



Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

Department of Biology Senior Post- Doctoral Researcher (Specified Purpose Contract)

The Role

Maynooth University is committed to a strategy in which the primary University goals of excellent research and scholarship and outstanding education are interlinked and equally valued.

The Family Genomics Research Group in the Department of Biology, Maynooth University (<https://www.familygenomics.maynoothuniversity.ie/>) is recruiting a Senior Postdoctoral Researcher to join our Research Ireland FutureNeuro Centre for Translational Brain Sciences funded research project awarded to Professor Lorna Lopez, *"FamilyNeuro: Expanding Genetic Discovery from Families to Global Mental Health Datasets"*. This project is in collaboration with Professor Gianpiero Cavalleri and Dr Cristina Ruedell Reschke in RCSI, with Professor Derek Morris in Galway University and with Professor Andrew Coogan in Department of Psychology, Maynooth University.

FamilyNeuro investigates sleep and circadian rhythm disruption as a potential transdiagnostic biomarker across neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric conditions. The project will integrate genomic, family and objectively measured sleep and activity data across major international datasets, including UK Biobank, the Australian Autism Biobank, Generation Scotland and Our Future Health.

We are looking to appoint an experienced researcher with a strong background in statistical genetics, genetic epidemiology or genomic data science to lead the analytical work of the project. The successful candidate will conduct polygenic score, Mendelian Randomisation and family-based genomic analyses to investigate relationships between genetic liability, sleep and circadian phenotypes, and neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric conditions.



The successful candidate will join a multidisciplinary and internationally collaborative research team working across genomics, chronobiology and digital health. They will lead high-quality publications, contribute to the supervision and mentoring of junior researchers, and generate preliminary data for future national and European research funding applications.

Principal Duties

Administrative and other duties:

Research, administrative and other duties:

This will include:

- Working under the supervision of FutureNeuro Funded Investigator and Principal Investigator Professor Lorna M. Lopez, in collaboration with a team of researchers in Maynooth University, RCSI, Galway University and national, European and international collaborators
- Conducting polygenic score, Mendelian Randomisation and family-based genomic analyses;
- Conducting relevant genetic analysis on large-scale datasets eg UK Biobank, Generation Scotland, Our FutureHealth
- Communicating research at scientific and non-specialist meetings
- Collaborating and visiting research collaborators.
- Writing academic papers for publication
- Submitting new research proposals to Irish, EU and other funding agencies
- Undertaking relevant training and development
- Assisting in the supervision of team members
- Carrying out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- Applicants will have a PhD in neuroscience, genetics, statistical genetics, chronobiology or neuropsychiatry and/or a related discipline and a minimum of 4–6 years of relevant post PhD research experience, in a relevant field. Knowledge and research experience of human genetic analysis
- Experience in statistical analysis of large datasets, and in the use of Python, R or equivalent
- Experience of running large-scale, multi-disciplinary collaborative research projects
- Excellent research, analytical and oral and written communication skills to contribute to, or in some cases lead, papers, grants, and technical reports



- Excellent interpersonal skills and highly collaborative
- Experience of project management in an academic setting.

Desirable

- Experience working with large-scale biomedical datasets.

Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Science & Engineering comprises the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Mathematics and Statistics Physics, Psychology, Sports Science and Nutrition and the School of Nursing. The role of the Faculty is to co-ordinate the academic activities of individual departments, to oversee the strategic development of departments and to support interdepartmental programmes. The University has also developed a number of interdisciplinary institutes, including the Maynooth University Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research and Hamilton Institute to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines. The approaches are intrinsically integrative, and outcome oriented, drawing on the unique expertise across a wide range of disciplines at Maynooth University and with external partners.

