CAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP: SUMMER 2019

Duration of Scholarship: 5 weeks
Deadline for applications: 29th March 2019
Only online applications are accepted – click here to apply.

Project Proposer/s: Dr Karen McAuliffe

In 2007, Irish/Gaeilge was designated an official EU language (having held the status of Treaty language from 1973). However, in order to function as a full working language of the EU, not only do efforts have to be made to train and recruit suitably qualified EU civil servants working in Irish language posts, but the language itself needs to be developed, in particular Irish legal language.

This project investigates efforts being made to develop Irish legal language, at EU and national level. In particular, the project explores the way in which Irish is being developed (a) *within* EU institutions and (b) *for* EU institutions in the context of national research projects, and subsequently fed back into the Irish legal order. The primary aim of this project is to investigate what impact the creation/development of a national legal language outside the national legal order might have on that legal order.

What the researcher will do

1. Conduct a basic literature review on (a) the use of Irish as a legal language in Ireland and (b) any scholarship on the status/development/use of Irish in the EU context – are there any empirical projects out there? (weeks 1 and 2)
2. Create three distinct databases, containing: (a) EU documents referring to the status of the Irish language; (b) references from Irish courts to the Court of Justice of the European Union referring to the Irish language; (c) Official/legislative/policy documents from Ireland referring to the status of the Irish language; (weeks 3 and 4)
3. Cross-reference those databases for references to legal language (week 5)
4. If time permits, begin to code some preliminary interviews already carried out (guidance will be provided) (week 5)

Skills required by the Scholarship holder

Legal research; an interest in the intersection of law and language; knowledge of how to locate relevant legislation and policy documents use legal databases; effective note taking; organisational skills; good communication

skills and willingness to discuss findings with me in one-to-one meetings; Irish language knowledge is an advantage **but not necessary**; knowledge of Irish history/legal history is an advantage but not necessary; basic knowledge of how the EU functions/EU institutions; basic knowledge of Microsoft Excel and willingness to learn how to create a database table;

How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?
- The project will give the student the opportunity to develop their independent research skills.It will give them space to conduct in-depth research into a topic and guidance on how to draft a literature review that they otherwise are unlikely to have prior to working on their own dissertation in final year.
- Their research skills (searching databases; writing and summarising key findings; creation of databases etc.) will be enhanced. They will be introduced to reference software (Endnote), which will be useful as they continue with their studies and potentially into postgraduate research.
- They will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding in an emerging area of legal research (law and language).
- Additionally, they will have the opportunity to work with a leading researcher in that developing field, gain an insight into postgraduate research and will have their contribution acknowledged in the resulting publication(s).