Lecturer in Sociology

About the role

The post-holder will work in a team presenting and producing innovative learning resources across our sociology curriculum. Particular expertise in social theory and mixed research methods would be welcomed. The post-holder will be asked to contribute to the new Sociology Qualification at the Open University.

In addition to contributing to teaching within the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies, the post-holder will be expected to conduct independent research (appropriate for the level of appointment) and to contribute to the Open University’s REF submission. They should undertake research that aligns with the School’s strategic research priorities.

We are particularly interested to receive applications from those with teaching and/or research experience in one or more of the following areas: Social Theory and Mixed Research Methods

Key responsibilities

Teaching

- To contribute to the development, planning, delivery and updating of a high quality and successful curriculum at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels, in Sociology
- To prepare distance learning materials suitable for the teaching and learning methodologies used by the Open University.
- To contribute to the presentation of Open University modules. This includes: the briefing, debriefing and training of part time tutoring staff (Associate Lecturers); the direction of teaching and assessment / examination; monitoring of samples of marking by Associate Lecturers; membership of examination boards; contributing to discussion forums enriching the student experience and liaising with the Student Support Team.

Research and scholarship

- To enhance the Discipline’s, School’s and Faculty’s research and scholarship profile through high quality research related research publications suitable for inclusion in the REF.
- Working effectively and collaboratively to develop a shared research and scholarship culture.
- Generating grant income supporting the post-holder’s research.
- Attracting and supervising postgraduate research students.
Administration, Management and other duties

- Engaging with appropriate academic leadership and administrative tasks, and playing an active role within the faculty, as required by the Head of School.
- Compliance with Statutory Requirements, Codes of Practice, University Policies and Health and Safety arrangements.

Person Specification

Essential

- A PhD (or equivalent) completed, or close to completed in Sociology or a closely related subject.
- Evidence of teaching ability, and the capability and readiness to prepare printed and online teaching materials for distance learning, and to support modules in presentation through online and face-to-face tutoring, the preparation of assessment materials, and participation in Quality Assurance and examination processes.
- Enthusiasm for supporting distance learning by adults and for the application of new technologies to teaching and supporting students.
- A track record of successful research that complements existing Sociology research at the Open University, underpinned by a good publication record in major peer reviewed journals, commensurate with career stage.
- Evidence of applying for external funding, appropriate to career stage.
- Evidence of ability to develop new research collaborations.
- Ability to work collaboratively, collegially, adaptively and responsively with others in an interdisciplinary context for teaching or research.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written in a variety of contexts, including the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism.
- Ability to develop a leadership role in teaching and research, commensurate with stage of career.
- Ability to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines.
- Commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University including the principles and practice of equality and diversity.
Desirable

- Experience of producing online and/or distance learning materials.
- Experience of supervising research students, managing post-doctoral workers and research budgets.
- Higher Education professional accreditation or equivalent qualification.
- Experience of working with and influencing policy makers, governmental and/or non-governmental institutions, industry partners.
About the Unit

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences comprises:

- School of Arts & Humanities
- School of Social Sciences & Global Studies
- School of Psychology & Counselling
- Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum, Research and Enterprise, Faculty Operations and Administration

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.

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/ or for general research at the OU, visit
http://www.open.ac.uk/research/
Department of Sociology

Sociology at The Open University explores contemporary social issues and society through a critical and enquiring lens, both through our teaching and research. The qualifications we have developed enable students to learn and think about different aspects of social and everyday life in new and exciting ways, challenging assumptions and ways of seeing and understanding.

Our academics

Our academics are a diverse team with interests including:

- migration, diasporas, transnational communities
- digital technologies
- the psychosocial
- cities and urban cultures and politics
- bodies, gender and health
- science and technology studies.

Our research

Sociology team members are active researchers committed to innovative, high-quality research public engagement and activism. The research we undertake is cutting-edge and topical, for example looking at smart cities, digital health apps, migrant journeys and urban water.

Our academics have a strong track record in securing grants to support their research, giving talks and writing papers for national and international conferences, and being involved in collaborations with relevant institutions, such as the Tate Gallery.

Open University teaching involves working closely with colleagues in module teams to produce and present modules based on high quality written, audio-visual and online materials. Reading and discussing the work of other members of the module team is central to this role. OU academics need to be able to work closely with colleagues as well as to plan and undertake independent work to deadlines. They are also expected to be open to working across traditional disciplinary boundaries, and to taking on teaching within their subject which is outside of their research specialism.