Ollscoil Mhá Nuad
Maynooth University

Innovation Value Institute
Research Assistant (ReThink/ReDesign)
(Specified Purpose)

The Role

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

We are seeking a motivated and technically capable Research Assistant to support our research and engagement programme with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

IVI has developed the ReThink ReDesign programme (https://ivi.ie/rethink-redesign/), which leverages research grants and supports from Enterprise Ireland to assist SMEs on their digital transformation and innovation journey.

The successful candidate will contribute to the delivery of research and innovation projects with collaborating organisations, supporting the development of proofs of concept, prototypes, and technical solutions that help SMEs innovate. Working as part of a multidisciplinary team, the candidate will also contribute to research outputs, including case studies, frameworks, methods, and other knowledge assets that capture and disseminate insights from project activities.

Principal Duties:

This will include:

- Support the design, development, and testing of AI and data-driven prototypes, proofs of concept, and demonstrators for SMEs participating in the ReThink ReDesign programme.
- Assist in the development of AI-enabled solutions, including RAG systems, agentic AI workflows, data analytics applications, and automation tools, under the guidance of senior researchers and project leads.

- Conduct applied research and technology scouting activities, reviewing scientific literature, industry reports, emerging frameworks, and vendor offerings to identify relevant innovations and best practices.
- Support the evaluation of emerging technologies, particularly (but not limited to) in AI, data, and digital transformation, and contribute to recommendations for SME adoption.
- Assist in the preparation of technical documentation, solution designs, architecture diagrams, and implementation roadmaps to support project delivery.
- Analyse and synthesise research findings, industry trends, and case study evidence to produce reports, briefings, reusable methodologies, and knowledge assets.
- Participate in workshops, stakeholder engagements, and project activities with SMEs to help identify business needs and digital innovation opportunities.
- Collaborate with researchers, academic staff, industry partners, and programmer participants to support the successful delivery of research and innovation projects.
- Contribute to the dissemination of project outcomes through presentations, reports, case studies, and other knowledge-sharing activities.
- Undertake other duties associated with the execution and research of Digital Transformation and Innovation projects as may be assigned from time to time by the IVI Director or their nominee.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential

- Honours degree (Level 8) in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Business Analytics, Information Systems, or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated interest in AI, data, digital transformation, and emerging technologies.
- Experience through academic projects, internships, or employment in developing software applications, data analytics solutions, or technical prototypes.
- Familiarity with AI technologies, including large language models, machine learning concepts, data analytics, or automation tools.
- Strong research and analytical skills, with the ability to investigate technical topics and evaluate new technologies.
- Ability to communicate technical concepts clearly in both written and verbal formats.
- Strong problem-solving skills and the ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Excellent organisational skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deliver outputs within agreed timelines.

Desirable

- Master's degree, or currently completing a Master's degree, in a relevant discipline.
- Experience building AI prototypes, RAG applications, chatbots, data visualisations, analytics solutions, or software applications.
- Familiarity with Python, AI development frameworks, cloud platforms, or modern data technologies.
- Experience conducting literature reviews, market research, or technology assessments.
- Experience contributing to technical reports, white papers, academic publications, or case studies.
- Knowledge of digital transformation, innovation management, data governance, or SME business environments.
- Experience supporting workshops, hackathons, innovation projects, or technology demonstrations.

The Innovation Value Institute

The Innovation Value Institute (http://ivi.ie) at Maynooth University is a multidisciplinary research centre focused on digital transformation, technology management & adoption challenges. The institute was founded in 2006 and has a strong track record of industry collaboration both locally and internationally. IVI has an excellent dissemination capability including education and training and has a close working relationship with academic institutions in Ireland and internationally.

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 uaillmhianach 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;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held during the week of the 2nd of Dec 2026;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 4th Jan 2027

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 full time, temporary post for a specified purpose, anticipated to be 12 months duration.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Salary	Research Assistant Level 1 (2026) - €34,130 per annum (1 point).
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. 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

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **the 15th of November 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