



Post Specification

Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow (two posts)
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract – Full Time Both posts are tenable from the 1 st of July 2022
Research Group / Department / School:	Distributed Systems Group, Discipline of Networks and Distributed Systems, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Location:	Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Salary:	Commensurate with experience and achievement (in the range €46,906-€51,035)
Reports to:	Prof. Vinny Cahill & Prof. Ivana Dusparic
Hours of Work:	40 hours per week
Closing Date:	The closing date for applications is Friday May 6 th 2022

Post Summary

We are seeking to recruit two Postdoctoral Research Fellows to investigate the use of deep reinforcement learning (RL) and swarm intelligence techniques to optimize travel-time reliability in the presence of autonomous and conventional vehicles within the ClearWay project funded by Science Foundation Ireland from 2022-2026.

The increasing availability of sensor data, including from connected and autonomous vehicles, will make it possible to capture the detailed state of a road network in real time. Along with the ability to exercise an increasing level of control over individual vehicles either indirectly, e.g., via urban traffic control or driver guidance systems, or directly, in the case of (semi-)autonomous vehicles, this offers the opportunity to deploy new approaches to traffic management with the explicit goal of optimizing end-to-end travel-time reliability.

Extending the state of the art in deep RL and swarm intelligence, ClearWay will design algorithms for optimization of urban and highway traffic as a function of the increasing levels of sensor data and increasing levels of control over individual vehicles available. Such algorithms will need to take account of the scale, complexity, and inherent non-stationarity of traffic systems, while adapting to the many transient perturbations that effect traffic flow. The focus is on decentralized and multi-agent algorithms that allow traffic controllers to cooperate towards system-wide optimal solutions. The successful candidate is expected to make contributions to the state of the art in deep RL applied to cyber-physical systems in areas such as multi-agent cooperation, lifelong learning, transfer learning, and explainability.

The successful candidate is expected to engage in co-supervision of ClearWay PhD students, co-supervision of related undergraduate and MSc dissertation projects, ClearWay industry collaborations, the organization of the ClearWay intelligent mobility hackatons and other public engagement activities, and contribute to preparation of Horizon Europe proposals.

The position will be based in the School of Computer Science and Statistics at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland under the direction of Prof. Vinny Cahill and Prof. Ivana Dusparic. For informal inquiries please contact {vinny.cahill, ivana.dusparic}@tcd.ie.

Required Qualifications

The successful candidates must have a PhD in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electronic Engineering, or a related field. The post is applicable to both new and experienced PhD holders, and salary will be commensurate with experience and achievement. The successful candidate will join an inter-disciplinary team of highly-skilled and innovative researchers in the areas of RL and intelligent mobility.

Essential Knowledge & Experience

- Expertise in distributed computing
- Expertise in machine learning for large-scale systems, in particular deep and/or reinforcement learning
- Excellent software engineering and programming skills
- Established track record of publication in leading journals/conferences, on relevant topics
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Experience of project proposal writing
- The ability to work well in a group
- Strong self-motivation and willingness to learn

Desirable Knowledge & Experience

Experience in one or more of the following areas, is considered is preferable:

- Intelligent transport systems/intelligent mobility
- Optimisation
- MSc and PhD student supervision
- Industry collaboration and public engagement

Post Funding

The posts are funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) as part of the ClearWay project from 2022-2026.

Post Location

The posts will be hosted by the School of Computer Science and Statistics at Trinity College

Dublin, a collegiate, friendly, and research-intensive centre for academic study and research excellence. The School has been ranked #1 in Ireland, top 25 in Europe, and top 100 Worldwide (QS Subject Rankings 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021). For further information about the School of Computer Science and Statistics, see <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/>.

Application Procedure

Please send applications by email to vinny.cahill@tcd.ie and ivana.dusparic@tcd.ie quoting “ClearWay Fellowship” in the subject line and including a cover letter, curriculum vitae (giving full details of qualifications and experience, including transcripts of degrees, a description of your contribution to relevant project work, identification of your three most-significant publications relevant to the ClearWay project, and the names of two referees) and 1-2 page research proposal, in PDF format.

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland’s leading university and is ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin’s city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to five leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe’s only representative in the world’s top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The

Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals. With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world on 4 subjects and in the top 100 in 18 subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020). Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> . Non-EEA

candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

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