



Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Department of Biology Research Assistant

FamilySleeps; Disruption of Circadian Rhythms in Families
(24-month contract)

The Role

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

The Family Genomics Research Group in the Department of Biology, Maynooth University invites applications for a Research Assistant to join our “FamilySleeps” research project, funded by a European Research Council Starting Investigator Award to Dr Lorna Lopez.

FamilySleeps will be the first study to investigate circadian rhythms in autism in context of the genetic, environmental, and social synchrony of the family. FamilySleeps will bring together a team of scientific and clinical researchers, with public patient involvement (PPI) experts, to work on the underlying biological basis of disrupted circadian rhythms in the family context.

The research assistant will join a multidisciplinary research team of geneticists, chronobiologists, psychiatrists, and PPI specialists investigating circadian rhythms in families. The successful candidate will assist in the recruitment of families, including families with neurodevelopmental conditions. This post is for 24 months, with an anticipated commencement month of October 2023.

The research assistant will be offered career development and training opportunities in clinical recruitment, the genetics of neurodevelopmental conditions, assessment of circadian rhythms, data analysis, scientific writing, project management, IT, all depending on their individual interests and career aspirations. Part-time, job-sharing and remote working arrangements will be considered. Candidates considering career change or interested in pursuing future research studies will be supported. Informal enquiries are encouraged.

Principal Duties

Research, administrative and other duties:

This will include:



- Working under the supervision of principal investigator Dr Lorna M. Lopez with researchers in the Department of Biology and The Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research, Maynooth University and with collaborators in Department of Psychiatry, Trinity College Dublin and PPI Ignite at Trinity College Dublin;
- Liaising with families that participate in *FamilySleeps*;
- Establishing and maintaining contact with the families throughout their involvement in *FamilySleeps*;
- Communicating information between the families in *FamilySleeps* and the research team;
- Collection of biological samples and questionnaire data;
- Assisting with focus groups and the development of sensor systems;
- Contribution to research progress reports and ethics applications;
- Contribution to weekly meetings of the Family Genomics research team;
- Assisting with data analysis;
- Assisting with research reports and publications;
- Actively assisting and contributing to the writing of reports and academic papers for publication;
- Undertaking relevant training and development;
- Carrying out additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential:

- An undergraduate degree in a science or health-related discipline,
- Candidates must demonstrate an interest in and commitment to research in the health sciences;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including liaising with collaborators and families.

Desirable:

- Experience with clinical research recruitment;
- Experience with public patient involvement in research;
- Excellent research, analytical and oral and written communication skills to contribute to research outputs including papers and presentation;
- Interest in furthering their knowledge/learning more about genetics, circadian rhythms, and neurodevelopmental processes.

Faculty and Research Institutes

The Faculty of Science and Engineering comprises the Departments of Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry, Experimental Physics, Mathematical Physics, Mathematics and Statistics, Psychology and Electronic Engineering. The University has also developed a number of interdisciplinary Institutes to support excellent research and to build research capacity across disciplines, including the Institute of Immunology and the Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research.

Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research

The Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research at Maynooth University, takes a uniquely integrated approach to address some of the major health problems of today, including obesity and antimicrobial resistance, as well as researching many chronic inflammatory diseases like Crohn's and



ulcerative colitis. The primary objective of the institute is to study key determinants of human health from childhood to adulthood, through to old age. Researchers at the institute explore how environmental, psychological, behavioural and biological factors affect health. The Institute consists of 43 research groups featuring over 100 researchers from disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Computer Science as well researchers from other Maynooth University departments. While most of the groups focus on the biology of diseases and treatment, researchers also examine the various factors across the life course that determines health.

Department

The Department of Biology has a full-time academic staff of 26. It provides teaching in multiple degree programmes to almost 1,100 students, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral level. The Department of Biology offers well-established BSc Honours degree programmes in Biology, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, and Biotechnology and an award-winning taught MSc programme in Immunology and Global Health. It has a strong tradition in PhD education and currently directs a number of structured PhD programmes. The Department of Biology has a strong international reputation in research and has prioritised the following two research themes for strategic development and investment: 1. Immunology and Microbiology, 2. Science underpinning sustainable exploitation of crop plants. Both themes are strongly supported by state-of-the-art approaches and research in Genomics, Proteomics and Chemical Biology.

