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University of Edinburgh

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Vacancy Details

Lecturer in Muslim-Christian Relations

Vacancy Ref : 032627

Closing Date : 24-Mar-2015

Contact Person : Mingyuan Cao

Contact Number :

Contact Email : divinity@ed.ac.uk

Applications are invited from scholars with research interests and teaching experience in Muslim-Christian Relations and wider areas of Islamic Studies. The successful candidate will have outstanding skills in teaching and supervision at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and a profile in research, commensurate with the stage of their career. The post will be situated within the Religious Studies Subject Area of the School of Divinity.

This appointment is full-time and open-ended and is tenable from 1st September 2015.

Salary: £38,511 - £45,954 per annum

Closing Date: Tuesday 24th March 2015 at 5pm (GMT)

1. Background

The University of Edinburgh, founded in 1583, is one of the ancient Scottish universities, and is consistently placed in the world's top twenty. The University's School of Divinity wishes to expand its capacity for teaching and research in the areas of Muslim-Christian relations and Islamic Studies. The post will contribute to a meaningful and co-ordinated interdisciplinary offering in Islamic Studies, Muslim relations with other religions, and various expressions of faith and belief in Scotland and in the wider European context.

2. Main Responsibilities (Approx. % of time)

Teaching (40%):

You will be required to deliver and assess courses at all levels of the School's teaching provision, and to carry out administrative tasks associated with the delivery and assessment of teaching. You will be expected to lecture in appropriate first- and second-year undergraduate courses, and to teach honours (third and fourth year) courses in your area of expertise. You will act as dissertation supervisor to students in the fourth year of the undergraduate curriculum. You will also contribute to the teaching and supervision of postgraduate students, including doctoral students, in your area of expertise. As one of the School's Personal Tutors, you will also be required to provide pastoral advice and guidance to an assigned group of Personal Tutees.

Research (40%):

You will be expected to engage in personal research and publication, and to contribute to the research culture of the School. You should be able to furnish evidence of outstanding achievement as a researcher, in the form of publications commensurate with your career stage. You will be expected to demonstrate the significant impact of your research work at a wider societal level through the shaping of government policy, or through developing school curricula materials, or by some other example of high-level social or cultural impact.

Administration (20%):

All members of the School are required to contribute to the administration of their Subject Area, at the direction of the Convener of Subject Area. The successful candidate will be asked from the start of the appointment to contribute fully to the administration and assessment that arise from teaching, and increasingly to the administration of the Subject Area and the School.

3. Person Specification

Qualifications

Essential

- Good honours degree (or equivalent) and doctorate in relevant subject area of Muslim-Christian Relations, conferred by date of agreed employment.

Skills

Essential

- Excellent English-language oral and written communication skills (exposition and discussion/debate).
- Commitment to, and potential for, excellence in teaching.
- Ability to conduct research that will lead to publication.
- Ability to conduct leading research that engages with, and impacts upon, wider public and ecclesial contexts.
- Ability to perform routine academic administrative tasks reliably, and to participate fully in the School's academic life, including collaborative working.
- Good IT skills relating to teaching and research (e-learning, internet-accessible data).

Desirable

- Capacity to contribute to the research culture of the School of Divinity
- Ability to attract applications from postgraduate research students.

Knowledge

Essential

- Specialist in the area of Muslim-Christian Relations and possessing an advanced knowledge of other areas of Islamic studies.

Desirable

- Demonstrated commitment to attending professional development courses.
- Contribution to academic conferences.
- Membership of relevant professional bodies and societies.

Experience

Essential

- Evidence of ability to produce original research publications of recognised international excellence in Muslim-Christian Relations, commensurate with the career stage.

Desirable

- Evidence of excellence in teaching, and assessment work at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Experience or strong promise in supervision of research students.
- Awareness of university-level procedures and standards.
- Successful grant applications.
- Relevant administrative experience
- Experience in course design and evaluation

Personal Attributes

Essential

- Honest, reliable, highly motivated, high academic standards, cooperative with academic and administrative colleagues.

Desirable

- Sensitivity to students from a wide range of backgrounds, and of various age-levels, and of various faith commitments or none.

4. Planning and Organising

- Plan and lead curriculum development and/or renewal in a specific aspect of the Subject Area and/or develop approaches to teaching and learning that are innovative for the subject area and/or institution.
- Plan and lead high quality research and, as appropriate to the field, project manage the research activity, supervising and taking responsibility for all or a major part of the Subject Area's activities.
- Plan and organise own activities to meet all deadlines of the academic cycle and/or research funder requirements.

5. Problem Solving

- Expected to resolve most problems using accumulated experience, with only the more challenging, non-standard issues reported to the line manager for assistance.

