Job Description – Lecturer in Classical Studies

About the role
As Lecturer in Classical Studies you will contribute to the teaching, assessment and quality assurance of Classical Studies modules. You will also support impact and outreach activities centred on the Greek Theatre and Digital Humanities and be expected to undertake your own original research in the field of Classical Studies.

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

Teaching
- Contribute to teams producing, maintaining and updating Classical Studies modules and qualifications, with a specialism in ancient Greek literature, history or culture
- Support student learning activity through the preparation of assessment materials and participation in Quality Assurance and examination processes

Impact
- Contribute to the organisation of impact activities and events which promote Classical Studies
- Contribute to developing impact case studies
- Assist with the collection and collation of data which support, and evidence impact activities

Research
- Engage actively in research and produce high-quality research outputs, including work of international standard
- Contribute to research activities and events in the School and Faculty

Skills and experience

Education, qualifications and training

Essential
- A PhD in Classics, Classical Studies, Ancient History, Classical Archaeology or a related subject
Knowledge, work and other relevant experience

Essential

- A profile of teaching excellence in the culture, literature, archaeology and/or history of ancient Greece
- The ability and readiness to contribute to the production, maintenance and updating of Classical Studies modules and/or the Faculty’s Level 1 Arts interdisciplinary curriculum
- An understanding of the latest pedagogical techniques for teaching Classical Studies in HE, including the issues involved in supporting and delivering distance learning programmes
- Potential for research excellence in any area of Classical Studies. This should demonstrate the ability to produce work of sufficient quality to be included in future REF exercises
- The ability to contribute to raising the profile of Classical Studies, e.g. through outreach and dissemination activities
- The ability to communicate ideas effectively, both orally and in writing, to a variety of audiences
- Efficiency and organisation skills, including the ability to work to deadlines

Desirable

- A proven track record of teaching Classical Greek, especially to beginner students
- Experience of teaching at a range of undergraduate levels in Classical Studies
- Experience of teaching at Master’s level
- Experience of working with and/or producing distance-teaching materials
- Experience of using and/or developing multimedia teaching materials
- An interdisciplinary approach in teaching, with a willingness to think across genre/subject boundaries
- An FE/HE teaching qualification or Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy
- Research expertise which complements the research areas of current staff of Classical Studies at the OU
- A track record of high-quality research publications
- Experience of additional research activity (e.g. research impact activities, bidding for funding) appropriate for career stage
- A proven track record of being able to work collaboratively with others
- Experience of designing and analysing questionnaires.
Personal Abilities and Qualities

Essential

- A commitment to equal opportunities policies and practices
- A commitment to Open University values
- Evidence of being able to work in teams

About the unit/department

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.

From 1 August 2019, the Faculty will be organised into three Schools:

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

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 Arts & Humanities

From August 1, the School will consist of approximately 100 academics, including Staff Tutors, organised into five disciplines, namely: Art History, English & Creative Writing, Classical Studies, History and Music. In addition to offering single honours qualifications at undergraduate and postgraduate level, the School is proud of its long history of interdisciplinary teaching, epitomised by its BA Arts & Humanities, and its interdisciplinary Level 1 (first year) modules. It also hosts several research centres, has recorded strong performances in REF2014, and actively supports the research and scholarship of its academic staff. To find out more visit the requisite discipline pages, which will be found on the School’s web page: http://fass.open.ac.uk/schools/school-artsand-cultures

Classical Studies

Classical Studies has been one of the fastest-growing Classics groupings in the country. From a staff of three when it first became a separate department in 1993, we now have fourteen academic staff.

Teaching

We teach Classical Studies to over 1,300 students a year at undergraduate level. The BA (Hons) Classical Studies was introduced in 2014. At level 1 Classical Studies is represented in the module Discovering the Arts and Humanities (A111) by three areas of study: Cleopatra, ancient sculpture and receptions of Sophocles' Antigone. Voices, Texts and Material Culture (A105) also includes material from Classical Studies, and is due to be replaced in 2020 with a new module, Cultures (A112), which has case studies on Athens, Rome and Delphi.

The School offers three interdisciplinary modules in classical civilisation. Exploring the Classical World (A229) is a ‘gateway module’ at level 2, designed to introduce students to key themes and questions in the study of both Greece and Rome. Myth in the Greek and Roman Worlds (A330) is a level 3 module, as is The Roman Empire (A340) which presented for the first time in October 2015.

In addition, the School offers students the opportunity to study ancient languages. There are currently modules for beginners in both Latin (A276) and Greek (A275). Both of these combine the teaching of language and literature in translation. Our language modules have attracted large numbers of students, making the School a leading national provider of teaching in Latin and ancient Greek.

The School also runs an MA programme in Classical Studies consisting of a postgraduate foundation module, a subject module on the ancient body, and a dissertation which allows students to pursue their interests and facilitate the transition to PhD work. These modules, unlike our undergraduate modules, are delivered entirely online. There are currently around 200 students taking the MA.

Most of our modules are designed for a life of ten or twelve years, subject to regular review and adaptation. They carry either 60 or, in the case of the second part of the MA, 120 credit points.
Research
The School has a strong research culture and seeks to support, maintain and develop the research for which it is both nationally and internationally recognised. In REF2014, the quality profile determined that 10% of our research in Classical Studies was world leading, 40% internationally excellent, 45% internationally recognized and 5% nationally recognised. External research income has risen in the last census period, and the School aims to grow further here, where appropriate in collaboration with external partners and other institutions. Our membership of the newly formed OOC (Open-Oxford-Cambridge) Doctoral Training Partnership is now providing fresh opportunities for such collaboration and aspires to promote excellence in research, postgraduate research training and knowledge exchange in the Arts & Humanities.

Our research is focused in five broad areas: Greek and Roman material culture; ancient and modern reception of classical antiquity; the ancient body; spatial Classics; ancient material religion; and Greek and Latin texts. We are also home to the Baron Thyssen Centre for the Study of Ancient Material Religion. Over the next few years, we aim to develop all these areas to support both individual and collective research. Our research feeds not only into the broader Faculty research themes in Arts – currently Colonial and Postcolonial Policing; Cross-Cultural Identities; Digital Humanities; The Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies; Gender and Otherness in the Humanities; Harm & Evidence Research Collaborative (HERC); Literature and Music; Material and Visual Cultures; Medieval and Early Modern; Romantic Period – but also into the taught curriculum.

The School holds regular subject seminars and research conferences and aims to provide an ambitious, flexible and supportive environment for postgraduate study. Research student numbers and completions have increased since REF2014. At present there are 9 research students working in Classical Studies.

For more information about the subject area, please visit our website at: http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/classical-studies/index.shtml.