



Maynooth University Ollscoil Má Nuad

National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis Postdoctoral Researcher (2 Year contract)

The University

Formally established as an autonomous university in 1997, but tracing its origins to the foundation of the Royal College of St. Patrick in 1795, the National University of Ireland, Maynooth (Maynooth University) draws on a heritage of over 200 years' commitment to education and scholarship. The last two decades have seen the University grow rapidly in scale, strength and stature. Maynooth University is today a university of international standing, renowned for the quality and value of its research and scholarship, for its dedication to excellent teaching, for providing an outstanding learning experience for its 10,000 students, and as a uniquely collegial environment in which to pursue scholarly work.

Maynooth University is embarking upon a new and exciting phase of its development under the *University Strategic Plan 2012-17* with a vision to consolidate the international reputation of Maynooth University "as a university known for outstanding teaching, excellent research, a global outlook, effective engagement with the society we serve, and our distinctive approach to the challenges facing modern higher education."

The *University Strategic Plan 2012-17* sets seven strategic goals for the university:

- to offer students an outstanding university education, the best available in Ireland, an education which challenges and supports all students to achieve their full potential, and prepares students for life, work and citizenship, and for complexity, diversity and change;
- to be recognised by 2017 as playing a leading international role and being the clear national leader in a number of thematic areas of research that address the major societal challenges of the 21st century;
- to achieve a step change in our international activities, doubling the number of international students on campus and doubling the number of domestic students spending time abroad, in order to create a truly intercultural and multilingual institution;
- to strengthen our engagement with all stakeholders through sustained partnerships with enterprises, communities, civil society and public bodies, to build support for the mission of the university, to serve the needs of society, and to open new opportunities for research and learning;



- to maximise our unique and distinctive contribution to the national system of higher education through a set of purposeful and sustained strategic partnerships at regional and national level, and to extend our international reach through a network of global partnerships;
- to be an excellent place to work, known for a collegial ethos which empowers all staff to contribute fully to the development of the university;
- to enable the achievement of ambitious strategic objectives in challenging circumstances through careful planning, excellent services and infrastructure, and sound governance and management.

The University has distinctive institutional strengths in six thematic priority areas:

- People, Place and Environment;
- Social and Economic Transformations;
- Human Health;
- Mathematics, Communications and Computation;
- Humanities in Practice; Sources, Resources & Discourses;
- Human Cultures, Experience & Creativity.

The University has 27 academic departments which are organised into three Faculties: Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy; Science and Engineering; and Social Sciences. The University is also home to a number of multi- and trans-disciplinary research institutes, including the Hamilton Institute, the National Centre for Geocomputation, the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, and Institute of Immunology.

In a pioneering recent development, Maynooth University, Dublin City University and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland have established the 3U Partnership, a new strategic association that brings together the distinctive and complementary strengths of the three institutions.

National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis

Established as a University Institute in January 2001, NIRSA, centred in Maynooth University, is a collaborative partnership between scholars from a number of social science disciplines, located in four partner institutions: NUI Maynooth; Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick; Institute of Technology, Sligo and Queen's University Belfast (<http://www.nuim.ie/nirsa/>). NIRSA's remit is to undertake fundamental, applied and comparative research on spatial processes and their effects on social and economic development in Ireland, and provide high quality graduate education to the next generation of Irish social scientists. NIRSA's research is organized through three research clusters: Sustaining Communities, Building Knowledge Economies, and Planning Environments. These clusters are broadly conceived and are interdisciplinary and inter-institutional in make-up.

To date, over 300 researchers have been affiliated to NIRSA, with over 150 of them receiving competitive funding from the Institute itself, and many others receiving smaller funds for travel and research expenses. Over 200 projects have received external funding since 2001, totalling over €55m of which over €25m has come directly to NIRSA partners. The Institute has received Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions 2, 4 and 5 funding and is the recipient of two European Research Council Investigator Awards. The Institute has built-up numerous national research platforms (for example, Irish Social Sciences Platform [ISSP, for which it is the lead administrative partner], the International Centre for Local and Regional Development [ICLRD], and Digital Repository of Ireland [DRI]) and international partnerships (European projects) and spawned the SFI-funded National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG). The Institute has also established two significant national research resources: the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) that produces all-island, spatial datasets and specialist tools to aid their analyses and undertakes academic and applied mapping research; and the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA) that archives social science data in media other than machine-readable datasets. The Institute has received extensive media coverage for its work, with well over 700 citations in newspapers and its members being regular contributors to radio and television.



