Job Description – Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Social Work Ref - 16350

Reports to: Head of Social Work (England)
Location: Milton Keynes
Grade AC3/4 £40,792 - £48,677 for AC3 & £51,630 - £58,089 for AC4

About the role
We are seeking to appoint a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Social Work to contribute to the work of the Social Work qualifications

The successful candidate will possess a background in Social Work practice and experience of social work education in the HE sector and if applying for the role as Senior Lecturer, will additionally offer expertise in research and scholarship as evidenced by ongoing professional development and measurable outputs.

As well as contributing to the production, presentation and updating of modules within Social Work you will also need to be able to write materials for other modules within the School’s awards and degrees and help to maintain existing awards. Your research (existing or developing) needs to appropriately underpin the Social Work teaching materials and help to maintain the leading-edge reputation of teaching within the School of Health, Wellbeing and Social Care (HWSC). To this end you will be expected to join one of the School’s research groups. Teaching in Social Work involves being a member of one or more module teams responsible for the production and maintenance of open and distance learning materials that draw on a system of blended teaching and learning. You should ideally have some knowledge of technology-enhanced learning. If appointed at Senior Lecturer grade you will be expected to take on additional academic leadership roles across the discipline of Social Work.

The School’s curricula aims to make a significant contribution to the education and skills of the Health and Social Care workforce as required by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies and in the light of new initiatives within the health and social care sectors. The development of study skills is an important aspect of teaching across the School.

Key responsibilities
You will work individually and as part of a team and you will contribute to the team by:

- Developing learning materials, including the updating, writing and redrafting of materials, critical reading, editing associated material, and the production of audio-visual and online resources;
- Playing a full part in the presentation and maintenance of existing courses, including writing assignments, monitoring tutors and participating in assessment and cluster award boards;
- Developing synergies between teaching and research by developing a personal research plan that aligns with one or more of the School’s research themes;
- Promoting equal opportunities across all aspects of School activities including teaching and research;
- Undertaking any other duties as required by the Head of School or Head of Social Work (England); this will include additional academic leadership roles if appointed at Senior Lecturer grade.
Skills and experience

- Master's degree or equivalent in a field related to Social Work (at Lecturer grade);
- PhD or equivalent professional experience related to increasing the pursuit of knowledge in Social Work (at Senior Lecturer grade);
- A recognised professional qualification that is currently registered with one of the UK regulators for Social Work in the UK;
- A post graduate teaching qualification or the ability to gain a relevant qualification during the first two years in post;
- An understanding of policy and practice issues across the social work and social care subject area from a UK perspective;
- Ability to work effectively, flexibly and collaboratively with others; being reflective and self-critical of personal contributions;
- Excellent command of spoken and written English, with the capacity to communicate clearly and influentially with a range of stakeholders;
- A willingness to write teaching materials in, and outside of, immediate area of expertise;
- An understanding of supported open and distance learning and an ability to write clearly and cogently for diverse audiences;
- Proven ability to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines, within resource constraints, and sometimes under pressure;
- Developing evidence of participation in high-quality research in a relevant field commensurate with career stage;
- An understanding of the role of new technologies within blended teaching and learning, and a commitment to innovation in this area;
- Demonstrable commitment to equal opportunities and anti-oppressive practice in social work;
- The commitment to develop social work within an interdisciplinary and multi-professional framework in which there is a strong service-user partnership focus.
- Ability and willingness to travel for work purposes, and to live within reasonable commuting distance of The Open University in Milton Keynes;
- Commitment to equal opportunities policies and practices;
- Demonstrable energy and enthusiasm for promoting Social Work education at The Open University.

For Senior Lecturer you must additionally demonstrate:

- An ability to write materials for students studying online;
- Evidence of research and scholarship – evidenced through publications and or external income funding impacting the field of Social Work.

Desirable:

- HEA or equivalent accreditation.
- Record of publications in a relevant area that supports a relevant field of practice.

There is an expectation the members of staff appointed to this role will be present at Walton Hall on average 2 – 3 days per week.