Department

Maynooth University Department of Biology provides teaching in multiple degree programmes to almost 1500 students, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral level. The Biology Department offers BSc Honours degree programmes in Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Biotechnology, Biological and Geographical Sciences and Science (with Education). It is expected that the appointee will make significant teaching contributions to these programmes and to Biology-related teaching in other degree programmes offered by cognate departments. The Biology Department has a strong tradition in PhD education and currently directs the largest structured PhD programme in Maynooth University. It has a strong international reputation in research with particular strengths in Plant Science, Environmental Biology, Ecology and Sustainability and Biomedical/Health Sciences. The Department has recently established an international partnership with the University of Lyon¹ in the areas of Plant Science and Omics. Several members of the Department are founding members of the Sustainable Ecosystems Research Cluster which aims to promote research in biodiversity, sustainable food production and the productivity of natural and managed environments with the intention to improve societal resilience and mitigate human impacts on our natural resources.



The University



Maynooth University is a very distinctive university, a collegial institution focused on science and engineering, humanities, and social sciences, and equally committed to research, teaching and community engagement. Located in Ireland's only university town, its distinctive features and character owe much to its unique history and heritage. It provides a high-quality educational experience to over 17,000 students on a campus with 18th century roots and 21st century dynamism.

Maynooth University is a place of lively contrasts – a modern institution, dynamic, rapidly-growing, research-led and engaged, yet grounded in historic academic strengths and scholarly traditions. We offer a range of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level in the humanities, science and engineering and social sciences, including business, law and education, along with a range of international programmes and partnerships.

The strategic trajectory and accomplishments of Maynooth University, since its establishment as an autonomous public university, are exceptional and a source of great pride to the university community, staff, students and alumni. Maynooth University ranked in the top 90 global Times Higher Education (THE) Young University rankings in 2024. Maynooth University's growing global reputation is based on the originality, quality, importance and impact of its research and scholarship, commitment to teaching and learning, the quality of academic programmes, and its leadership in widening participation in higher education. The sources of success are the dedication of its staff and the energy and engagement of its students.

Maynooth University's Values

Our values define who we are, what we believe in and how we act as a community. They underpin our future success and guide our expectations of ourselves and each other. Our values apply to everyone in the University community:

- Integrity
- Collegiality



- Responsibility
- Freedom of expression
- Ambition

Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028

The University's Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028 builds on our rich academic history and strong foundations to set out an ambitious and forward-looking path for the future of our University. This roadmap underscores our commitment to adapt to a changing world while staying true to our values. Our vision is to be a university of excellence, opportunity and impact, having a significant stake in all three. For more information about Maynooth University's future direction, please visit: <https://strategy.maynoothuniversity.ie/>

Plean Straitéiseach Ollscoil Mhá Nuad 2023 - 2028

Tógann Plean Straitéiseach na hOllscoile 2023 - 2028 ar ár stair acadúil shaibhir agus ar ár mbunchlocha láidre chun conair uailmhianach agus cheannródaíoch a leagadh amach do thodhchaí ár nOllscoile. Soiléiríonn an treochlár seo ár dtiomantas do dhul i dtaithí ar dhomhan atá ag síorathrú agus ár ngníomhaíochtaí a chur in oiriúint dó, agus san am céanna a bheith dílis dár luachanna Ollscoile. Is í an fhís atá againn a bheith mar ollscoil feabhais, deiseanna agus tionchair, agus lámh láidir a bheith againn i ngach ceann de na trí ghné seo.

Léigh anseo le haghaidh breis eolais faoi thodhchaí Ollscoil Mhá Nuad: <https://strategy.maynoothuniversity.ie/?lang=ga>

Our Strategic Plan sets out an ambition to be an excellent place to learn and work, and an inclusive community where students and staff can flourish and make a distinctive contribution to the national system of higher education and the public good. Achieving this requires staff to have a strong sense of connection to the University and support from colleagues. We recognise that our people are our greatest resource and actively seeks to attract, develop, and retain a talented workforce by creating a positive and welcoming University environment. As well as offering a competitive salary, access to a public sector pension scheme, and annual leave allowance, the University also provides other facilities and benefits including, but not limited to:

- Family-friendly leave schemes
- Tax Saver travel scheme and Cycle to Work scheme
- On-campus crèche
- On-campus restaurants and coffee shops
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Health and Well-Being programmes
- Education support opportunities



- Continuous Professional Development opportunities, including leadership programmes, mentoring, Aurora programme.
- Study and Exam leave
- Sports facilities and gym

To learn more about being part of the Maynooth University team, please visit our website at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/come-work-with-us>

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;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held in November 2026.
- The appointment is expected to be effective as soon as possible thereafter.

