Doctoral student in Interaction Design: Reworlding Urban Cultural Heritage

The University of Limerick

With over 18,000 students and 2,000 members of staff, the University of Limerick (https://www.ul.ie/) is an energetic, research led and enterprising institution with a proud record in innovation and excellence in education, research and scholarship. The University of Limerick is situated on a superb riverside campus of over 130 hectares. Outstanding recreational, cultural and sporting facilities further enhance the campus's exceptional learning and research environment.

Faculty of Science and Engineering

The Faculty delivers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate academic degree programmes in Computing, Design, Engineering, Mathematics and Science. We have 400 PhD researchers, and extensive research capabilities that are best represented by our research institutes: Bernal, Lero and MACSI and our varied research centres.

The Interaction Design Centre in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems

The Interaction Design Centre (IDC) is an interdisciplinary research group in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS) focused on the design, use and evaluation of information and communications technologies.

The Department of Computer Science and Information Systems is a department in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. Our teaching and research activities focus on a wide variety of digital disciplines including human-centred computing, music technology, digital arts, games, software engineering, software localisation, and bio-inspired intelligent systems

Work Duties

We are announcing a doctoral position in the subject area of Interaction Design to be conducted within the framework of the European doctoral network "Reworlding: Repositioning Participatory Design to Tackle Socio-Environmental Challenges", funded by a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (see details below).

Those appointed to doctoral student positions shall devote themselves to their studies in the context of the above project. Whilst required to ensure their work fits broadly within the overall doctoral network by working closely with the project coordinator, the doctoral student will complete independent research

The doctoral programme comprises four years of full-time study and concludes with a doctoral degree (240 credits). The programme consists of a course component and a dissertation component. An important part of the doctoral programme itself is to actively

participate in and contribute to the research and educational environment both at the university and across the consortium.

Reworlding Doctoral Network

This doctoral student position is part of a European doctoral network funded by a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action: "Reworlding: Repositioning Participatory Design to Tackle Socio-Environmental Challenges". The general theme links 11 students, providing them with collective learning opportunities and individual secondments (shorter and longer stays to benefit from a range of experiences working with other institutions both inside and outside academia). These take place across nations and practices. The overall theme of the network is as following:

Socio-Environmental issues are experienced differently by different actors, communities and organisations, leading to societal polarisation and inhibiting urgently needed actions around these issues. As Participatory Design (PD) researchers, we observe a need for design approaches that can bring diverse actors together to tackle these challenges in participatory ways, with particular attention to those who remain silent, both as human and non-human actors (e.g. plants, rivers and insects). REWORLDING doctoral network aims to investigate and outline such a careful and situated PD approach that can better understand and create synergies between the *different worlds* in which people live and work, and the *more-than-human worlds* they are entangled with. This is achieved through interdisciplinary methodology based on collective learning and participatory action research, embedded in inter-sectoral collaborations with non-academic partners who address socio-ecological issues from diverse perspectives. In doing so, the network identifies and articulates *reworlding* design capabilities that can support next-generation researchers in tackling the connections of social and ecological challenges. Design capabilities link research and training in REWORLDING. The research program explores the capabilities needed to address socio-ecological issues, and their translation to specific skills and training needs. Based on research insights, the training program iterates the proposed courses and enhances identified capabilities by exposing the researchers to non-academic socio-environmental practices.

The programme includes the *Retracing* lecture series, *Reconnecting* methods training, *Reimagining* summer schools, *Reinstitutioning* webinars and *Reworlding* assemblies. Through articulated pathways to gain impact, we will be connecting the project activities with various stakeholders at different scales and with relevant programmes at European and international level (such as SDGs and European Green Deal).

The doctoral student position

This project will investigate practices around engagement with communities to foster learning on topics such as revitalisation, regeneration and heritage preservation in urban areas. The PhD candidate will work with local organisations and community groups to engage them in activities to help examine issues raised during urban revitalisation activities and how to balance such revitalisation, modernisation and improved sustainability with the preservation of the cultural heritage embodied within the urban space. The intention is to

advance Participatory Design theoretical frameworks and methodologies to support these kinds of collaborations and activities. During the first three years, there will be secondments outside Ireland to two organisations forming part of the Reworlding consortium: University of Hasselt in Belgium and the Waag Society in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The student will be expected to travel for workshops and consortium meetings and stay in Belgium and the Netherlands for periods and needs to be flexible in their commitments. There is a budget for travel. For more details of the specific position and what is expected, please see the website describing the 11 studentships: www.uhasselt.be/reworlding

Selection criteria

Essential
- The candidate holds a 2.1 Honours Degree or equivalent work experience in design, human computer interaction, computer science, computer engineering, or other relevant fields

General selection criteria

- The candidate's academic results are excellent.
- The candidate is interested in interdisciplinary research and have strong analytical skills.
- The candidate can work independently and as part of a team.
- The candidate has strong communication skills and are fluent in English (speaking and writing).
- The candidate agrees to do the foreseen secondment(s) with the associate partner of the hosting institution (see individual PhD descriptions).
- The candidate can demonstrate the necessary (participatory) design skills, clearly stated in your CV and/or cover letter.
- The candidate can be of any nationality, but has to comply with the MSCA eligibility criteria.

MSCA Eligibility criteria

- According to the project funder's regulations, the applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Ireland for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account;
- The candidate cannot already be in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment.

UL Specific selection criteria

- Fluency in English – written and oral

- The degree to which the proposed research can contribute to the field of research and the collaborative research environment at IDC, CSIS, S&E, and UL.
- Willingness to teach up to 6 hours per week within the department of Computer Science and Information Systems

Project-specific selection criteria

- The candidate's qualifications or equivalent work experience in design, human computer interaction, computer science, computer engineering, or other relevant fields.
- Experience with community engagement, and co-design or participatory design.
- Interest in sustainability, energy usage, smart cities, internet of things

Strong Merits
- Experience with cross-sector collaborations and/or multi-stakeholder processes
- Experience working with smart city technologies

Further information

For further information, contact Dr. Mark Marshall (mark.marshall@ul.ie)

Application

Applicants should submit:
- A CV (including the names of two referees)
- A cover letter detailing their qualifications, research experience and motivation
- Scans of diplomas, transcript of records and other certificates relevant for the position
- A portfolio of previous relevant projects and work related to the specific criteria of the doctoral network and position.

Applications should be emailed to Dr. Mark Marshall (mark.marshall@ul.ie). Applications much be received no later than 15th December 2023.