false stereotypes of a homogenous ethnic national identity which excludes many of the so-called 'New Irish'. By fully understanding our own colonial, aristocratic and complex history we can effect a perceptible shift in behaviours and attitudes towards our imperial neighbours and our multicultural, diverse society (it was ever thus), and negotiate our future constructively.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Prof Terence Dooley
Supervisor Email: terence.a.dooley@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Irish country houses and landed estates; War, Revolution, 1912-23; Irish Land Commission.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am a historian of nineteenth and early twentieth-century Ireland with a broad range of specialism but most particularly the social world of the Irish country house; the management and break up of landed estates; land questions, 1845-1992, with particular reference to the work of the Irish Land commission, 1881-1992; war and revolution, 1914-23.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas align with the Heritage, Culture and Language and Society and Public Policy beacons as set out in MU's Strategic Plan, 2023-28.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Dr JoAnne Mancini
Supervisor Email: JoAnne.Mancini@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

History, to include cultural history, interdisciplinary history, and historical approaches to policy

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would be willing to accept student applicants in the areas of cultural history; history of education and education policy; environmental history; history of migration; comparative and/or transnational history

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area above aligns with several of the University's Research Beacons: Heritage, culture and languages; Society and public policy; and Sustainability and climate change

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Prof Ian Speller
Supervisor Email: ian.speller@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Military History, Defence Studies, Strategic Studies, Naval History, Maritime Strategy & Security

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am willing to accept applications that relate to the fields of military history, defence studies and/or strategic studies. I am also willing to accept applications focused on naval history, maritime strategy or contemporary maritime security.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research area supports MU's aim to maintain and develop its reputation as a centre of research excellence - as these fields relate to areas where Maynooth is recognised, nationally and internationally, to have unique experience and expertise. Research in these fields also support our educational partnership with the Defence Forces and, through policy relevance in terms of national defence, security and resilience, support the push for MU to offer 'beacons of research excellence' in terms of society and public.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Prof Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses MRIA
Supervisor Email: Filipe.deMeneses@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Contemporary European, colonial and diplomatic history

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am available to supervise doctoral theses on aspects of Twentieth-Century European and colonial history, especially in relation to Portugal, Spain, France and Italy (as well as their respective colonial empires). These may focus on one specific country or be comparative/transnational in nature and might cover events such as the two World Wars (from a political, social or cultural point of view), regime changes and transitions to democracy, and decolonization processes. I am also available to supervise theses that relate to diplomatic history, Irish or otherwise, in the Twentieth Century.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas are clearly aligned with the Heritage, Culture and Society (contemporary European history) and the Public Policy (diplomatic history, including Irish diplomatic history) beacons as set out in the Maynooth University Strategic Plan, 2023-28. I am keen to further the University's commitment to internationalization by attracting foreign students to come to Maynooth to work with me and to encourage Irish students to consider adding an international dimension to their proposed studies.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Prof Roisín Higgins
Supervisor Email: roisin.higgins@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

History, memory, sensory history, history of experience, Irish history including Northern Troubles.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Histories of embodied memories and sensory memories of the past. I have expertise in Irish and British history and would be happy to explore comparative histories beyond this. I am interested in memory and commemoration and how societies and individuals remember and commemorate difficult histories. My work is inter-disciplinary and covers primarily the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Heritage, Culture and Language beacon.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Prof Marian Lyons
Supervisor Email: marian.lyons@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

History of select families in Early Modern Ireland, including members who emigrated.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am willing to supervise projects on the social history of Early Modern Ireland, including the history of aristocratic, urban and gentry families and members of those families who emigrated to Continental Europe and further afield.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research on aristocratic, urban and gentry families in Ireland in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries areas align with the first two elements in the Heritage, Culture and Language beacon featured in MU's Strategic Plan, 2023-28.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Prof Dejan Djokić
Supervisor Email: Dejan.Djokic@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Political, cultural, social, international history of the Balkans/Eastern Europe, nationalism, war, autoethnography

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Any area of early modern and modern (i.e. roughly from the 16th century to the present day) history of the Balkans and Eastern Europe, including on comparative topics on European history in the wider world (but involving the Balkans/Eastern Europe).

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research on the history and politics of the former Yugoslav space in the 19C and 20C, global and cultural history of the Cold War, and more broadly the history of Southeastern Europe since the late Middle Ages aligns with two research beacons highlighted in the University Strategic Plan: Heritage, Culture and Language and Society and Public Policy.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Prof Raul Carstocea
Supervisor Email: Raul.Carstocea@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Habsburg Legacies in the Ustasha Movement

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Our project will look at the role of imperial legacies on the radical right in Central Europe through a single case study, namely, the Habsburg influence on the Croatian Ustashe. Former Habsburg figures were prominent in the Ustasha movement from its formative 'pre-history' as part of the anti-Yugoslav opposition in the 1920s, through to the end of the movement's state rule at the end of the Second World War. These figures included political leaders associated with the 'Croatian Party of Right' (the nucleus of which became the Ustashe in the early 1930s) and former Habsburg officers of Croat descent who were unhappy with their reduced status and the institutional changes wrought by the formation of the South Slav state in 1918. Moreover, the Ustashe often alluded to the Habsburg period of Croatian national history, using this as a counter-example to their unhappy experiences as an 'oppressed' part of the South Slav state. But the involvement of former imperial figures such as these, and the allusion to the Habsburg period as an example of state and institutional organisation, created significant tensions within the movement's ranks. These tensions derived from difficulties the movement's leadership had in reconciling conservative, bureaucratic traditions and figures from the Habsburg era with the radical-right, fascistic direction in which the Ustashe intended to take their revolution. To date, there has been no systematic study of this imperial influence, its preponderance in the Ustasha movement, and the complex entanglement between two political and cultural visions of the past and of the future that this entailed. Such a study is of crucial importance for understanding the character and the evolution of the radical right in interwar Central Europe. Moreover, it is crucial for understanding the fraught relationship between conservatism and fascism throughout the continent at this time.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Our research is aligned with two areas of research strengths highlighted in the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28: Heritage, Culture and Language; and Society and Public Policy. It is also aimed at enabling international engagement and mobility, in line with the university's commitment to internationalisation.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Dr Alison FitzGerald
Supervisor Email: Alison.FitzGerald@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

History of visual and material culture (eighteenth and early nineteenth century)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

History of collecting; history of leisure (notably exhibitions in their broadest range); history of retailing; history of silver; history of spectacle; urban history

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas align most closely with the Heritage, Culture and Language beacon as defined in MU's Strategic Plan, 2023-28. My research examines Irish material culture of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in the context of developments in Britain and the wider world. I have particular expertise in the history of art and design, that informs my research on the history of Irish silver, as well as on the history of collecting, exhibitions and spectacle.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Dr Jennifer Redmond
Supervisor Email: Jennifer.Redmond@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Gender in modern Ireland and Europe, identity, citizenship, women's work, wartime, migration

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests lie in the realm of social history, with a strong focus on how gender has been experienced in different historical eras and I welcome postgraduate students interested in modern Irish and European history who take this as their core approach. My expertise in women's work, gender roles, women's experiences of the First and Second World wars, oral histories, migration in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, motherhood, sexuality, digital humanities, community groups, professional organisations, identity, demography, statistics, masculinities, and identity documentation are all areas I would be happy to supervise in. I have a deep interest in illuminating the history of those previously thought unimportant but who nevertheless have important lessons for us to learn from and whose experiences, while marginalised, are vital to understanding the development of modern societies. In line with the COST Action I chair, HIDDEN: The History of Identity Documentation in European Nations, I welcome studies that involve new research on identity regimes across Europe that regulate citizenship, identity and migration.

