Job Description – Lecturer in Psychology

About the Role
The post holder will work in a team that presents and produces innovative learning resources across the School of Psychology & Counselling, focusing on the developing and teaching of the British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited psychology qualifications.

In addition to contributing to the teaching within the School of Psychology & Counselling, the post-holder will be expected to conduct independent research (appropriate to the level of appointment) and contribute to the Open University’s REF submission. They should undertake research that aligns with the School’s research profile.

We are particularly keen to received applications from those with an academic background appropriate for BPS registration.

Key responsibilities
The person appointed will be expected to contribute to the teaching, research and administration of the School, Faculty and University in the following ways:

Teaching
- Contribute to teams producing, presenting and updating relevant modules and qualifications for the School of Psychology and Counselling
- Support teaching and learning activity and development appropriate to online and distance education and qualifications for the Open University
- Take an active role in School and Faculty activities and groups developing innovative curricula and pedagogies
- Contribute to the production and presentation of interdisciplinary curricula involving psychology as necessary within Open University curriculum more broadly

Research
- Engage actively in research and produce high quality research outputs that have the potential to form part of the School’s REF submission (Unit 04 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience)
- Contribute to research activities and events complementary to on-going research in the School, Faculty and research centres connected to psychology, and take an active role in research communities
- Supervise research students

Academic Management
- Contribute to academic management within the School, Faculty and University appropriate to level, as required by the Head of School

Examples of the nature and type of teaching and learning offered by the Open University can be found on OpenLearn: https://www.open.edu/openlearn/
**Person Specification**

*Essential*

- A PhD or equivalent in an area of psychology or cognate discipline
- A developing profile of teaching excellence in psychology
- A developing profile of research excellence in an area of psychology complementary to existing strengths of members of staff within the School of Psychology & Counselling [http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/people](http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/people)
- Evidence of understanding the issues involved in supporting and delivering distance learning in Higher Education
- Evidence of interest in, or commitment to, online teaching and learning
- Experience of teaching at a range of levels in psychology
- Excellent writing skills and the ability to produce written material for students appropriate to their level of study
- A track record of being able to work collaboratively with others, and of working successfully in teams
- Ability to communicate effectively with co-workers and colleagues ‘at a distance’
- Flexibility and adaptability of working practices
- Commitment to practices of equality and diversity
- Commitment to values of the Open University

*Desirable*

- Experience of using and developing online and multimedia teaching materials
- Research activity with a clearly applied dimension
- Experience of additional research activity (e.g. grant bidding, impact activities) appropriate for careers stage
- A teaching qualification appropriate to HE
About the Unit

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)

The Faculty is the largest and most diverse at The Open University, with some 50,000 students studying our modules with excellent completion rates and consistently outstanding student satisfaction ratings. Noted for the strength of our interdisciplinary approaches, our scholars of international standing teach and research a very wide range of topics and themes in specific subject areas, recognized as world class or internationally excellent in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, and having a direct and profound influence on our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

The Faculty is currently organised into three Schools:

- School of Psychology & Counselling
- School of Social Sciences and Global Studies
- School of Arts and Humanities

Students are supported by three Student Support Teams. These teams offer specialist study support to students undertaking our qualifications across the University. Members of academic staff, including academics based in all four nations of the UK, form part of these teams in sustaining and improving student progression and retention.

The Faculty works closely with important organisations and institutions in the UK and other parts of the world in a range of validated partnerships and collaborations. Engaged in world-class, agenda setting research tackling the most difficult challenges facing us in the 21st Century, with work in numerous subject-based and interdisciplinary research groups and projects.

With c.1800 members of staff comprising academics, associate lecturers, support staff and full-time research students working across the locations of the University, combining originality and innovation in research and curriculum, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is a vibrant and exciting place to study and work.

To find out more about the Faculty’s teaching, learning and research, please visit: http://fass.open.ac.uk/

The School of Psychology & Counselling

The School of Psychology & Counselling is Europe’s largest provider of university-level education in Psychology and a fast developing are in Counselling, offering undergraduate and research qualifications, and with taught postgraduate qualifications currently in development. The School has a vigorous research culture with strengths in psycho-social perspectives, counselling, social and forensic psychology. Our general orientation is specifically multi-perspectival and interdisciplinary, and this is reflected in both our teaching and research - our students are well versed in methodological skills, but also understand fundamental conceptual and philosophical issues in psychology, and the different ways in which psychological knowledge can be constructed and applied.

Members of the School work in close collaboration with psychologists in other Faculties including the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS), the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) and the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in research, teaching and curriculum provision.

Psychology & Counselling Staff and their Research interests

For individual staff profiles please visit: http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/people