Professor in Politics and International Studies

About the role

The post-holder will work in a team presenting and producing innovative learning resources across our Politics and International Studies curriculum and should have an outstanding track record of research publications and income generation. Applicants will have an excellent record in teaching to help further develop our undergraduate curriculum in Politics and International Studies including leading the development of new postgraduate curriculum in International Relations.

In addition to contributing to teaching within the School of Social Science & Global Studies, the post-holder will be expected to conduct independent research and make a major contribution to the Open University’s REF submission. They should undertake research that aligns with the School’s strategic research priorities in Politics and International Studies.

We are particularly interested to receive applications from those with teaching and research experience in the broad study of any specialism, research interest, and methodological approach. You will have an established record of achievement and engagement in Higher Education in your field and a demonstrable commitment to collaborative curriculum development, teaching and research.

Key responsibilities

Teaching

- To provide academic leadership in the design and delivery of high quality, appropriate and innovative teaching programmes.
- To contribute to the development, planning, delivery and updating of a high quality and successful curriculum at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Politics and International Studies.
- To prepare distance learning materials suitable for the teaching and learning methodologies used by The Open University.
- To contribute to the presentation of The 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 engage in high-quality research activity, leading major research projects; to consistently secure research funding and/or third-stream income at levels appropriate to their discipline, and play a leading role in the development and implementation of the School, Faculty and University research strategy.
- To enhance the Discipline’s, School’s and Faculty’s research and scholarship profile through high quality research related research publications and by providing impact case studies suitable for inclusion in the REF.
• Working effectively and collaboratively to develop a shared research and scholarship culture.
• To provide research leadership within the POLIS Discipline, School, Faculty and University, and help guide, support and mentor more junior members of staff.
• Attracting and supervising postgraduate research students and helping foster a vibrant and viable research community.

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.
• To play a key role in external engagement and impact by contributing to the quality of life and/or the economy though application of subject expertise and knowledge in practice.
• To help support the leadership and management activities of the Discipline, School and Faculty, to undertake a significant leadership role when required, and carry out research related administration as directed by the relevant Head of School in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.
• Compliance with Statutory Requirements, Codes of Practice, University Policies and Health and Safety arrangements.

Person Specification

Essential

• A PhD completed in Politics and International Studies or a closely related subject.
• An established record of achievement and engagement in an institution of Higher Education and a record of successful curriculum development and research leadership within the fields of Politics and International Studies.
• Evidence of teaching ability reflecting teaching experience, 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.
• An exceptional track record of successful research that complements existing Politics and International Studies research at The Open University, underpinned by an excellent publication record in major peer reviewed journals and with high quality publishers.
• Evidence of applying for and successfully securing external funding.
• Evidence of ability to build and develop new research collaborations.
• Experience of supervising research students, managing post-doctoral workers and research budgets.
• 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.
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.
- Higher Education professional accreditation or equivalent qualification.
- Research that has a clear international policy relevance.
- Experience of working with and influencing policy makers, governmental and/or non-governmental institutions, industry partners.
About the Unit

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

The Faculty of Arts & 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, recognised 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 & 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 Politics and International Studies (POLIS)

POLIS is an integral part of the School of Social Sciences & Global Studies, which also includes Development, Economics, Geography, Social Policy and Criminology, Sociology, Religious Studies, and Philosophy. POLIS staff often teach and conduct their research in an interdisciplinary fashion and in collaboration with colleagues across the School. In joining POLIS, you would also be joining a dynamic and interdisciplinary school environment and expected to actively participate in and contribute to the school’s curriculum and research agenda, work across traditional disciplinary boundaries, and take on teaching within subjects that are outside of your research specialisms.
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 and constructively with colleagues as well as to plan and undertake independent work to deadlines.