1. Following two centuries of internationally renowned scholarly activity, on the Maynooth campus, the National University of Ireland, Maynooth (http://www.nuim.ie/) was established under the 1997 Universities Act as an autonomous member of the federal structure known as the National University of Ireland. With over 5,500 full-time students and almost 3,500 registered as part-time NUI Maynooth has 26 academic Departments which are organized into three Faculties: Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy; Science and Engineering, and Social Sciences. Building on a tradition of scholarship and excellence in all aspects of its teaching and learning, and research activities, within the liberal arts and sciences tradition NUI Maynooth is committed to being a first class research-led centre of learning and academic discovery. It is located on a pleasant university campus in Ireland’s only university town 20km west of Dublin, and has recently undergone a major phase of expansion in research, teaching and service facilities. The spacious campus is laid out in its own extensive grounds in rural surroundings, and is divided between an older complex of fine nineteenth century buildings and a modern complex of teaching, research, accommodation, and support facilities.

The University’s Strategic Plan (2006-2011) sets out an ambitious programme that will build on the efforts of the last decade. This programme will enable NUI Maynooth to take on the challenging agenda set by the Irish Government for the Higher Education sector which will require a significant transformation of undergraduate education and the development of an internationally competitive Fourth level (graduate level) sector. The Strategic Plan 2006-2011 may be accessed at http://planning.nuim.ie/strategic_plan.shtml

2. Posts, Assistant Lecturer in Human or Environmental Geography

The Department of Geography invites applications for two three-year fixed term contract posts of Assistant Lecturer in Human Geography or Environmental Geography. The successful applicants will be expected to make a significant contribution to the Department’s undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes and research activities, and to contribute to Departmental administration. They will also be expected to make a significant contribution to the further development of the associated National Institute of Regional and
Spatial Analyses (NIRSA), one of NUI Maynooth’s nine flagship Research Institutes.

3. The person appointed will be joining the Department of Geography at a very exciting point in its history; founded in 1971, the Department of Geography is one of the largest and most research active departments at NUI Maynooth and in the island of Ireland and has a very strong and growing international reputation for its research. The staff portfolio at present includes twelve full time academic staff, one cartographer, one technician and two executive assistants. The Department has circa 1,100 undergraduate students, 45 Masters students and 40 PhD students. The Department has played a significant role in the branding of NUIM as an nationally and internationally recognized centre of research and scholarship. Between 2002-2010, departmental staff, either as individuals or as part of wider research teams, secured approximately €20 million in research and research-related grants, published 28 books, 112 journal articles, 86 book chapters and 60 commissioned reports.

4. Research in the Department is structured around three broad thematic areas: Society and Space, Environmental and Climate Change, and GIS and Remote Sensing. In addition, the Department has a number of individual specialisms in the areas of geomorphology, landscape interpretation, and teaching and learning in Geography. The Society and Space grouping consists of a collection of researchers interested in developing, theoretically, methodologically and substantively, the study of the reciprocal relationships which exist between social relations and spatial structures. To date, the key research areas explored by this grouping have been the social, political, economic, and cultural causes and consequences of the Celtic Tiger economy; population and medical geography, and social and cultural geography, including social and cultural geographies of colonialism and post colonialism. ICARUS, based in the Department, is Ireland’s foremost research unit specializing in climate change and climate change impacts, with particular reference to Ireland (http://icarus.nuim.ie/). Research is structured around a number of key strands (palaeoclimate analysis, climate analysis, regional climate modeling, greenhouse gas emission modeling, social and economic analysis, adaptive capacity, impacts modeling/key impacts and vulnerabilities, and adaptation and mitigation).

Detailed information about the teaching and research foci of the Department can be obtained from - http://geography.nuim.ie/.