6. Decision Making

- Undertake specific administrative roles within the Subject Area and/or School.
- Take responsibility for the effective management of allocated resources.
- Take lead in research projects and/or for courses, coordinating staff input to these.

7. Key Contacts/Relationships

- All academic and professional services staff in the School of Divinity.
- Staff members in other Schools or parts of the institution with interdisciplinary interests.
- Current and prospective students.
- External networks and contacts as appropriate, to engage effectively with the wider academic and professional community.

8. Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries may be directed to the Head of School, Professor Paul Foster, via email on divinity@ed.ac.uk

Application Procedure

All applicants should apply online by clicking the apply link at the bottom of this page and submitting an up to date CV. The application process is quick and easy to follow, and you will receive email confirmation of safe receipt of your application. The online system allows you to submit a CV and other attachments.

You will be notified by email whether you have been shortlisted for interview or not.

The closing date is 5pm (GMT) on Tuesday 24th March 2015.

Eligibility to Work

In accordance with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 the University of Edinburgh, as an employer, has a legal responsibility to prevent illegal working and therefore must check that all employees are entitled to work in the United Kingdom (UK).

To do so, the University of Edinburgh requires to see original documents evidencing right to work in the UK before commencement of employment and this is normally carried out at interview. Details will be provided in any letter of invitation to interview.

For further information on eligibility to work please visit our [eligibility to work website](#)

If you are not currently eligible to work in the UK, it may be possible for the University of Edinburgh to sponsor you to obtain a Tier 2 (General) visa to enable you to take up the appointment should you be successful at interview.

For applicants interested in sponsorship information is available on our [Working in the UK website](#)

However, if you have previously been sponsored by an employer within the UK but your leave has expired or lapsed and you are no longer in the UK, according to Home Office Visa Immigration rules you cannot apply for sponsorship under any category of Tier 2 for a period of 12 months after the date your visa expired and/or you left the UK.

If you are an academic in the field of sciences; humanities; engineering; medicine; digital technology; or the arts and come from outside the EEA, it may be possible for you to apply for a Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa.

The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa route offers a greater flexibility in your employment compared to other UK immigration routes, meaning you can, for example, move organisation, location and/or job role. By contrast with, a Tier 2 visa where you are 'tied to a UK sponsor'. Tier 1 provides greater flexibility in undertaking additional engagements, such as collaborations and is intended as a route to settlement. Allowed absences from the UK are up to 180 days per year without losing the eligibility to qualify for settlement, with no restriction on the reason for absence (unlike Tier 2, where any absences from the UK must be for a purpose consistent with the person's employment or economic activity, including paid annual leave, or for serious or compelling personal reasons).

You would initially need to apply to be endorsed as an internationally recognised leader or emerging leader in your particular field by a designated competent body (Arts Council England, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Society, Tech City UK).

Tier1 (Exceptional and Exceptional Promise) Endorsement Criteria

Once successfully endorsed, you are able to apply for a Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa. More information on this entry route is available at [UKVI Website](#).

Conditions of Employment

Pension Scheme

This role is grade UE08 and therefore the post holder is automatically included in membership of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), subject to the USS membership criteria, unless they indicate that they choose not to join the Scheme.

For further information please visit our [Pensions website](#).

Salary

The role is grade UE08 and attracts an annual salary of £38,511 to £45,954 per annum for 35 hours each week. Salary is paid monthly by direct transfer to your Bank or Building Society account, normally on the 28th of the month. Salaries for part-time staff are calculated on the full-time scales, pro-rata to the Standard Working Week.

The University reserves the right to vary the candidate information or make no appointment at all. Neither in part, nor in whole does this information form part of any contract between the University and any individual.

School of Divinity

Theology has been taught at Edinburgh since the University's foundation in 1583. In the School of Divinity today (New College) you are in a college setting, with our own site, library, dining/socialising hall, and a strong sense of community of students and staff. Yet you are also part of a large, world-class university, and in the heart of one of the most scenic and vibrant cities in Europe. From its foundation, the University of Edinburgh has maintained a distinguished tradition of higher learning and academic excellence. Today the University is one of Britain's leading research institutions with an international reputation for scholarship and achievement; and access to research libraries of world importance.

Personalised study: The school comprises 30 academic staff, some 300 undergraduate students and about 160 graduate students from all over the world and with a variety of religious affiliations. We take personal interest in our students and offer a welcoming and friendly setting in which to pursue the exciting and demanding study of Theology and Religious Studies. Undergraduate students are assigned to staff members who act as Personal Tutors, helping students to plan their studies successfully.

Research: In the most recent national Research Assessment Exercise, the School of Divinity was rated among the top three academic units in its subjects in the UK. Incoming postgraduate research students are offered a training course in research methods, and are given conscientious supervision from their first weeks through to submission of the thesis. There are also special orientation events for foreign students.