Equality and Diversity

Maynooth University actively works to ensure equality, celebrate the diversity of our community, and promote inclusion. To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](#) / [Polasaí Comhionannais agus Éagsúlachta](#), our policy on the [Employment of People with Disabilities](#), and our [Race and Equality action plans](#). We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals across our society.

Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to supporting applicants to enable their full participation in the recruitment process. Applicants are invited to disclose a disability during the recruitment process to ensure adequate measures are in place to enable their full participation.

Terms and Conditions

Tenure	This is a specified purpose contract for an anticipated duration until the 30 th of September 2028, initially offered on a half-time basis (0.5 FTE). There is potential for the position to increase to full-time (1.0 FTE) after approximately 12 months, subject to project requirements and funding availability.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Salary	



	Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher (2026): €55,399 p.a. pro rata (with increments) Post-Doctoral Researcher (2026): €47,273 – €53,925 p.a.pro-rata (6 points) Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.
Hours of work	A 37-hour working week is in operation in respect of full-time positions (pro-rated for part-time positions). This can be reviewed or adjusted from time to time through national agreements.
Annual Leave	Annual leave and public holidays are provided for in the University policy: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy Annual leave will be allocated on a pro-rata basis for part-time and temporary positions.
University policies and schemes	Employees of the University will be subject to the terms of the University policies and schemes, available on the University website at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies
Pension	This is a pensionable post. Employees of the University will enter into a public sector pension scheme, and as such, applicants must ensure they are eligible to become a member of a public sector pension scheme for the duration of the appointment. Details of the public sector pension schemes are available at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information
Eligibility	Applications from non-EU/EEA/UK candidates are welcome where eligibility to work in Ireland can be demonstrated or where an employment permit can be obtained in line with Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment or EURAXESS requirements.

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Bronze Award

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Research Ireland

	Please note that not all roles are eligible for employment permits, and applicants are responsible for ensuring they meet the relevant immigration and employment permission requirements. Further information regarding eligibility is available at: https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/workplace-and-skills/employment-permits/employment-permit-eligibility/ and here - https://www.euraxess.ie/ireland/fast-track-work-permit-non-eu-rd-hosting-agreement-scheme/researchers Non-EEA applicants are responsible for ensuring they can secure a visa to travel to Ireland. Any offer of employment is conditional on applicants securing the appropriate employment permissions. Former Irish Public Service employees - Certain Restrictions on Eligibility Eligibility of applicants formerly employed by an Irish Public Sector body, and who availed of an Irish Public Service Redundancy or Incentivised Retirement Scheme under the Schemes below, may be affected: • Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants • Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) • Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010) • Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (Circular Letter LG(P) 06/2013) Applicants should ensure that they are eligible to be re-engaged in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Applicants should address queries with their former Irish Public Sector employer.
Garda vetting	Garda vetting or clearance may be required by the University.
Medical	The University may require a medical examination as a condition of employment.

Data Protection

Applications to the University will be treated in accordance with the University Data Protection Policies. For information on the University's Data Protection Policies and Privacy Notice, please see our website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection>

Application Procedure



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Athena
SWAN
Bronze Award



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Taighde Éireann
Research Ireland

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Friday, 30th of October 2026**

Please note all applications must be made via our **Online Recruitment Portal** at the following link:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies>

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Any applications which are still in progress at the closing time on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer

The position is subject to the Statutes of the University