Studies that examine the intersections of historical legal and political analyses of different time periods and a deep engagement with different kinds of source materials are welcomed. Interdisciplinary and intersectional studies and a productive engagement with theories of gender and sexuality are encouraged.

I can offer expertise in designing studies that employ qualitative and quantitative methodologies with specific emphasis on ethical approaches to historical research, especially when researching sensitive topics. I also have expertise in creating historical digital projects that I would encourage students to engage in as part of their postgraduate studies. I would like to supervise historical research that incorporates case studies, comparative analyses and histories that bring to light under-researched areas of women, gender and identity in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Research projects I propose to supervise reflect core themes within Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and will advance our commitment in the current Maynooth University Strategic Plan to secure the Institutional Athena Swan Silver Award by 2026. As I am the department EDI representative to my faculty, I am involved in the Arts and Humanities effort to secure a renewal of our Bronze award and this, along with my internationally recognised expertise in

intersectionality, identity and gender, makes me ideally placed to supervise in this area and lead in alignment with the EDI goals of the University.

One of MU's five year-goal's, is to 'improve research outputs and impacts' and to 'position MU among global leaders in our selected beacons of research excellence.' I am a member of the Arts and Humanities Intersectionality research cluster and already involved in research, publication and collaboration inside and outside the university in EDI areas. I am also a member of the Motherhood Project at Maynooth University with experience in international collaboration including training for early career researchers in ethics and approaches to historical research through the lens of gender.

Finally, the Strategic Plan makes reference to expanding internationalisation, and fostering strong engagement and partnerships which I have done through my COST Action and will continue to do beyond its conclusion in October 2026. Students supervised by me will have access to a network of c.200 European scholars in the HIDDEN: History of Identity Documentation in European Nations COST Action

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Dr Ciaran Reilly
Supervisor Email: Ciaran.J.Reilly@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

19th & 20th Century Irish history- Landed Estates, Country Houses and the Great Famine

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am an historian of nineteenth and early twentieth century Irish history specialising in the study of Irish landed estates, country houses and the Great Famine. My research encompasses various aspects of Irish history, particularly related to land management, social class dynamics during the Famine, and the historical significance of country houses in Ireland. As Assistant Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses & Estates, I am also interested in the history of country houses more broadly and the role they continue to play in Irish society today. Having published widely on the history of the Great Famine, I am interested in examining the ways in which various sections of society interacted with each other during the Great Famine and how it played out at a local level. These issues centre on class, land ownership and occupation, and conflict. I also teach and research aspects of Ireland's sporting history, with a particular interest in the role of the Gaelic Athletic Association in modern Irish society. I would be willing to supervise potential applicants whose research relates to the areas mentioned above.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas align with the Heritage, Culture and Language and Society and Public Policy beacons as set out in MU's Strategic Plan, 2023-28.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: History
Supervisor: Dr Michael L Potterton
Supervisor Email: Michael.L.Potterton@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Medieval settlement and society in Ireland: archaeology, history, Middle Ages, urban, rural, hinterlands

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am open to supervising PhD students interested in the history and archaeology of medieval Ireland, with particular emphasis on landscape and settlement studies. My research explores the development of urban and rural communities, their interconnections and the role of hinterlands in shaping medieval society. I welcome projects that adopt interdisciplinary approaches, integrating historical, archaeological, architectural and palaeo-environmental evidence.

My work on medieval Trim (Co. Meath) and on the Dublin hinterland exemplifies this methodology, combining documentary sources, excavation data and architectural analysis to reveal the dynamics of settlement development. My involvement in major research projects demonstrates a commitment to collaborative, multi-scalar studies of settlement patterns and social structures.

I am particularly interested in supervising theses that focus on:

- Urban and rural interactions in medieval Ireland
- The role of hinterlands in economic and social networks
- Comparative studies of Irish medieval settlements in a European context
- Connections between Ireland and the wider medieval world
- Local History

In addition to academic research, I have extensive experience in field archaeology, working with students on excavations at sites such as Moynagh Lough and Tulsk. I maintain strong connections with heritage organisations and publishing, providing students with opportunities to engage with public history and research dissemination.

I welcome proposals from students with backgrounds in history, archaeology, historical geography or related disciplines, particularly those interested in interdisciplinary research on medieval settlement and society.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research in medieval Irish history and archaeology aligns closely with the research strengths highlighted in Maynooth University's Strategic Plan 2023–8, particularly in the following areas:

1. Heritage, Culture and Society

My interdisciplinary approach to medieval settlement and society contributes directly to Maynooth University's strength in historical and cultural research. By integrating archaeology, history and landscape studies, my work enhances our understanding of Ireland's medieval past and its relevance to contemporary heritage and identity.

2. Spatial and Environmental Research

My research on the interactions between urban, rural and hinterland settlements aligns with the University's expertise in spatial and environmental studies. Through archaeological and geographical methods, including landscape analysis and digital mapping, I contribute to the University's commitment to cutting-edge spatial research.

3. Digital and Interdisciplinary Humanities

My use of digital and spatial technologies in medieval settlement studies reflects Maynooth's research focus on digital humanities. I am committed to developing and applying innovative methodologies for historical and archaeological research, aligning with the University's goal of advancing interdisciplinary approaches.

4. Public Engagement and Research Impact

Through collaborations with heritage bodies, public lectures and conference organisation, I actively engage in research that has a meaningful impact beyond academia. My work supports the University's emphasis on fostering research that influences public understanding and policy in cultural heritage and preservation.

END

Department of Media Studies

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Media Studies
Supervisor: Dr Sarah Arnold
Supervisor Email: sarah.arnold@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

General areas of Media Studies; Film Studies; Creative Industries

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests focus on media studies, with an emphasis on film and television history, gender representation, and archival research. My research examines the role and the work of women in film and television industries, and I have worked with project partners such as the Irish Film Institute Irish Film Archive and the Kerry Writers' Museum on projects related to film archiving and the archiving of women's film work. I examine historical and contemporary media industries, particularly through a feminist lens, examining women's work in early television production, the experience of mothers in media work, and issues relating to EDI.

My work is often concerned with media labor, including research on the gendered experiences in creative industries and media graduates' career pathways. I have co-authored Media Graduates at Work: Irish Narratives on Policy, Education and Industry with Anne O'Brien and Páraic Kerrigan, which looks at challenges faced by media graduates entering media work.

I welcome proposed projects in areas related to the general areas of creative industries; gender and media; media representation; motherhood and media work. I am also open to projects adjacent to these areas.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

It is concerned with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Media Studies
Supervisor: Dr Lorena Caminhas
Supervisor Email: lorenarubia.pereirac@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Cultural production and creative work, digital labour, digital platforms and artificial intelligence, platform governance and content moderation, intersectionality, Global South contexts

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I welcome applications exploring cultural production and creative work within digital platforms, engaging with key debates on platformisation, digital labour and platform governance. As digital platforms reshape how cultural content is produced, distributed, and monetised, I am particularly interested in projects that critically examine these transformations, including how they impact creative autonomy, professional identities, and the broader political economy of digital media. Research that investigates emerging labour practices, precarity and new forms of value extraction within platformed creative industries is highly encouraged.