There are three specialist research centres in the School:

- The Centre for Theology and Public Issues
- The Centre for the Study of Christian Origins
- The Centre for the Study of World Christianity

Teaching: In the most recent assessment of teaching quality the School was rated highly satisfactory. Teaching within the School is arranged by five Subject Areas:

- Biblical Studies
- History of Christianity
- Religious Studies
- Theology and Ethics
- World Christianity (at postgraduate level)

From the first year onward, courses involve small group tutorial and seminar learning as well as lectures. We have a long and distinguished record in research, teaching and postgraduate supervision. Our current staff includes scholars with international reputations in various subjects in theology and religious studies.

Degree programmes: Our undergraduate programmes include the BA/MA in Religious Studies, the BA/MA Divinity (Theology) and the BD/BD Honours.

The School offers undergraduate courses in four subject areas:

- Biblical Studies
- History of Christianity
- Religious Studies
- Theology and Ethics

We offer taught masters degree programmes in seven areas:

- Biblical Studies
- Ministry
- Religious Studies
- Ethics
- Science and Religion
- Theology in History
- World Christianity

Research degree programmes at both masters (MSc by Research, MPhil) and doctoral (PhD) levels are available in all seven areas.

E-learning: E-learning is part of the innovative approach to teaching at New College.

Research facilities: The library holdings available to research students are considerable. The New College Library is reputed to be the largest separate theological collection in Britain. Total holdings in the various University libraries exceed 2.25 million volumes. In addition, the National Library of Scotland (a national deposit library) holds more than five million volumes.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/divinity>

College of Humanities and Social Science (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/humanities-soc-sci>)

The College of Humanities and Social Science is the largest and most diverse of the three Colleges in the University. Led by Vice-Principal Professor Dorothy Miell, it has 12,600 undergraduates, 4,500 taught postgraduates, 2,000 research students and more than 3,100 academic and support staff. The College incorporates 11 Schools (Business; Divinity; Economics; Edinburgh College of Art; Education; Health in Social Science; History, Classics and Archaeology; Law; Literatures, Languages and Cultures; Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences; and Social and Political Science), the Institute for Academic Development, the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and the Office of Lifelong Learning. The College is located on multiple sites across Edinburgh, with the majority of Schools and College Offices based in the central George Square area. The College, which is recognised as one of the world's leading centres for the arts, humanities and social sciences research and teaching, has been investing strongly in recent years.

Research Excellence Framework 2014 (REF2014)

The College operates at the highest levels of international quality across a very wide range of disciplines in the arts, humanities and social sciences and submitted the work of more than 750 staff to 23 Units of Assessment in the Research Excellence Framework 2014. The College achieved a superb result, combining a large-scale, broad and diverse submission with very high quality outcomes: 86% of its research impact and 76% of the overall quality profile were assessed as world-leading (4*) and internationally excellent (3*). Using the widely used Research Power index (which combines the submission's overall score for 3* and 4* work with the volume of staff submitted), 12 Units which were ranked within the top five in the UK, and 18 Units which were ranked first in Scotland are located in the College. With an assessment of more than 95% at 3* and 4*, we're particularly proud of the outstanding research environment we create for staff and research students.

The University of Edinburgh

For more than four centuries, our people and their achievements have rewritten history time and again. They've explored space, revolutionised surgery, published era-defining books, paved the way for life-saving medical breakthroughs and introduced to the world many inventions, discoveries and ideas from penicillin to Dolly the sheep. We have believed that anything is possible.

We still do. The latest Research Excellence Framework highlighted our place at the forefront of international research. This adds to our international reputation for the quality of our teaching and our student experience excellence.

As a member of staff you will be part of one of the world's leading universities, with 22 Schools spread over 3 Colleges that offer more than 500 undergraduate and 160 postgraduate courses to over 35,000 students each year. Professional services are

critical to this success as well as our world-class teaching, research and student facilities. In fact, we are one of the top employers in Edinburgh, with over 12,000 people spread across a wide range of academic and supporting roles.

The University is proud of its success with online teaching initiatives, with 1905 students currently studying its online distance learning postgraduate programmes, and a total to date of 1 million enrolments for Edinburgh MOOCs.

As a world-changing, world-leading university we are an exciting, positive, creative, challenging and rewarding place to work. We give you support, nurture your talent, develop and reward success and integrate academic, professional and personal career goals, as well as give your career the benefit of a great and distinguished reputation.

The University of Edinburgh holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award in recognition of our commitment to advance the representation of women in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. We are also Stonewall Scotland Diversity Champions actively promoting LGBT equality.

The University has a range of initiatives to support a family friendly working environment. See our

[University Initiatives website](#)

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

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