MTU
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
Munster Technological University

Professor of Maritime Resources and Innovation



University: Munster Technological University
Faculty: Faculty of Engineering
Organisational home: National Maritime College of Ireland
Reports to: Dean of the Faculty of Engineering
Location: Across MTU Campuses

The Opportunity

Munster Technological University is establishing its first professorial appointments to strengthen research leadership, develop talent, and extend the contribution of its research to industry and society. The Professor of Maritime Resources and Innovation will lead a significant next stage in the development of MTU's maritime research capability.

The National Maritime College of Ireland provides a distinctive foundation, combining MTU and Irish Naval Service Expertise, Specialist Maritime Education, Advanced Simulation and Sectoral Relationships.

Existing research activity through the Halpin Centre for Research and Innovation, together with wider University strengths in Engineering, Energy, Digital Technologies, Business and Sustainability, creates opportunities to develop a broader Maritime Research Programme.

The appointment offers an established research leader scope to shape that programme, connect complementary expertise and develop new partnerships. The central ambition is a substantial increase in the scale, quality and sustainability of maritime research at MTU, supported by external funding, growing research teams and doctoral activity.





Purpose and Scope of the Role

This appointment represents a significant step forward in building MTU's maritime research capacity. The Professor will develop and lead a coherent research and innovation programme, strengthening the University's ability to attract funding, develop research talent, and deliver academic, economic and societal impact. The role may expand to take on a broader remit, including Research Centre activity leadership or supervision.

Research capacity building is central to the appointment. The Professor will combine their own research leadership with the development of colleagues, doctoral researchers, and interdisciplinary teams, establishing a sustainable foundation for growth.

The research agenda will build on the appointee's expertise, MTU's capabilities and opportunities arising through external partnerships. Indicative areas include offshore renewable energy, maritime security and resilience, maritime systems and operations, ports and logistics, and sustainable blue-economy development. These illustrate potential directions; candidates are not expected to bring expertise across all of them.

The Professor may bring an established maritime research profile or internationally recognised expertise in a complementary field with demonstrable and significant relevance to maritime challenges. In either case, they must demonstrate the ability to translate that expertise into substantial growth in MTU's maritime research capability.

They will draw on complementary expertise across the University and develop collaborations appropriate to the research agenda, including with colleagues in engineering, business, science, health and other relevant disciplines.

Principal Responsibilities

Research and Innovation

- Develop and lead a research agenda that substantially expands MTU's maritime research capacity, building on the appointee's expertise, existing university strengths and emerging opportunities.
- Strengthen research capacity by developing interdisciplinary teams, mentoring colleagues, and supporting emerging researchers to establish independent research profiles and funding portfolios.
- Lead competitive funding proposals and secure sustainable national, international and industry-supported research income.
- Conduct, lead and disseminate high-quality research through outputs appropriate to the field, strengthening MTU's international standing.
- Supervise doctoral researchers to completion and support the development of postgraduate and postdoctoral research talent.
- Develop collaborative research with universities, industry, maritime organisations and public bodies, connecting complementary expertise and research infrastructure.
- Advance the development, testing and validation of maritime technologies, systems or approaches, creating pathways towards adoption and impact.
- Champion research integrity, responsible innovation and an inclusive research culture.

Teaching and Learning

- Provide academic leadership in research-informed teaching and contribute to undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional maritime education.
- Contribute to curriculum and programme development that reflects advances in maritime research, technology and professional practice.
- Work with colleagues to connect maritime education with innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, logistics, and other relevant disciplines.

- Engage external partners in identifying emerging skills needs and developing relevant educational responses.
- Support interdisciplinary learning and opportunities for students to engage with research, simulation, and practical maritime challenges.
- Contribute to academic quality assurance and effective, inclusive and student-centred teaching practices.

Contribution to Society

- Develop partnerships that translate maritime research into economic, societal and environmental benefits, with particular attention to regional needs and opportunities.
- Work with industry, the Faculty of Business and MTU's innovation and enterprise functions to support knowledge transfer, technology adoption and commercialisation where appropriate.
- Apply research expertise to maritime challenges, which may include offshore energy development, safe and secure maritime activity, resilient infrastructure and sustainable coastal development.
- Support innovation in maritime products, services, operations and supply chains, contributing to enterprise capability and regional economic development.
- Contribute evidence and expertise to policy, standards, professional practice and public discussion relevant to maritime activity.
- Promote responsible and inclusive approaches to maritime innovation and the use of ocean resources.

Contribution to the University

- Contribute to the development and implementation of faculty and university research priorities, strategies and initiatives relevant to maritime activity and the blue economy.
- Provide collegial academic leadership that connects NMCI with complementary expertise across faculties, campuses and research groups.
- Develop collaborative opportunities with the Irish Naval Service and other maritime partners through established university and NMCI arrangements.
- Develop collaboration across relevant faculties and research groups, connecting the expertise required to advance the maritime research programme.
- Mentor colleagues and emerging research leaders, strengthening institutional research capability and collaboration.
- Contribute to university committees, academic governance and strategic initiatives appropriate to the role.
- Represent MTU externally and develop relationships that enhance its reputation, research opportunities and contribution to regional and international development.

Person Specification

The successful candidate will be an internationally recognised research leader with a demonstrated ability to develop research capability through others. They will bring a clear intellectual direction, a sustained record of achievement, and a credible approach to building a substantial maritime research and innovation programme at MTU.