Projects focusing on Global South contexts are particularly welcome, especially those that expand the frames of reference for understanding the relationship between cultural production and digital platforms. Digital platform research has often been dominated by perspectives from the Global North, overlooking how different regulatory, economic and sociocultural conditions shape creative work in diverse settings. I am keen to supervise research that examines alternative models of platform governance, regional policy responses, and the ways in which Global South creators navigate challenges such as algorithmic visibility, content monetisation and labour exploitation.

With the rapid integration of generative artificial intelligence (AI) into cultural production—especially within digital platforms—I am also interested in projects that explore the ethical and social implications of AI's growing role in creative work. This includes questions about the displacement of human labour, shifts in artistic and editorial decision-making, biases in algorithmic content curation, and emerging regulatory frameworks for AI-generated content.

Broadly, I invite research that engages with issues of work and employment relations, fair work, regulation and governance, innovation and creative freedom, and intersectional perspectives on diversity and inequality in digital cultural production. Projects that incorporate interdisciplinary approaches, policy analysis and critical perspectives on technology and labour are particularly encouraged.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area aligns closely with the university's strategic plan on multiple levels. It contributes to internationalisation by centring Global South perspectives, expanding the geographical and theoretical scope of digital platform studies. It also advances equity, diversity, and inclusion by addressing intersectionality and examining how differences and inequalities shape cultural production and digital labour.

Additionally, it engages deeply with digital transformation, critically exploring the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies in reshaping creative work, governance and labour dynamics. By focusing on the governance of digital platforms and AI, my research area also connects with broader discussions on public policy, regulation and the ethical implications of technological change.

Through these focal points, my research area not only aligns with the university's priorities but also contributes to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, global engagement and socially responsible approaches to digital innovation.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Media Studies
Supervisor: Dr Phaedra Shanbaum
Supervisor Email: phaedra.shanbaum@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Aesthetic explorations of new and experimental technologies (i.e., art and technology).

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Phaedra is an assistant professor in the media studies department at Maynooth University. Her research is interdisciplinary, drawing on media and cultural criticism and theory, art history and computer science (HCI). She links theory and criticism around these topics to contemporary digital media arts practices – specifically interactive and immersive environments and digital performance art – exploring questions around the ever-changing relationship between the body and technology. In doing so, she asks questions around what a body is and what it could potentially become when rethought, in productive ways, through and with technology. She is the author of two books on this topic: "Interfaces and Interactive New Media Installations" (Routledge, 2019) and "Aesthetics, Gender and Disability in New Media Art" (Routledge, 2024). She can supervise students in the following areas: digital art and the Anthropocene; art and technology; digital aesthetics (theory, practice and hybrid methodologies); philosophy, technology and fine art; cultural theory and criticism; media theory and criticism; interface theory, politics and design; implants and the body; interdisciplinary aesthetics; aesthetic theory (contemporary and historical); artificial intelligence and art; theory of the body and technology; gender theory and technology; queer theory and technology.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area aligns with the areas or research strategy highlighted in the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 in the following ways:

1. Data and Digital Transformation:

A. critical examination of the use of data and AI in art practice.

B. commitment to widening participation of women in the art and technology domain (or STEAM).

C. critical exploration of aesthetic and socio-cultural aspects of the interface (theory, politics and design).

2. Health and Wellbeing:

A. critical exploration of the implant as both, a medicalized technology of power & control and as an interface between the body and society.

3. Heritage, Culture and Language:

A. commitment to creating and sustaining a critical media and cultural theory community through theory and practice.

4. Sustainability and Climate Change

A. critical examination of how aesthetics and other artistic interventions help us understand the Anthropocene.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Media Studies
Supervisor: Prof Anna Hickey-Moody
Supervisor Email: Anna.hickeymoody@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Carbon cultures and futures, youth cultures, contemporary Irish cultural studies, queer cultures, creative industries, Deleuze and Guattari

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Professor Anna Hickey-Moody is an intersectional feminist scholar. Her research focuses on understanding youth cultures, particularly in relation to intersectionality, gender, sex, race, disability, class and religion.

WORK WITH ANNA ON YOUTH & INTERSECTIONALITY:

Her current research examines how Ireland's transition into a low carbon economy will have a range of impacts on young people's social, economic and environmental futures. These impacts will be very different for young people and communities living in different parts of the island. It is essential that we listen to many different perspectives from young people on this issue, not just the loudest ones who make the headlines. This project is about starting new conversations by sharing young people's stories about carbon in their everyday lives.

WORK WITH ANNA ON RELIGION & QUEER IDENTITY:

Anna also leads a project on religion and sexuality that is designed to understand the knowledges and practices about sexuality and religion that form the everyday worlds of young people who are religious. This will provide significant new knowledge about a key time in the development of a young person's identity via a nationwide, deep yet comparative approach.

WORK WITH ANNA ON CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PRACTICE BASED LEARNING:

Anna is part of an industry Linkage Project called "Vital Arts" through which the skills and experiences of young people in arts programs will be captured and accredited in collaboration with Clock Your Skills.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Anna Hickey-Moody's research areas align closely with the Heritage, Culture and Language Research Beacon and the Maynooth University Strategic Plan, particularly in terms of fostering an inclusive, innovative, and community-oriented approach to education and research.

1. Youth and Intersectionality: Heritage, Culture and Language

Cultural Diversity and Identity Formation: Hickey-Moody's examination of how Ireland's transition to a low-carbon economy impacts different young people highlights the importance of understanding cultural and social identities. By focusing on the varied experiences of youth from different backgrounds, her research contributes to a broader understanding of how culture, language, and identity intersect in shaping individuals' perspectives and futures.

Amplifying Marginalized Voices: Her commitment to listening to diverse perspectives from young people aligns with the university's goal of promoting inclusivity in cultural discourse. By prioritizing the stories of those who are often overlooked, her work enriches the cultural narrative and fosters a deeper understanding of identity in contemporary society.

2. Religion and Queer Identity: Heritage, Culture and Language

Exploration of Cultural Practices: Anna's project on religion and sexuality investigates the everyday experiences of young people navigating their identities within religious contexts. This research contributes to the understanding of how cultural beliefs and practices shape individual and collective identities, aligning with the university's focus on the complex interplay between culture and identity. **Intersectionality in Identity Development:** By addressing the intersections of religion, sexuality, and youth identity, her work provides valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of identity formation. This aligns with Maynooth University's commitment to exploring the diverse ways culture influences personal and social identities.

3. Creative Industries Practice-Based Learning: Heritage, Culture and Language

Cultural Expression and Identity: The "Vital Arts" project, which captures the skills and experiences of young people in arts programs, emphasizes the role of creative industries in expressing and shaping cultural identities. This aligns with the university's focus on understanding how culture and language influence identity and societal dynamics. **Collaboration and Community Engagement:** By collaborating with organizations like Clock Your Skills, Hickey-Moody's research fosters community connections and highlights the importance of cultural expression in professional development. This resonates with the university's strategic goals of engaging with cultural communities and enhancing the cultural landscape. Anna Hickey-Moody's research significantly contributes to the understanding of culture, language, and identity through its focus on youth, intersectionality, and the interplay of various sociocultural factors. Her work aligns seamlessly with Maynooth University's research beacon, fostering a deeper understanding of how these elements shape individual and collective identities in contemporary society.