The WATERSPOUTT Project

This project is funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration/ERC under grant agreement Number 688928.

The WHO estimates that in 2015 in Africa 156 million people relied on untreated sources for the drinking water. WATERSPOUTT will design, develop, pilot and field-test a range of, sustainable point-of-use solar disinfection (SODIS) technologies that will provide affordable access to safe water to remote and vulnerable communities in Africa and elsewhere.

These novel large-volume water treatment SODIS technologies will be developed in collaboration and consultation with the end-users, and include:

- HARVESTED RAINWATER SODIS SYSTEMS for domestic and community use. (South Africa, Uganda).
- TRANSPARENT 20L SODIS JERRYCANS. (Ethiopia)
- COMBINED 20L SODIS/CERAMIC POT FILTRATION SYSTEMS. (Malawi)

These are novel technologies that will create employment and economic benefits for citizens in both the EU and resource-poor nations. WATERSPOUTT will use social science strategies to:

- Build integrated understanding of the social, political & economic context of water use & needs of specific communities.
- Examine the effect of gender relations on uptake of SODIS technologies.
- Explore the relevant governance practices and decision-making capacity at local, national and international level that impact upon the use of integrated solar technologies for point-of-use drinking water treatment.
- Determine the feasibility & challenges faced at household, community, regional and national level for the adoption of integrated solar technologies for point-of-use drinking water treatment.

WATERSPOUTT will transform access to safe drinking water through integrated social sciences, education & solar technologies, thus improving health, survival, societal well-being & economic growth in African developing countries. These goals will be achieved by completing health impact studies of these technologies among end-user communities in Africa. Many of the consortium team have worked for more than 15 years on SODIS research in collaboration with African partners.

The Role

Maynooth University is committed to a strategy in which the primary University goals of excellent research and scholarship and outstanding education are interlinked and equally valued. Funded by a European Union's Seventh Framework, we are seeking a **Postdoctoral Researcher** to work on the *Water-Sustainable Point-Of-Use Treatment Technologies* (WATERSPOUTT) project to carry out social science research in four case study communities.

The post doc's main tasks (two years fulltime) relate to report writing synthesising secondary data on conflict, gender, class relations and multi-level governance structures as they pertain to water resource management and carrying out and reporting on a survey on the socio-economic context of water use, needs and vulnerability in four African case study areas with the social science team. Applications are invited from researchers with an interest in sustainable development, human security, political economy, gender and conflict to work with an interdisciplinary team.



Principal Duties

Administrative and other duties:

The post doc's main tasks (two years full time) relate to:

- Report writing synthesising secondary data on conflict, gender, class relations and multi-level governance structures as they pertain to water resource management.
- Carrying out and reporting on a survey on the socio-economic context of water use, needs and vulnerability in four African case study areas with the social science team.
- Reporting on the outcome of qualitative research at critical interfaces of household and community uptake of solar technologies

The successful candidate will:

- hold a doctoral degree (PhD) in Sociology, Anthropology or Human Geography or a related social science discipline;
- have a proven affinity with sustainable development research in an African context, especially concerning governance, conflict and policy issues;
- have a proven expertise in quantitative and qualitative research;
- have interest in and experience with multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research approaches;
- have published in international scientific journals;
- have report writing skills
- be well connected to relevant academic partners as well as to stakeholders in society;
- have excellent communication skills and be a team player.
- be prepared to undertake overseas fieldwork
- be prepared to help organise and attend workshops and conferences

Selection and Appointment

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview;
- Candidates invited for interview will be required to make a brief presentation;
- Appointments will be approved by the President based on the report of the selection board;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held during the week of the July 17th -21st, 2016;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from September 1st, 2016

Salary

Postdoctoral Researcher: €37,750 – €46,255 p.a.
Postdoctoral Researcher (2013*): €33,975 – €37,063 p.a.

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

*New entrants to the public sector will be appointed on the first point of the 2013 pay scale



Application Procedure

Please ensure that you USE THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE 'PD_NIRSA' in the subject line of your application email. This will clarify which role you are applying for.

Please note applications should be made by sending the following information as **ONE single attachment** (either in PDF or word format) incorporating all of the below required information:

- A Curriculum Vitae, including all qualifications and experience, and a covering letter addressing your interest and suitability for the role;
- The names, email addresses, correspondence addresses and telephone numbers of three referees whom the University may contact.

Once attachment is compiled please send your single document application to recruitment@nuim.ie

The completed application documents should be forwarded by email to arrive no later than **midnight, Thursday, 30th June, 2016**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer

The position is subject to the Statutes of the University