Candidates may come from maritime disciplines or complementary areas such as engineering, energy, environmental science, computing, logistics, business, innovation, or policy. Candidates from complementary fields must demonstrate the significant relevance of their research to maritime challenges and their capacity to develop a sustained programme in this area.

Essential Criteria

Candidates must demonstrate:

1. *Relevant Qualification* - A doctorate.
2. *Research excellence and standing* - A sustained record of high-quality research and internationally recognised leadership in maritime research and innovation, or in a complementary field with demonstrable and significant relevance to maritime challenges.



3. *Research leadership and capacity building* - A demonstrated record of developing research capability through team development, mentoring or collaborative programme leadership, together with the ability to establish and grow a substantial maritime research and innovation programme at MTU.
4. *Competitive research funding* - A successful record of securing external research funding as principal investigator, coordinator or equivalent research lead, and contributing to the effective delivery of funded programmes.
5. *Doctoral and post-doctoral supervision* - Substantial supervision of successful doctoral researchers to completion. Supervision of postdoctoral research staff and other research supporting staff.
6. Teaching and educational contribution - Demonstrated ability to contribute effectively to research-informed teaching and learning. Relevant evidence may include undergraduate or postgraduate teaching, doctoral education, professional education, curriculum development, or other substantive educational activity.

Desirable Criteria

1. *Interdisciplinary collaboration and external engagement* - A record of developing productive research partnerships across disciplines and with industry, maritime organisations, public bodies or other external partners.
2. *Research application and impact* - Evidence that their research has contributed to technological, industrial, economic, societal, environmental, or professional outcomes beyond academic publication.
3. *Collegial leadership* - Evidence of working effectively with colleagues, supporting researcher development and contributing to a positive, inclusive research and academic environment.

Evidence of Suitability

Candidates should address each essential criterion in their application, identifying their own contribution and the outcomes achieved.

Relevant evidence may include influential publications and other research outputs; competitive funding awards; research programmes and teams developed; doctoral completions; technologies or operational approaches tested or adopted; external partnerships; contributions to enterprise development, professional practice, standards or policy; and educational or mentoring achievements.

The establishment or development of a research centre, testbed, laboratory, simulation platform or comparable research environment can provide strong evidence of capacity building. Candidates may also demonstrate this capability through other substantial research leadership achievements. Leadership in international networks, professional bodies, or advisory initiatives can provide evidence of research standing and influence.

Research quality and impact will be considered in the context of the candidate's discipline and contribution. The examples above are illustrative and are not additional mandatory criteria.

Responsibilities and Working Arrangements

The responsibilities of the appointment include Research and Innovation, Teaching and Learning, Contribution to Society, and Contribution to the University. Their balance will vary over time according to the University's strategic and operational needs and applicable workload allocation arrangements.

The Professor will undertake other appropriate duties relevant to their skills, competencies and professorial role, maintain their professional development, and comply with relevant university policies and the nationally agreed contract of employment.

Employment Terms

Appointment

- The appointment is full-time and permanent, subject to the terms of the contract of employment.

Salary

- The nationally agreed contract specifies the following salary scale, effective from 1 June 2026: €137,172; €141,988; €146,792; €150,889; €155,208; €159,524; €168,795. The applicable approved scale will apply at appointment, including any subsequent authorised revisions. Starting salary is determined by the rules governing starting pay and pay on promotion and is not subject to negotiation. Incremental progression is subject to relevant university policies and fulfilment of agreed duties.

Probation

- Appointment is subject to a probationary period of 12 months. Confirmation, any continuation of probation and termination during probation are governed by the contract and applicable procedures.

Place of work

- Across MTU Campuses. Regular attendance at other university sites may be required, and appointees must undertake duties at locations reasonably required by the University. In-person attendance is required to discharge the duties of the role. Any remote working arrangement requires approval under the University's Blended Working Policy.

Reporting Relationship

All appointees report to the Dean of the Relevant Faculty. Reporting arrangements are subject to the provisions of the nationally agreed contract.

Annual leave

- Annual leave entitlement is 30 days, inclusive of any compulsory leave days reasonably determined by the University. Leave arrangements must be agreed in advance with the relevant line manager and are subject to university needs and applicable provisions.

Hours and workload

- The appointment is full-time and extends across the 12-month university year. Appointees are required to work the hours reasonably necessary for the proper performance of their duties, taking account of applicable working-time legislation. Remuneration reflects the flexibility required of the role, with no additional payment for additional hours worked. The balance of duties varies according to strategic and operational needs and applicable workload allocation arrangements.

Sick leave and other leave

- Sick leave is governed by the applicable public service sick leave scheme. Other leave entitlements apply in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, university policy and applicable public service arrangements.

Pension

- Membership of the relevant superannuation scheme is compulsory. The applicable scheme, retirement age and pension terms depend on public service rules and the appointee's circumstances. Public service pension abatement provisions may apply where relevant.



Employment Terms

Professional development

- Appointees are expected to maintain their professional development and participate in relevant university development and compliance training.

External activities

- External employment, self employment, working partnerships and consultancy require prior written approval, as specified in the contract.

Academic and professional obligations

- Appointees are subject to contractual provisions on academic freedom, research integrity, confidentiality, data protection and intellectual property, together with relevant university policies and applicable legislation.

Notice

- Subject to the probationary provisions and other contractual exceptions, either party must give at least three months' written notice to terminate employment, unless a shorter period is mutually agreed.

Contractual basis

- The nationally agreed contract of employment governs the appointment. Any separately agreed university support arrangements are subject to their specific terms and approvals.

The University regrets that it cannot pay expenses for candidates attending interviews for this post or for taking up the position, if appointed.



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