END

Department of Music

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Dr Ryan Molloy
Supervisor Email: ryan.molloy@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Composing boundaries – practice-based research across creative interfaces (composition and/or performance)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in supervising interfacial creative research comprising practice-based portfolios. The primary areas of exploration are composition and/or performance (or music creation more broadly conceived). I am particularly interested in projects that engage with Irish traditional music and contemporary classical music, and in particular the confluence of the two. I have experience in supervising and examining practice-based research across a broad range of creative interfaces. I am also interested in Irish 'art music' from the late twentieth century to the present; Irish traditional music and its development in the late Twentieth Century; accompanimental practices in Irish traditional music; orchestration and arrangement in Irish traditional music; innovation in Irish traditional music; postmodern nationalist aesthetics in Irish art music; and microinterval modality in older Irish traditional music.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This project falls primarily under the strategic research beacon of 'Heritage, Culture and Language' but also transcends into other beacon areas such as society and wellbeing; at its very core, the project is interdisciplinary and intersectional. The potential for project to develop new musical knowledge has the scope to impact a broad range of communities of practice, from local level music-making and amateur involvement, to wider, national organisations such as archives, orchestras, broadcasters, record labels, and educational institutions. The project also aligns itself with governmental goals such as the promotion and fostering of Irish traditional music and language. The personal focus of creative projects allows individual researchers to tackle issues of equality, diversity and inclusion. These outcomes, intended or concomitant, tangible or otherwise, are all linked to the ethos and goals of the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Prof Victor Lazzarini
Supervisor Email: Victor.Lazzarini@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Sound and Music Computing

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Sound and Music Computing is the Association for Computing Machinery-designated area for research into all topics relating to music computation - from audio/music signal processing to computer-assisted composition, machine listening, domain specific programming languages for music, embedded computing, etc. Our research in Maynooth is particularly focused on music programming languages, high-performance computing for audio, musical signal processing, and ubiquitous music.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Our research is at the forefront of creative technologies. We are the leaders in Ireland in our research areas, and we have a very significant international footprint. We are the developers of software used by thousands worldwide, and our work has been placed in well-established international journals and publishers.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Prof Alison Hood
Supervisor Email: alison.hood@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Analysis and Performance of 19th-century Piano Music

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Music analysis and performance

Nineteenth-century piano music

Pianism and gesture

Chopin

Cello repertoire

Music education

Pedagogy (particularly student engagement and assessment)

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research aligns with the Maynooth University research beacon of Heritage, Culture and Language. My disciplinary research is focused on music analysis and performance, particularly in relation to piano repertoire from the nineteenth century. This scholarship has resulted in publications and presentations exploring the interpretation of Chopin within the frameworks of performance and analysis. Articles arising from this research have been published in many peer reviewed journals and my monograph *Interpreting Chopin: Analysis and Performance* was published by Routledge. I am a pianist and cellist, and I released a solo album featuring the music of the Irish 19th-century pianist composer, John Field with RCA Victor (BMG Classics). In addition, I have built up research expertise in large group pedagogies, student engagement, and the assessment process and I have presented and published the results of this research. My current research is interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on performance and performative analysis and the opportunities that can emerge when Music as a discipline interacts with other parts of the Academy (recent projects include one with Business and one with Computer Science). I co-convened the research cluster 'Performance, Practice, & Interactivity'.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Dr Adrian Scahill
Supervisor Email: adrian.scahill@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Music in Ireland.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Any research on Irish traditional or folk music. Any historical, ethnographic, or cultural/sociological research on music in Ireland from the seventeenth century to the present day.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Research into the rich traditions of music in Ireland will contribute to the area of Heritage, Culture and Language.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Dr Gordon Delap
Supervisor Email: gordon.delap@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Audiovisual and Electroacoustic Art

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Interested in supervising practice-based research, especially in videomusic, audiovisual music, electroacoustic music, spatial audio in a creative context.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Aligns with Heritage, Culture and Language.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Dr Estelle Murphy
Supervisor Email: estelle.murphy@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Music; Popular music; Heavy Metal

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in working with students in a variety of areas relating to seventeenth- and eighteenth-century music. I am also available to work on theses relating to popular music (especially Heavy Metal).

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research conducted under my supervision aligns with multiple areas of the strategic plan, depending on how the researcher disseminates and develops the thesis over time. The key areas hit are: Data and Digital Transformation (I have documented experience in developing open-access music databases); Heritage, Culture and Language (this is self-explanatory in relation to music, as a key cultural expression of identity and heritage); Society and Public Policy (musical activism - especially in popular music - is well established and depending on the project this beacon is applicable).

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Dr Laura Watson
Supervisor Email: laura.watson@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Women and music; feminism and music; popular music and gender;

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am willing to accept PhD applications from students intending to pursue musicological research into women/feminism and music in the 20th or 21st centuries. I have particular expertise and current interests in the fields of popular music; in Western art music and Ireland; in popular music and Ireland.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area aligns with Maynooth University's Strategic Plan specifically through its concern with EDI.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Prof Fiona M. Palmer
Supervisor Email: fiona.palmer@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Socio-economic history of music/the music business in Britain (1780s–1920s)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am a performer, cultural historian and musicologist interested in supervising projects related to the socio-economic history of music/the music business in Britain (1780s–1920s). Possible focal areas include:

- *Conducting/conductors/the conducting profession
- *Biography and lifewriting (including career trajectories, image-making and influence)
- *Institutional histories
- *Music criticism
- *Orchestras and choral societies
- *Performance practice including music publishing

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research area contributes to the Strategic Plan's (2023–28) Research Beacon—'Heritage, Culture and Languages'. Its illumination of music and musicians in the marketplace contributes to uncovering the culture and commerce of the British music profession by engaging with issues including career trajectories, professionalization, networking, reception, and performance practice.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Prof Christopher Morris
Supervisor Email: christopher.morris@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Screen Mediation and the Performing Arts

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My recently published book *_Screening the Operatic Stage: Television and Beyond_* (Chicago University Press, 2024) is the only book-length study to consider a rich but under-researched history that began with the early days of television broadcasts and continues with today's livestreams. Multi-camera production, a set of production practices familiar from television sports, has transmitted live performances from the opera house into living rooms, onto desktops and portable devices, and across networks of cinemas. Researchers have begun to investigate developments in other artforms: theatre, ballet and concert music have been captured with the same technologies and practices, often by the same production personnel. What is missing is an integrated approach that considers the overlaps in the screen mediation of these artforms and draws their associated research fields into interdisciplinary dialogue. Drawing on methodologies in the fields of music studies, media studies, theatre studies and performance studies, 'Multi-Camera Production and the Performing Arts' on the findings of *_Screening the Operatic Stage_* to investigate the history, aesthetics, societal impact and potential future of multi-camera production across the performing arts.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

'Screen Mediation and the Performing Arts' aligns with three research strengths highlighted in Maynooth University's Strategic Plan 2023-28.

