

MEET OUR RESEARCH SUPPORT TEAM



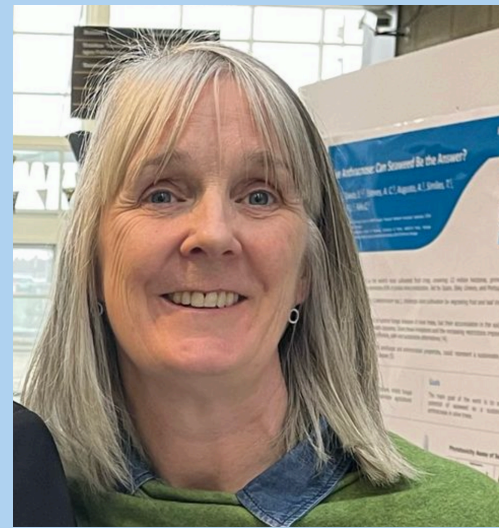
Dr Liam Brown
Vice President of Research, Development & Innovation

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With extensive experience across both public and private sectors, Dr Brown leads the Research, Development, and Innovation teams at TUS. He has a strong track record in strategic planning and operational management of enterprise-driven initiatives that deliver tangible economic and societal impact—locally, nationally, and internationally.

Since 2023, he has represented the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) at EURASHE, having previously served as one of Ireland's national delegates to the European Commission for the EU Framework Programmes.

Dr Brown holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree by research from the University of Limerick, as well as a PhD from Trinity College Dublin. His doctoral research focused on eLearning in the workplace, within the Enterprise Performance Optimisation domain, specifically in Continuous Improvement—Lean and Six Sigma.



Lorna Walsh
Director of Research Support Services
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Lorna joined Athlone Institute of Technology in 2003 as an Industrial Liaison Manager working between Research and Industry. Lorna has worked through the formation of the new Technological University, TUS where now She manages the research support function, including funding opportunities and funding supports for TUS staff.

Lorna has represented the university in various forums, has extensive experience supporting staff to develop research strategies and research funding plans. She regularly collaborates with National and European initiatives and has represented TUS in organisations such as the HRS4R, National Open Research Forum (NORF), Research Integrity Forum, THEA and the European Open Science Committee Future User Group.

Lorna has over twenty years' experience coordinating and building higher education research services and was a recipient of the Irish Research Council Research Ally Award 2022. Lorna a graduate of Limerick RTC, Chartered Institute of Marketing, Marketing Institute of Ireland and holds a Masters from IPA in Public Administration.



Dr Patrick Murray
Head of Research
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Dr. Paudie Murray is the Head of Research at Technological University of the Shannon (TUS).

Dr Murray is a Principal Investigator of LIFE-Health and Bioscience Research Institute at TUS and of Centre for Biosciences Research Centre with a strong track record of collaboration with industry specifically in identification of innovative ingredients and biological products from natural resources. He is a circular bioeconomy expert and leads the scientific coordination of multi-partner national and EU research and innovation projects.

He supervises research students at MSc and PhD level and is the author of multiple peer reviewed scientific articles, book chapters and patents.



Michelle Cooney
Senior Strategic Research Support Manager

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Michelle supports key research development in TUS, including developing RDI strategies to grow research capacity and success, coordination of large funding applications and contribution to activities such as research quality and impact assessments. She also provides support relating to the planning, development, and project management of TUS' research activities to enhance capabilities and reputation in research.

Michelle has an extensive twenty year track record of successful funding acquisition, experience of working with diverse range of sponsors, stakeholders, and solution providers, in-depth knowledge of research funding mechanisms & in-depth knowledge of EU reporting structures. She has been involved in the development of >300 successful National and EU funded project proposals. She champions professional standards and consistency in research administration to ensure that funding governance responsibilities and obligations are met.



Amy Higgins
Research Contracts Officer

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Amy is the first point of contact for Researchers and PI's who have successfully been granted research funding and now require a Collaboration Agreement in place. Amy is also responsible for drafting and reviewing Non-Disclosure Agreements for Research and providing advice on contracts and agreements for research related projects.

Amy holds a MBus in Marketing and Management, where she was the recipient of the Great Limerick Run Award of Excellence. Amy has over 15 years of experience in administrative and research support roles leading to her current role as Research Contracts Officer.

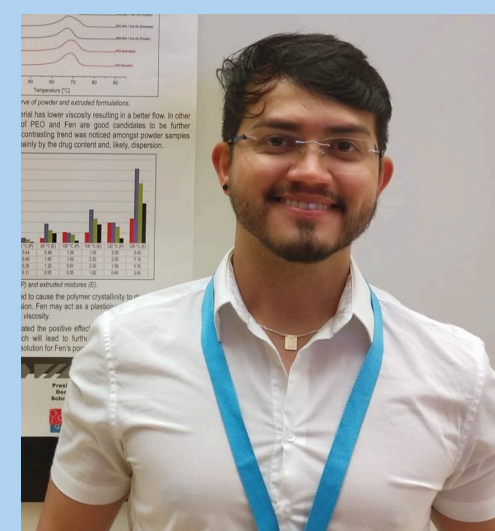


Anna Connaughton
Research Support Officer

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With a strong foundation in administrative support, communications strategy development, and project management, Anna holds an MBA in Business from TUS. As a Research Support Officer within the TUS RISE Project, she support the daily operations of TUS Research and advance the implementation of the university's strategic objectives.

Her role involves providing administrative support, coordinating meetings and events, and serving as a central point of contact for researchers and industry partners. While managing enquiries directed to the research office and collaborate with funding agencies, sponsors, and National Contact Points to facilitate site visits and strategic funding applications. Additionally, she organises research-focused events, including targeted funding sessions and training workshops, while working closely with the finance and HR teams to ensure the smooth execution of funded projects.



