

Cullen Scholarship: Analysis of Maritime Security and Defence policy in Ireland utilising a ‘Level of Analysis’ approach - PhD Award

Introduction

A particular focus of the proposed research project is on Ireland’s current approach to maritime security and defence, while remaining cognisant of developments at an EU level and the approach of other similar sized nations. Ireland’s maritime infrastructure is rapidly developing as our ports continue to expand and as offshore installations increase in number to harness and transmit energy and to support communications. This infrastructure requires surveillance and monitoring as well as appropriate defence against threats and illicit activities.

The future development of the Irish maritime economy will require Ireland to develop its national security and defence apparatus to ensure adequate surveillance and monitoring of the Irish EEZ. Over 80% of global trade goes through maritime routes and up to 99% of the global data flow is transmitted through undersea cables. While maritime security is of critical importance, it is increasingly affected by a variety of challenges deriving from illicit activities, geopolitical rivalries, competition for natural resources, and other dangers such as cyberattacks and hybrid threats. Ireland’s commitment to the rules-based order at sea will be essential in order to support the wider EU role as a global maritime security actor.

Proposal

The proposed research will inform and support the formulation of a national framework for the development of national maritime security policy. It will investigate the maritime security policies of other countries and make recommendations about a way forward for Ireland. It will also assess the need for a national Joint Maritime Security Centre, from which to co-ordinate maritime security activities, taking account of the needs of industry and society. The implications for Ireland of the EU Strategic Compass for Security and Defence, which gives the European Union an ambitious plan of action for strengthening its security and defence policy by 2030, will be investigated, recognising that the strength of the EU lies in unity, solidarity and determination on common defence issues. Finally, the research will consider the relevance of the EU Maritime Security Strategy and associated Action Plan, which were unanimously adopted by EU member states in June 2014.

Together these project goals will create a holistic image of Ireland’s future Maritime Security and Defence Policy, that takes into account current and future threats and challenges, emerging and existing EU policies, and the changing uses to which Ireland’s maritime territory will be put in the future.

Outcomes

1. A comprehensive literature review that positions the research questions in extant knowledge and theory.
2. An analysis of the adequacy of current maritime security and defence policies in Ireland that depicts the “as is” scenario,
3. An analysis of the maritime security and defence policies of other countries, sufficient to position Ireland on a spectrum in terms of the adequacy and effectiveness of Ireland’s existing maritime security and defence policies.

4. An evaluation of what is changing in our maritime environment and territory that will demand a policy response, taking account of future uses, threats and challenges.
5. Recommended policy changes to protect and defend Ireland's maritime infrastructure

Marine Institute Corporate Strategy 2023-2027

The proposal supports three of the strategic priorities set out in the Marine Institute's Strategic Plan:

1. Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services
2. Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
3. Supporting Ireland's Blue Economy

Through the development of an evidence base relating to development of national maritime security and defence policies, the research will inform government and policy makers on the optimum responses to protect and defend Ireland's growing maritime infrastructure. In this way, the research supports the Marine Institute's strategy to **Transform Our Knowledge, Advice and Services**. The proposed research will provide scientific evidence to enable appropriate policies to be formulated, integrated into existing policies and implemented in a way that will **Deliver Impact Through Research and Innovation**. It will also contribute to **Supporting Ireland's Blue Economy** by protecting the maritime industry from threats and illicit activities that could undermine our economy and endanger the livelihoods of Irish citizens working in maritime sectors of the economy.

This proposal provides the evidence base with which to inform policy and equip policy makers with objective, scientific information that supports the strategic priority relating to **Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services**.

The project will generate original insights into areas of maritime security and defence policy that are insufficiently understood at a national level and yet vital to Ireland's strategic interests. In doing so, the project will build on an established international literature base (Bosilca and Riddervold, 2021, Germond, 2011, Germond, 2015, Masala and Tsetsos, 2013, Otto, 2020) and develop the Irish context. In this way, the project addresses the Marine institute's ambition to **Deliver Impact Through Research and Innovation**.

This proposal also supports **Ireland's Blue Economy**. It recognised the strategic importance and economic value of Ireland's maritime industry by providing policy advice based on in-depth analysis to inform government on the optimum framework for developing a National Maritime Security Strategy that protects and defends the industry. The proposal promotes maritime security through improved governance, policies, and actions that support the effective understanding of the maritime domain and attendant security risks,

Specific Requirements

The scholar should have a background in the maritime sector, maritime operations or defence studies, with strong analytical skills and experience in report writing. Good people and communication skills would be advantageous in this scholarship given the span of engagement that is involved at national and international level (Government Departments, industry, maritime professionals, personnel from research centres).

Financial Details

Scholarships will be up to €34,000 per annum (maximum funding PhD of €136,000 over four years or €68,000 over two years MSc). This amount comprises a maintenance award of €25,000 (rate effective 1-Jan-24) to the student as well as payment of fees to the host higher education institution (HEI). The maximum fees payable to the HEI will be €6,000 per annum. The scholarship award also includes a budget of up to €3,000 per annum for eligible research costs (travel & subsistence, publication costs, consumables and other costs, such as minor kit purchase e.g. camera) for the sole use of the student, and are payable on a reimbursement basis direct to the host institution where the postgraduate student (scholar) is registered. There are no overheads payable on the scholarship.

Publication costs are intended to cover publications on which the scholar is listed as first author and are published under Open Access.

Scholars can also supplement this funding by applying to the Marine Institute's Networking & Marine Research Communication Awards annual call.

In addition, the cost of a laptop will be covered by the Marine Institute (purchased via the Research Funding Office).

Location of Scholar

The scholar will be based within a third level institution or research centre, with access to office facilities in the Irish Maritime Development Office at 3 Park Place, Upper Hatch Street, Dublin 2, as required.

Marine Institute Co-Supervisor

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References

- BOSILCA, R.-L. & RIDDERVOLD, M. 2021. The European Maritime Security and Defence Policy Architecture: Implications for Norway. *NUPI Policy Brief*.
- GERMOND, B. 2011. The EU's security and the sea: defining a maritime security strategy. *European Security*, 20, 563-584.
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- OTTO, L. 2020. *Global challenges in maritime security*, Springer.