1. Heritage, Culture and Languages. As a means of disseminating and preserving but also transforming established cultural forms, the screen mediation of live performance invites interdisciplinary humanities research into the creative industries and applied humanities; media industries and digital technologies; and cultural heritage.
2. Data Science and Digital Transformation. Now exclusively captured, encoded, stored, transmitted and consumed via digital technologies, the screen mediation of live performance marks one of the key sites of digital transformation of cultural production and consumption.
3. Society and Public Policy. The screen mediation of live production is repeatedly promoted as a means of addressing cultural, geographical and economic barriers to access to the performing arts. At the same time, the 'digital divide' (the inequalities in access to digital technologies) threatens to erect new barriers. In short, research into the screen mediation of live performance raises pivotal questions about knowledge, pleasure and inclusivity in societal transformation.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Music
Supervisor: Prof Karen Desmond
Supervisor Email: karen.desmond@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Medieval Music (notation, theory, polyphony and plainchant, manuscripts, digital approaches)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I welcome inquiries from prospective PhD students interested in working on any aspect of medieval music, music notation, or digital musicology. I specialize in 13th- and 14th-century music. I'm interested in the aesthetics, theories, and technologies, including developments in music notation, that underpinned medieval music-making. I'm currently the Principal Investigator for a five-year ERC Consolidator grant project titled BROKENSONG (2023-8) that examines polyphonic singing and written culture in late medieval Britain and Ireland. I've also worked extensively on the expansion of fourteenth-century music notation systems in France during a period known as the ars nova, and on digital musicological approaches to medieval music.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area is at the intersection of two of the university's beacons of research excellence: Data and Digital Transformation and Heritage, Culture and Language. I am also affiliated with Maynooth's Arts and Humanities Institute and the the research cluster 'Mind and Material in the Middle Ages', which fosters interdisciplinary research on the Middle Ages, with a particular focus on Irish cultural heritage and digital humanities.

END

Department of Philosophy

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Philosophy
Supervisor: Dr Mette Lebech
Supervisor Email: mette.lebech@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Understanding Time With Edith Stein

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Edith Stein's understanding of time has not yet received sustained attention from scholars. This is surprising given its significance not only for its critique of Husserl's and Heidegger's understanding of time, but also for its equally important suggestion of a possible alignment between phenomenology and classical metaphysics that can be both receptive to and critical of contemporary understandings of the relationship between time and space (e.g., Einstein's theory of relativity).

Recently researchers have suggested that Stein's entire work is encompassed by a philosophy of history that spans from her early work on the philosophy of the humanities and the social sciences to her late work on time, rooting the latter in both an existential, a social, a theological and a cosmic dimension. Compared to both Heidegger's attempt to understand time as a key to being (Dasein) and Levinas' response that in contrast claims time to be opened up by 'the Other,' Stein's understanding – inspired also by Hedwig Conrad Martius and Erich Przywara – takes its point of departure in the experience of the I, which is not all it wants to be and thus 'falls apart' in a temporal dimension and a non-temporal horizon, 'making space' for time, personal unfolding, history, and cosmic completion.

To further the understanding of Stein's contribution to both Phenomenology and the modern interpretation of Platonic Aristotelianism, research into her understanding of time is required, which can situate it in relation to other concepts of time, such as those of Hegel and Whitehead. This is of importance not only for the philosophy of time and history, for fundamental theology, and for the understanding of the relationship between classical and modern philosophy, but also for physics in so far as it makes sense to insist on an intuitable focus point for the mathematization of time which is perspectival with subjectivity.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The proposed research aligns with Maynooth University's Strategic Plan's fourth beacon – Heritage, Culture and Languages – in that its subsection 'Interdisciplinary Humanities' involves 'Philosophy' as 'an active process of engagement with fundamental questions pertaining to our participation in shared human experience.' Stein's work on time is an excellent example of how 'from the foundations of Western thinking to contemporary issues, [philosophers'] work explores how the historical interpenetration of ancient texts with new and emerging ideas, perspectives, and material conditions laid the groundwork for the development of 20th Century European thought, and the possibilities of our future' (from the Webpage dedicated to Research Beacons on the University's Website). Since the theories criticised by Stein (Husserl and Heidegger) are also characterised by a certain incompatibility and inapplicability in both the

natural and the social sciences, exploring Stein's understanding of time can not only contribute to gain ground in interdisciplinarity between humanistic disciplines such as Classics, Philosophy and History, but it also has a potential for significant impact in and through a more profound interdisciplinarity, namely that between the natural, the human, and the social sciences.

Depending on a potentially successful applicant having an interest in pursuing themes that require expertise in physics, theology, or history, additional members of the supervisory team will be sought.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Philosophy
Supervisor: Dr Susan Gottlöber
Supervisor Email: susan.gottlober@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Philosophy of human nature (philosophical anthropology), personhood, and philosophy of toleration

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am accepting research proposals in two areas:

1. Philosophy of Human Nature (Philosophical Anthropology) – I particularly welcome proposals focusing on Max Scheler’s work and thought. Research exploring the intersections of philosophical anthropology with value theory, intersubjectivity, and personhood is encouraged, as well as studies examining the relationship between human nature, non-human animals, and technology. Additionally, I invite proposals that engage with the contemporary relevance of philosophical anthropology and Scheler’s ideas, especially in debates on non-human personhood, artificial intelligence, and artificial consciousness.

2. Philosophy of Toleration – I am open to proposals that examine the historical development of toleration, theoretical analyses of the concept as developed by specific thinkers or within particular contexts, and broader studies of its underlying theoretical framework. I also welcome applied research exploring the practical implications of toleration, including its strengths and limitations in addressing contemporary political and social challenges.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

1. Heritage, Culture, and Languages Beacon – Interdisciplinary Humanities (Intersectionality and Philosophy)

Both research areas engage with intersectionality by exploring how identity—shaped by class, ethnicity, disability, religion, gender, etc.—interacts with and is shaped by cultural and philosophical traditions. Philosophical Anthropology examines how human nature and personhood, and discussions on non-human personhood and AI, are embedded in historical and material conditions. Philosophy of Toleration investigates how power dynamics shape inclusion, exclusion, and pluralism, critically assessing the limits of acceptance in diverse societies, and exploring the underlying theoretical frameworks and values.

Both engage with fundamental philosophical questions about human experience. Philosophical Anthropology explores evolving ideas of humanity, ethics, and consciousness, particularly through Scheler’s work. Philosophy of Toleration traces historical and contemporary debates on coexistence, justice, and pluralism. By examining the intellectual development of these concepts, both areas contribute to broader discussions on identity, ethics, and societal change.

2. Society and Public Policy – Social Transformation

Philosophy of Toleration examines how toleration influences society and public policy, shaping legal frameworks, governance, and civic life. It explores its role in managing social transformation, addressing issues of inclusion, pluralism, and power dynamics, while assessing its effectiveness in responding to contemporary political, cultural, and economic challenges.

END

School of Celtic Studies

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Celtic Studies - Early Irish (Sean-Ghaeilge)
Supervisor: Prof David Stifter
Supervisor Email: David.Stifter@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Old Irish linguistics and textual philology, comparative Celtic linguistics, Continental Celtic

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research focuses on the grammatical description of Early Irish (Old and Middle Irish) and its textual philology (editing of Old Irish texts), including the language of ogam inscriptions. Furthermore, I have an interest in the comparative study of the Celtic languages and their etymology before the background of Indo-European linguistics. Finally, my scholarship also encompasses the ancient Celtic languages of the Continent (Leponitic, Gaulish and Celtiberian).