Dr. Gilberto Nunes Bezerra
Post-doctoral Research Support Officer

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Gilberto Nunes Bezerra, is a Pharmacist with a specialisation in Clinical Pharmacy, a Master's degree in Health Sciences, and a PhD in Polymer Engineering.

He is proud to be part of the Research Support Officer team within the TUS RISE Project. In this role, he collaborates closely with researchers across the Faculties of Science and Health, Business and Hospitality, and Continuing, Professional, Online & Distance Learning.

Together with the invaluable support of Michelle Conney and Lorna Walsh, he assists with all aspects of funding applications, fostering research excellence at TUS.



Dr. Hande Ermis
Post-doctoral Research Support Officer

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Dr. Hande Ermis holds a undergraduate and master's degree in Bioengineering. She completed her PhD in Environmental Engineering, where she focused on wastewater treatment with microalgae at lab-scale and pilot-scale systems, along with observing the positive effect on algal biomass. She joined the Centre for Applied Bioscience Research (CABR) in TUS in 2019 as a postdoctoral researcher and worked in industrial research projects. Along with her postdoctoral researcher role; she has worked as a Business Development Scientist at CABR as part of a multidisciplinary team undertaking industrial collaborative research projects.

She was awarded the Irish Research Council postdoctoral fellowship, where she worked on microplastic removal by microalgae. Currently, Hande is working as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the TUS RISE Research Support role, where she coordinates funding applications, supports research development, and contributes to enhancing research capacity and impact at TUS.



Dr. Jeovan Araujo
Post-doctoral Research Support Officer

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Upon gaining considerable experience in academia and industry, Jeovan developed a keen eye for detail and excellent report writing, proofreading, and presentation skills through which he supports the delivery of impactful research projects and innovation that align with TUS' strategic objectives. Within the Research Office, Jeovan supports funded research in different stages across TUS campuses taking advantage of his expertise in research management, from project supervision to data interpretation and visualisation.

Holding a BSc in Chemical Engineering from the Federal University of Maranhão (Brazil) and a PhD in Polymer Engineering from TUS, Jeovan specialises in green chemistry and engineering with focus on advanced manufacturing, recycling and upcycling technologies for plastics, driving sustainable progress in polymer science



Joanne Prout
Research Support Officer

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Joanne Prout holds an MSc in Work and Organisation Psychology and has over 12 years of experience in administration, working in both the private and public sectors.

Since joining the Technological University of the Shannon in 2017, she has played a key role in the day-to-day operations of the Research Office, providing essential support, assisting researchers with funding applications and facilitating project reporting. She has also been actively involved in the RUN-EU projects, supporting their successful implementation and contributing to achieving their objectives.



Kayleigh Foran
Enterprise Public Engagement & Outreach Coordinator
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Having developed an interest in democratising Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) while undertaking a BA in Communication Studies at Dublin City University, Kayleigh completed a MSc in Science & Health Communication, specialising in research focused public engagement. Her mission is to make STEM topics accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or education.

In TUS, Kayleigh coordinates enterprise engagement as part of the TUS RISE programme, connecting and promoting research throughout the university and beyond. Collaborating with academic staff, researchers, students, the RUN-EU network and project partners she provides support with public engagement, research communications, marketing, project & event management, graphic design, social media, WordPress web development and project dissemination.



Madeline Cummins
Research Support Officer

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With over 30 years of experience in administrative roles and holding a Diploma in Economic Science, Madeline brings a wealth of knowledge to the Research Office in TUS and plays a key role in ensuring the smooth day to day operations.

Her role in the Research Office involves coordinating travel and activities, assisting with project administration and providing support to staff and researchers.



Dr. Muhammad Azeem
Post-doctoral Research Support Officer

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Dr. Azeem holds a Bachelor's degree in Polymer Engineering reflecting his foundational knowledge in polymer materials and processes. His academic journey continued with a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering. This allowed him to broaden his expertise and gain insights into the chemical aspects of materials. Dr. Azeem's educational journey culminated in a Ph.D. in Polymer Engineering, from the Technological university of the Shannon (TUS), highlighting his commitment to advancing his knowledge and contributing to research and innovation.

His Ph.D. research, which focused on polymers recycling, demonstrates his capability to conduct advanced research in this field. Dr. Azeem joined PRISM in TUS after finishing his PhD as a postdoctoral researcher and worked on various industrial and Horizon Europe projects. Currently, Dr. Azeem's role in Research office is to support funding applications and provide his expertise in grant writing.



Susan Carroll
Research Support Officer

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Working previously with the Graduate School and the Research Technology Transfer Office. Susan recently joined the TUS RISE team as a Research Support Officer. She assists with the day-to-day operations of TUS Research, and the implementation of the TUS strategy, providing administrative support to TUS researchers and industry partners in the preparation of competitive funding applications. Administration support is also provided for event planning, meeting, and training. Susan also serves on the Research Hub Operations Committee.

Susan has a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience having joined TUS in November 2005 and worked in several areas within TUS, such as; Registration Department, Quality Office, Faculty of Science and Student Finance.



Tania Marsh
Research Integration Project Manager (PURE)
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Tania is leading the roll out of a Research Information Management System (PURE) for TUS. She holds a PgDip in Information & Library Studies from Robert Gordon University, where she was the recipient of the Deans Scholarship Award. Tania has over twenty years' experience in a range of library roles, including Scholarly Communications Librarian.

She has previously lead library engagement with research and researchers, developed training, research guides and provided individual, research group and faculty supports in academic publishing, open access, bibliometrics, alternative metrics, research impact and scholarly identity. Tania is co-chair of the RUN-EU+ Open Science Ambassador network, an Altmetrics Ambassador and is currently the Research Integrity Officer for TUS.