5. The Department of Geography played a lead role in the establishment of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) in January 2001 (http://www.nuim.ie/nirsa/). Centered in NUI Maynooth and Directed by Professor Rob Kitchin, NIRSA is a collaborative project between scholars from a number of social science disciplines, located in NUI Maynooth and partner institutions. NIRSA's remit is to undertake fundamental, applied and comparative research on spatial processes and their effects on social and economic
development in Ireland. Research is clustered around the themes of ‘Knowledge Societies’, ‘Regional Development’, and ‘Sustainable Communities’. NIRSA is currently lead partner in the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) and is playing a leading role in the development of structured PhD programmes in Ireland. It is also acquiring a rapidly growing reputation nationally and internationally for its high impact research, informing leading academic debates and shaping national, regional, and local policy respectively.

6. Applications will be welcomed from candidates with a broad range of expertise within Human Geography and/or Environmental Geography who are able to demonstrate a capacity to both fortify and develop existing research and teaching strengths, and whose research interests and plans are aligned with those of NIRSA. Applicants with research and teaching interests in the broad areas of society and space interactions (including social, economic, cultural, political, historical, and demographic geographies of change) and society and nature interactions (including natural environmental management/sustainability policy arenas) will be especially welcome.

7. More specifically, appointees will have completed a PhD in Geography (or a cognate subject). They will be expected to show a commitment to academic research in their field as evidenced principally by research publications and research income, but also in terms of their ability to articulate a research trajectory. A track record of publishing in internationally refereed outlets, especially in Journals, will be a pre-requisite. A track record in securing research funding and/or working on funded research projects will be an advantage. If appointed, candidates will be expected to develop significant personal research activities that connect their specialist interests to the research priorities of the Department of Geography and NIRSA. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of pedagogy in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, especially in regard to developing and delivering modules to large classes. Some previous teaching experience is essential. They will also be required to lead undergraduate field trips, and supervise undergraduate research projects and postgraduate theses. It may be an advantage if candidates hold supplementary specialist skills in Quantitative Methods, Geographical Information Systems, Cartography, and/or Qualitative Methods. The appointee will also be expected to play a role in departmental administration.

8. The candidate appointed will be expected to take up duties on 1st September 2010, or shortly thereafter.

9. **Salary Scale (new entrants):**
   Assistant Lecturer: €35,355 - €47,000 p.a. (7 points)
   
   In general terms, new entrants may be defined as persons who join the University as full-time permanent members of staff on or after 6 April 1995.
Subject to certain conditions, the following salary scale will apply in respect of persons, who are not regarded as new entrants, i.e. those who are currently working in University or other public sector employment in the Republic of Ireland, and whose employment is insurable at modified rates of PRSI.

**Salary Scale:**

Assistant Lecturer: €33,623 - €44,687 p.a. (7 points)

The salary scale applicable to new entrants are, in general terms, designed to reflect the higher PRSI contributions, and the higher pension contributions, payable by staff who are new entrants.

10. The appointment will be on a three-year Fixed Term Contract basis. It does not entail rights of residence in the University but the appointee will be expected to be available generally in the Department according to established practice.

11. In line with the commitment to staff development contained in the University Five Year Plan, the candidate appointed may be required to participate in appropriate Training/Development programmes.

12. Further information about the post can be obtained from Head of Department, Professor Mark Boyle (contact Geography.Department@nuim.ie or Tel +353-1-708-3610 in the first instance).

13. The position is subject to the Statutes of the University.

14. **Applications should be made by sending the following information to nuimposts@publicjobs.ie.** Ensure that you include the words ‘Assistant Lecturer Geography’ in the subject line.

   a. A comprehensive Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter,

   b. The names, addresses, e-mail addresses, fax and telephone numbers of three academic referees, who are acquainted with your abilities, and whom the University may contact, should also be given;

   c. Survey Form.(page 5)

The completed application documents must be forwarded by email to reach the Public Appointments Service no later than **Monday, 5 July 2010.** All applicants will receive an acknowledgement within 2 working days. 

*If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your application within this timeframe please contact Mary Keaveney at 01 8587527 or email mary.keaveney@publicjobs.ie.*
ASSISTANT LECTURER IN HUMAN/ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY
(TWO THREE-YEAR CONTRACT POSTS)

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