

Research and Innovation Overview 2024

Department of Economics

The Department of Economics at Maynooth University is a dynamic and diverse group of academics with an international reputation for research excellence. In 2022-23, the department employed 12 academic staff members, contributing to its strong research profile. The department's commitment to high-quality research is reflected in its top-three ranking among economics departments in Ireland, alongside UCD and TCD, according to RePEC. The faculty members are dedicated to publishing in leading journals and presenting their work at prestigious international conferences.

Head of Department: Dr Aedín Doris



Research Themes and Focus Areas

The department's research covers a broad range of economic issues, with key focus areas including:

- **Labour Economics and Public Policy:** Research in this area explores topics such as wage policy, the living wage, and the gender wage gap, contributing to national policy discussions.
- **Development Economics:** Faculty members are engaged in projects that examine economic challenges in developing countries, including subsistence farming and resource allocation.
- **Sports Economics:** The department is a leader in research on the economics of sports, analysing issues such as the impact of crowd dynamics on game outcomes.



Significant Research Outputs

In 2022-23, the Department of Economics produced several high-quality research outputs, reflecting its focus on publishing in internationally recognised journals:

Publications

- Dr Alex Farnell published "False start? An analysis of NFL penalties with and without crowds" in the Journal of Sports Economics.
- Dr Bruno Morando's paper "Subsistence farming and factor misallocation: Evidence from Ugandan agriculture" was published in the World Bank Economic Review, a top-ranked development economics journal.
- Drs. Ivan and Tuvana Pastine co-authored "Equilibrium existence and expected payoffs in all-pay auctions with constraints" in Economic Theory, a journal ranked in the top 30 globally for economics.

Awards

- The department received external recognition for its policy impact. The Living Wage research by Dr Aedín Doris, Professor Donal O'Neill, and Dr Olive Sweetman helped shape Ireland's national policy, leading to a 12.4% increase in the minimum wage for 2024.



Collaborations and Partnerships

The department has a strong international network of collaborations and partnerships:

- **Leuven Centre for Irish Studies (LCIS):** Dr Dermot Leahy and Dr Gerda Dewit are affiliated senior researchers at the Catholic University of Leuven, contributing to research on small open economies in the European Union.
- **IZA Institute for the Study of Labor:** Dr Irene Mosca is a research fellow at the IZA Institute, a leading platform for research on global labour markets. She is also affiliated with the Global Labor Organization (GLO), which promotes policy-relevant research on demographic and economic challenges.



Research Impact and Societal Contributions

The department's research has had significant public policy implications in Ireland:

- **Living Wage Policy:** The research on the Living Wage, conducted by Dr Doris, Professor O'Neill, and Dr Sweetman for the Low Pay Commission, played a key role in shaping national wage policy, with their findings reported in the Irish Times.
- **Gender Wage Gap:** The department's study on the gender wage gap for Irish university graduates has received wide attention and informed discussions in the media and among policymakers.



Future Directions

Looking ahead, the department will continue to focus on publishing high-impact research in labour economics, public policy, and development economics. Moreover, Professor David Cuberes will join the department in the coming year, allowing the department to extend its research interests into issues concerning urban economics and economic growth. This will further facilitate the expansion of collaborations with international organisations, ensuring the department remains at the forefront of economic research.