

## **Project One: Protecting the Inscribed Stones of Ireland**

### **Project background**

Outdoor cultural heritage monuments suffer greatly from the weathering process, and are at an ever-increasing risk of severe and permanent damage. This is especially so for monuments with carved inscriptions, since the inscriptions can be worn past recognition as a consequence of the weathering process and atmospheric pollution (see, e.g., the carvings on the bases of the Clonmacnois high-crosses). For this reason the surviving records of Ireland's past are constantly at risk. The Irish Inscribed Stones Project proposes to draw on the technical expertise developed by the FOUNDATIONS OF IRISH CULTURE PROJECT based at NUI, Galway (see: [www.foundationsirishculture.ie](http://www.foundationsirishculture.ie)), by using the very latest, state-of-the art laser scanning technology to produce to assemble a corpus of all known Irish stone inscriptions in one single archive. Clonmacnois is the most important Early Christian site in Ireland by virtue of its long history and the age and number of its surviving archaeological monuments (c. 750 in total). It is nearly a hundred years since these stones were last surveyed and described.

### **PhD 1: Establishment of Electronic Database of Irish Inscribed Stones (ref. TCCNUIG01)**

The successful candidate will be expected to have a thorough knowledge of the published corpus of Medieval Irish inscribed stones in particular, and familiarity also with contemporary stones monuments in England, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, Spain, France, Germany and Italy. S/he will also have experience in image processing and 3D modelling of stone artefacts. Familiarity with relevant software packages will also be expected. Knowledge of one or more continental European languages would be an advantage.

### **PhD 2: Prosopographical Analysis of Inscribed Stones & Their Contexts (ref. TCCNUIG02)**

The successful candidate will be expected to have a thorough knowledge of Old Irish and Latin, be familiar with the published literature on Irish and Late Antique prosopographical studies, and have a good knowledge of Early Irish historical, genealogical, and literary sources.

### **PhD 3: Study of a Defined Database of Irish Inscribed Stones (ref. TCCNUIG03)**

The successful candidate will be expected to be reasonably familiar with the surviving corpus of Irish inscribed stones, with particular reference to those at Clonmacnois. S/he will also have a good knowledge of Latin and Old Irish, a background in Early Irish History and be conversant with the published literature on Early Irish Art History.

**Funding:** €16,000 in addition to fees and some travel expenses



**Application Procedure:** Applicants should specify the title of the PhD they wish to apply for, and submit the following materials:

- a full CV including all degree and diploma results
- writing sample up to 4000 words. This may be take the form of one long piece (e.g. a minor dissertation for a taught MA course) or two shorter essays (at least one of which should be a graded essay submitted as part of an academic programme)
- the names and addresses of at least two academic referees

Please post or email applications to:

Development Manager, Moore Institute, National University of Ireland, Galway.  
<[mooreinstitute@nuigalway.ie](mailto:mooreinstitute@nuigalway.ie)>

**Closing date** for receipt of applications is 14 March 2008.

Further information about these scholarships is available from **Prof. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín**, Dept of History, NUI Galway ([daibhi.ocroinin@nuigalway.ie](mailto:daibhi.ocroinin@nuigalway.ie)) and from the websites [www.nuigalway.ie/mooreinstitute](http://www.nuigalway.ie/mooreinstitute) and [www.textscontexts Cultures.ie](http://www.textscontexts Cultures.ie)