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 13,500 students on a campus with 18th century roots and 21st century dynamism.

The strategic trajectory and accomplishments of Maynooth University, in the twenty years 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 is now acknowledged to be one of the leading young universities in the world, ranked 43rd in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) 'Young Universities' list. 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 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. With over 13,500 students Maynooth offers a range of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level in the humanities, science and engineering and social sciences, including business, law and education. The University also offers a range of international programmes and partnerships.

Maynooth's unique collegial culture fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research, which its world-class academics bring to bear in tackling some of the most fundamental challenges facing society today. The University's research institutes and centres consolidate and deliver this impact as vibrant communities of learning, discovery and creation. Research at Maynooth also is very much central to its teaching and the University prides itself on placing equal value on its research and teaching missions.

Principles and Values

Maynooth University is committed to the following values:



- Scholarly rigour;
- Academic freedom;
- Integrity and ethical behaviour;
- Collegiality, transparency and trust;
- Equality, inclusiveness and social justice;
- Operational excellence, organisational flexibility and responsiveness;
- Dignity, respect and care for the individual.

Strategy 2018 - 2022

The University's Strategic Plan 2018-22 builds from a position of confidence. Maynooth University is a University with ambition, vision and values, a clear identity and sense of purpose, a history of achievement, and a future of considerable promise. The Strategy builds on the University's accomplishments and concentrates institutional energy and resources on further development of research and postgraduate education.

For more information please visit <http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/about-us/university-strategic-plan>

Selection and Appointment

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview.
- Appointments will be approved by the President based on the report of the selection board;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held in September 2023;
- The appointment is expected to be effective as soon as possible thereafter.

Equality and Diversity

Maynooth University values the enrichment that comes from a diverse community and seeks to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of each individual. To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](#). Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) Institute, we are committed to advancing gender equality across the University.

We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals.

Terms and Conditions

Tenure	This a full-time, temporary post, of 24 months duration.
Location	The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Salary	Research Assistant Level 1 (2023): €29,275 – €33,131 p.a. (6 points) Research Assistant Level 2 (2023): €34,062 p.a. (1 point) Appointments will be made in accordance with public sector pay provisions.

Hours of work	<p>A 37-hour working week is in operation in respect of full-time positions (pro-rated for part-time positions).</p> <p>This can be reviewed or adjusted from time to time through national agreements.</p>
Annual Leave	<p>Annual leave and public holidays are provided for in the University policy: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies/annual-leave-policy</p> <p>Annual leave will be allocated on a pro-rata basis for part-time and temporary positions.</p>
University policies and schemes	<p>Employees of the University will be subject to the terms of the University policies and schemes, available on the University website at:</p> <p>https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies</p> <p>https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/policies</p>
Pension	<p>This is a pensionable post. Employees of the University will enter into a public sector pension scheme, details of the schemes are available at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/pension-information</p>
Eligibility	<p>Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed, applicants should note that eligibility is determined by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Further information regarding eligibility is available at: https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/workplace-and-skills/employment-permits/employment-permit-eligibility/</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Former Irish Public Service employees - Certain Restrictions on Eligibility</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <p>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.</p>
Garda vetting	<p>Garda vetting or clearance may be required by the University.</p>
Medical	<p>The University may require a medical examination as a condition of employment.</p>



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

European Research Council
Established by the European CommissionAthena
SWAN
Bronze AwardAthena
Swan
Ireland

Data Protection Law

Maynooth University will process any personal data provided by you in connection with an application for this role in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Acts 2018.

If your application is successful and you accept an offer of employment at Maynooth University, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance with Maynooth University's Staff Data Privacy Notice.

Both the privacy notices and further information relating to data protection, including Maynooth University's other data protection policies and processes, can be viewed at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection>

Application Procedure

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Sunday, 27th August 2023**

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

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

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Any applications which are still in progress at the closing time on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system. Late applications will not be accepted.

Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer

The position is subject to the Statutes of the University

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