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research into the language of medieval Ireland aligns with the beacon "Language, Culture and Heritage". My application of Digital Humanities methods to my areas of research, in particular the development of digital tools for Old Irish and the ancient Celtic languages, aligns with the planned Digital Transformation of the University.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Celtic Studies - Early Irish (Sean-Ghaeilge)
Supervisor: Dr Elizabeth Boyle
Supervisor Email: elizabeth.boyle@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Medieval Irish literary and cultural history

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am willing to accept applicants working in all areas of medieval Irish literary and cultural history. I particularly welcome students with a focus on religion, gender and sexuality, literary theory, medieval law and ethics, and/or translation. The focus of research should be in the period from c. 600 - 1200 CE, and based on the study of primary sources in Old or Middle Irish and/or Latin.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research falls within the "Heritage, Culture and Languages" research beacon, drawing on multiple research strengths within that beacon, including "languages and linguistics" (specifically the Irish language, through the examination of medieval Irish sources in their original language), and "interdisciplinary humanities". Within the "interdisciplinary humanities" strand, through the examination of aspects of identity, gender and sexuality in medieval Ireland, my research area includes consideration of "intersectionality". My research in areas of medieval Irish law, ethics and religion also align with research strengths in "philosophy". All of my research supervision falls within the strength in "research on the human past".

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Celtic Studies - Early Irish (Sean-Ghaeilge)
Supervisor: Prof Deborah Hayden
Supervisor Email: deborah.hayden@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Medieval Irish language, literature and history; Medieval medicine; Manuscript studies

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I welcome prospective PhD students interested in working on medieval Irish and Latin literary culture and intellectual history broadly conceived, particularly subjects relating to premodern medicine and medieval systems of healing; the history linguistics and education; law and legal texts; translation literature; manuscript culture; and classical reception. I am happy to supervise students interested in editing and translating primary source-texts, especially medical material.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research on medieval Irish language, literature and history, as well as my co-leadership of the Research Cluster 'Mind and Material in the Middle Ages' in the Maynooth Arts and Humanities Institute, align strongly with the 'Heritage, Culture and Language' research beacon. I have also been involved in several digital humanities projects that contribute to the 'Data and Digital Transformations' theme, including the currently ongoing projects LEIGHEAS: Language, Education and Medical Learning in the Premodern Gaelic World (<https://leigheas.maynoothuniversity.ie>) and OG(H)AM: Harnessing Digital Technologies to Transform Understanding of Ogham Writing, from the 4th century to the 21st (<https://ogham.glasgow.ac.uk>). I have a strong commitment to community engagement in the field of Celtic Studies, e.g. through my work on the Impact and Engagement project Ogham Palaeography+, as part of which I am working with the independent artist Thomas Keyes (<https://scribalstyles.net>) and the children's book illustrator Chris Judge (www.chrisjudge.com).

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Celtic Studies - Modern Irish (Nua-Ghaeilge)
Supervisor: Dr Lára Ní Mhaoláin
Supervisor Email: laura.a.malone@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Athléamh ar an scéalaíocht dúchais trí lionsaí nua-aimseartha

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Cé go bhfuil go leor oibre déanta ag scoláirí thar na blianta i ngort na Scéalaíochta Dúchais agus an traidisiúin béil, tá fíorbheagán taighde déanta trí na lionsaí nua-aimseartha teoirice – staidéar inscní, staidéar éiceolaíochta agus staidéar creidimh ina measc. Tabharfaidh an mac léinn faoi scéalta ar leith, scéalta a bhaineann leis an traidisiún scríofa agus béil araon, a mheas trí na lionsaí seo. D'fhéadfaí breathnú, mar shampla, ar Táin Bó Flíodhaise agus ar Laoi Oisín id Tír na nÓg agus ar léiriú na mbaineannachtaí iontu agus iad sin a chur i gcomparáid le léiriú na bhfireannachtaí in leithéidí Clann Lir agus Cath Maige Tuired. Tá áit an dúlra agus ceist na héiceolaíochta go láidir sna scéalta céanna agus téama na heascaiteolaíochta in CMT agus TBF go háirithe.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Tá 'Oidhreacht, Cultúr agus Teanga' i measc lóchrainn an Phlean Straitéisigh agus níl amhras ar bith faoi ach go mbeadh an tionscnamh seo ag teacht go mór leis an gcuid seo den phlean agus é ag díriú ar chultúr agus oidhreacht na tíre agus súil á chaitheamh ar an traidisiún béil i gcomhthéacs na scéalaíochta dúchais, mar aon leis an traidisiún scríofa, agus an Ghaeilge ag croílár an tionscnaimh.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Celtic Studies - Modern Irish (Nua-Ghaeilge)
Supervisor: Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh
Supervisor Email: tracey.nimhaonaigh@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Euclid's Elements agus an Ghaeilge

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Is téacs matamaitice é Euclid's Elements ón tSean-Ghréig agus is é an téacs matamaitice is tábhachtaí a scríobhadh riamh. Tá tábhacht ar leith ag baint leis i léann na geoiméadrachta. Tá sé ar fáil i mbreis agus fiche teanga timpeall an domhain, agus tá leaganacha go fóil ag teacht amach i dteangacha nua. Ó thaobh na Gaeilge de, réitigh Eoghan Ó Neachtain dhá eagrán, in 1908 agus 1913 faoi seach, ach níor chloígh sé go dlúth leis an mbuntéacs. D'aistrigh an tAthair Peadar Ó Laoghaire cuid den chéad leabhar go Gaeilge, agus is aistriúchán eile ar fad a rinne seisean. Trí chuid a bheidh i gceist leis an tionscnamh seo, mar sin: 1) suirbhé de na leaganacha éagsúla den téacs mar aon le tochailt cheart chun a chinntiú nach ann do leaganacha eile Gaeilge; 2) aistriúchán Gaeilge a chur ar fáil de na chéad sé chaibidil; 3) staidéar cuimsitheach téarmaolaíochta ar theanga na geoiméadrachta agus na matamaitice sa Ghaeilge. Faoi dheireadh an tionscnaimh, beidh cuid den téacsleabhar geoiméadrachta is fearr curtha ar fáil do lucht teagaisc na matamaitice, mar aon le liosta cuimsitheach de théarmaí cuí teicniúla a chuirfidh go mór le léann na matamaitice trí mheán na Gaeilge.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Tá 'Oidhreacht, Cultúr agus Teanga' i measc lóchrainn an Phlean Straitéisigh agus níl amhras ar bith faoi ach go mbeadh an tionscnamh seo ag teacht go mór leis an gcuid seo den phlean agus é ag díriú ar easnamh mór i ngort oideolaíoch na Gaeilge a réiteach. Leagtar béim sa phlean ar 'thionchar dearfach' a imirt agus is cinnte go gcuirfeadh an tionscnamh seo go mór le léann na matamaitice agus go bhfáilteofaí roimh leagan Gaeilge den téacs geoiméadrachta is tábhachtaí dá bhfuil ann. Ar an ábhar sin, is tionscnamh é seo a bhaineann go dlúth le 'mic léinn agus an fhoghlaím' agus tharlódh go mbeadh ról nach beag aige i mbeartas poiblí amach anseo i dtaca le tacaíocht a chur ar fáil do theagasc na matamaitice ar an dara leibhéal agus do dhearadh téacsleabhar. Anuas air sin ar fad, is tionscnamh idirdhisciplíneach é seo a thabharfaidh le chéile saineolaithe ó dhá ghort éagsúla.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Celtic Studies - Modern Irish (Nua-Ghaeilge)
Supervisor: Dr Caitlín Níc Íomhair
Supervisor Email: Caitlin.Niclomhair@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Nualitríocht na Gaeilge - prós agus filíocht na linne, saothair neamhfhicsin scríbhneoirí liteartha.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Cuirim fáilte roimh aon iarratas ó mhac/iníon léinn atá ag súil le tabhairt faoi PhD i ngort na nualitríochta. I measc na n-ábhar a bhfuil géarghá acu le dianscrúdú tá:

- ceist an chreidimh i litríocht na linne
- inscne agus mar a shaobhtar í sa scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach
- géarchéim na suibhachta san aois dhigiteach
- an daonnacht agus an ghéarchéim
- stair na mbanscríbhneoirí
- múineadh na litríochta agus na litearthachta
- forbairt na critice nua-aoisí

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Baineann taighde sa ghort seo leis an sainréimse 'Oidhreacht, Cultúr agus Teanga'. Bheifí ag súil leis go mbainfeadh an mac / iníon léinn tairbhe as deiseanna idirdhisciplíneacha le ranna eile san ollscoil, cuir i gcás i dtaca le léann an chultúir agus na meán.

Tugtar aitheantas sonrach do thábhacht na Gaeilge, don taighde agus don ionchuimsitheacht sa Phlean Straitéiseach 2023-28. De bhrí gur mionteanga í an Ghaeilge, tá líon an-teoranta institiúidí inar féidir taighde den chineál seo a dhéanamh ach tá traidisiún seanbhunaithe ardléinn ag Ollscoil Mhá Nuad agus deis aici bheith

ar thús cadhnaíochta sa ghort dá réir.

END

School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literature and Cultures - French
Supervisor: Dr Loic Bourdeau
Supervisor Email: loic.bourdeau@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

French/Francophone cultural studies; medical humanities; queer and feminist studies; motherhood studies

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I welcome applicants whose research interests align with my expertise in Critical Medical Humanities, Francophone Studies, and/or Gender & Sexuality Studies. My work intersects literature, narrative medicine, and cultural studies, with a strong focus on care, health narratives, gender, and marginalization in French and Francophone cultures.

Potential research topics include, but are not limited to:

- Narrative Medicine and Health Humanities: The role of storytelling in healthcare, patient narratives, and the intersection of literature and medicine. My work on obstetric and gynecological violence and the #ENDOs project, an EU-funded initiative exploring the role of the arts in managing endometriosis and chronic pain, offers opportunities for interdisciplinary and impact-driven research.
- Motherhood Studies and Reproductive Justice: Representations of motherhood, pregnancy, and reproductive health in Francophone literature and media, with a focus on care, feminist health activism, and maternal narratives in cultural production.
- Francophone Studies and Cultural Production: Contemporary French and Francophone literature and cinema, particularly in relation to resilience, futurity, and post-pandemic cultural narratives.
- Queer and Feminist Perspectives in Literature and Film: Representation of gender, sexuality, and queerness in contemporary Francophone media.
- Decolonial and Diversity-focused Approaches: Francophone literatures from the Global South, Indigenous voices in Canada and the Caribbean, and decolonial methodologies in literary and cultural studies.

As co-president of the Francophone Association of Narrative Medicine and co-lead of the Arts and Humanities Critical Medical Humanities cluster at Maynooth University, I am committed to interdisciplinary, engaged, and creative-critical methodologies. Students will have opportunities to collaborate on international projects, connect with advocacy groups, and work on research that bridges literature, health, and social justice.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research aligns with several key pillars of Maynooth University's Strategic Plan 2023-28, particularly in its commitment to Interdisciplinary Research, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), and Societal Impact.

Health and Wellbeing: Through my work in narrative medicine and critical medical humanities, I contribute to interdisciplinary health-focused research, bridging humanities with healthcare advocacy. This aligns with Maynooth's emphasis on "interdisciplinary research for public good."

EDI and Social Justice: My focus on gender, sexuality, and marginalized voices in Francophone cultures aligns with the university's strategic commitment to inclusive and impactful research. My leadership in the Critical Medical Humanities cluster and engagement with international networks fosters equity and global collaboration.

Creative and Digital Innovation: My work in French and Francophone cinema, digital media, and storytelling resonates with Maynooth's priority to expand digital humanities and explore the role of the arts in contemporary global challenges.

Heritage and Language: My research in Francophone literatures, cultures, and multilingual narratives contributes to Maynooth's Heritage and Language beacon, fostering cross-cultural understanding, decolonial perspectives, and the role of language in identity and historical narratives. My engagement with Francophone studies, translation, and contemporary linguistic shifts strengthens the university's commitment to the preservation and evolution of cultural heritage.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Supervisor: Dr Yulia Kharchenko

Supervisor Email: yulia.kharchenko@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Applied linguistics, language teacher education, TESOL and EMI

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am willing to accept applicants with an interest and experience in applied linguistics, specifically those intending to research language teaching and learning; multilingual approaches in language teaching; language teacher education; TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages); ELT (English language teaching); EMI (English-medium instruction); EME (English-medium education). Other areas of interest include language policies in education, multilingualism, study abroad experiences, and intercultural competence development. Applicants with an interest in local and global issues of language teaching and learning are welcome to apply.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The global orientation of my research area aligns with the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28, in which internationalisation and research impact are key pillars. Growth in English language education (including TESOL, EMI, EME) is a continuing worldwide trend, and research in this area facilitates international engagement, mobility, and collaboration. Research in applied linguistics, TESOL and EMI addresses contemporary and future challenges in global education by advancing language pedagogy, educational policy and social advocacy. It aligns with Maynooth University's Society and Public Policy research excellence beacon and has global impact.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Supervisor: Prof Valerie Heffernan
Supervisor Email: valerie.heffernan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Contemporary Literary and Cultural Studies

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My current research focuses on cultural representation of mothers, mothering and motherhood. In recent years, my focus has been on representations of maternal regret. While I would be especially interested in supervising research projects that deal with these particular issues, I am happy to supervise projects in the broader areas of contemporary literatures, film and media. I am particularly open to supervising projects that consider how issues related to gender are represented in contemporary cultural products.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research falls under the research beacon on Heritage, Language and Culture. Within this research beacon, my research interests touch upon motherhoods, genders and sexualities, creative practice & embodied knowledges, and intersectional humanities.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures - Chinese
Supervisor: Dr Zhouxiang Lu
Supervisor Email: zhouxiang.lu@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Chinese Studies, history

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Chinese history, Chinese culture, Chinese society, identity, nationalism, cultural history, sport history

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research interests encompass nationalism, national identity, sports history, and cultural history, with a particular focus on China. This aligns with the internationalization policy outlined in the University's Strategic Plan 2023–28.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures - Spanish
Supervisor: Dr Ana de Prada Pérez
Supervisor Email: ana.depradaperez@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Crosslinguistic influence and/or codeswitching in bilingual speech (bilingualism, multilingualism, second language acquisition, third/Ln acquisition, crosslinguistic influence, codeswitching, variationist approaches, Spanish)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in supervising projects on the linguistic consequences of bilingualism, i.e., the linguistic outcomes of language contact, primarily at the morphosyntax level. Potential projects could include different types of bi- or multilingual speakers: people who acquired more than one language during their childhood or those who have acquired a subsequent language(s) later in life. There are two possible topics: crosslinguistic influence, or the changes in a language attributed to contact with another language, and codeswitching, or the use of both languages within a single speech act.

For projects on crosslinguistic influence, the focus should be on the analysis of at least one aspect of bilingual speech (e.g. subject pronoun expression, future-time expression) that may have undergone changes due to contact with another language, through data collection from participants using naturalistic data (e.g. interviews) or experimental data (Acceptability Judgment Task, elicited production task, etc).

For projects on codeswitching, the focus should be on the analysis of a linguistic aspect in one of both languages, through data collection from participants using naturalistic data (e.g. interviews) or experimental data (Acceptability Judgment Task, elicited production task, etc) and comparing monolingual and codeswitched sentences.

Variables pertaining to the speakers can also be examined, including the effect of experience (proficiency, study abroad experience, teaching method employed, engagement in virtual exchanges, etc), to explore their effect on bilingual speech.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Projects in this area can contribute to the Beacon of research excellence: Heritage, Culture and Language, by using quantitative methods to analyze bilingual speech in order to address current debates in the field. For example, there are intense debates about the selectivity of crosslinguistic influence (why some aspects of language seem to be more permeable to crosslinguistic influence than others), as well as the effects of the learner's experience in their second language acquisition (e.g. what aspects do learners who participate in virtual exchanges/study abroad opportunities with native speakers acquire better than those in a classroom context?). These projects would be well positioned to contribute to these by providing novel data that could test the predictions of different hypotheses/theories.

These projects can make important contributions to and beyond academia: Placing bilingual speech at the center of a project signals its normalcy, as it is worthy of academic inquiry. Adding diversity of data to linguistic theorizing, i.e., including data from speaker groups that are understudied, is essential better understand the nature of languages.

In addition to contribute to excellence in our areas of research strength, these projects can greatly contribute to the University's internationalization efforts, as language maintenance and acquisition favor international exchanges abroad and at home.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures - Spanish
Supervisor: Dr Janire Zalbidea
Supervisor Email: janire.zalbideabotran@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Applied linguistics, second language acquisition, bi/multilingualism, language teacher education (Spanish, English)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research agenda primarily focuses on second and heritage language acquisition, including key issues in communicative task-based language learning in the classroom and linguistic development in study abroad contexts. I welcome prospective doctoral students who are interested in broad interdisciplinary questions on these topics, such as ‘What instructional techniques are most effective for teaching/learning a language as an adult?’, ‘How do different second or heritage language skills develop over time?’, ‘How do international mobility experiences contribute to the development of multilingual proficiency and identity?’, or ‘How do students’ individual differences (e.g., multilingual experience, age) and contextual/instructional factors (e.g., teaching technique, feedback timing) interact to promote successful language learning outcomes?’.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Projects in this research area mainly align with Maynooth’s “Heritage, Culture and Languages” Beacon, particularly the “Languages and Linguistics” strength. Additionally, research on language students’ experiences in study abroad contexts promotes the university’s internationalisation efforts, which is a key goal of its Strategic Plan. Outcomes of the doctoral research will contribute to the advancement of language learning theory and pedagogy, help inform educational policy, and ultimately play a role in supporting equitable multilingualism in an increasingly globalised world.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures - Spanish
Supervisor: Dr Mercedes Carbayo Abengozar
Supervisor Email: mercedes.abengozar@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

HISPANIC CULTURAL STUDIES. Gender, class, literature, music, cinema, painting, graphic novels, television, feminism.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

The field of Hispanic Cultural Studies offers a dynamic and interdisciplinary framework for exploring the cultures, histories, and social dynamics of the Spanish-speaking world. I am particularly interested in accepting PhD applicants who are eager to investigate the intersections of gender, class, and feminism through diverse cultural forms such as literature, music, painting, cinema, graphic novels, and television within Hispanic contexts. Research in this area seeks to critically engage with how these media represent, challenge, and shape social identities, power structures, and historical narratives.

PhD students in this field have the opportunity to explore a wide range of topics, including the role of gender and class in literary traditions, the influence of feminist movements on contemporary Hispanic culture, and how music, painting, cinema, and graphic novels function as vehicles for political and social expression. Students may also examine the impact of key historical and cultural movements—such as post-colonialism and globalization—on the representation of gender and class in Hispanic media and cultural production.

A core focus of this research is the study of feminism in its multiple forms, with particular attention to how feminism intersects with race, class, and sexuality in Hispanic societies. This could involve the analysis of feminist literature, representations of women in popular culture, or the study of activism and social change in Latin America and Spain. By adopting a comparative approach across genres and media—including literature, music, painting, cinema, and graphic novels—students will be encouraged to develop a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the cultural landscape.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research area of Hispanic Cultural Studies aligns closely with the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28, particularly in the areas of Heritage, Culture and Language and Society and Public Policy. By examining the intersections of gender, class, and feminism through cultural forms such as literature, music, cinema, painting, graphic novels, and television, this research critically engages with how cultural production shapes social identities, power structures, and historical narratives. This directly contributes to our understanding of heritage and culture in the Hispanic world, a key focus in the University's plan.

Moreover, the research emphasizes the role of feminism and activism in shaping public discourse and social change, connecting to the Society and Public Policy priority. The

exploration of gender and class dynamics in Hispanic societies and media aligns with the University's commitment to fostering research that addresses pressing societal issues, including gender equality, race, and class.

By adopting interdisciplinary approaches, this research contributes to the University's goal of fostering innovative, cross-disciplinary scholarship, and supports the strategic investment in key areas that impact both local and global communities.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Supervisor: Dr Barbara Katharina Reschenhofer
Supervisor Email: katie.reschenhofer@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

English Language Education (EAP, ESAP, EGAP, ESP, TESOL/ EAL, CLIL, EMI/ EME, etc.)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to supervise projects on English language education, ranging from teaching English as an Additional Language (EAL) to English for Academic Purposes (EAP) in specific Higher Education (HE) contexts. Doctoral projects can focus on one or more areas of teaching and learning, feedback and assessment, syllabus and materials design, principles and graduate attributes, research communities, as well as motivation and well-being. Proposals featuring interdisciplinary, critical, or multimodal perspectives are particularly welcome.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

With the internationalization of Higher Education, critical and interdisciplinary research in English language education is becoming increasingly important for institutions that strive to be innovative, inclusive, and competitive. Doctoral applicants should demonstrate an awareness of the potential implications of their research and consider in how far their chosen topic will produce novel insights to inform theories, practices, attitudes, and collaborations in the field, nationally and internationally. Successful applicants will be encouraged to critically engage with their chosen area of growing expertise from multiple perspectives, actively develop their academic identity and profile, and represent Maynooth University through academic, civic, and professional excellence.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures - German
Supervisor: Dr Linda Shortt
Supervisor Email: Linda.Shortt@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

German cultural studies; migration, belonging and community; memory studies; health humanities and care studies; German language film & literature

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I welcome prospective PhD students interested in all areas of contemporary German Studies, particularly subjects relating to memory and identity, migration and belonging, the rise of the right, memory studies, health humanities and care studies, as well as literary and film studies.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research area is multidisciplinary speaks to research beacons identified in the University's Strategic Plan (Heritage, Culture and Language and Society and Public Change and Health and wellbeing).

END