APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR IN LANGUAGES AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS
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The world’s first successful distance teaching university, the OU was founded on the belief that communications technology could bring high quality, degree-level learning to people who had not had the opportunity to attend traditional campus universities.

The University opened to its first students – 25,000 of them – in January 1971 with a choice of four multidisciplinary foundation courses in the arts, social sciences, science or mathematics, and it has since become by far the largest university in the UK with more than 170,000 students worldwide. More than two million people worldwide have now achieved their learning goals by studying with the OU.

Almost half a century after the OU’s foundation, the need for its revolutionary “open to all” model is greater than ever. The University remains one of the largest engines of social mobility, supporting just over half of the UK’s total part-time student population who do not have the usual university entrance requirements, and over one third of UK part-time students with disabilities.

Governments across the UK are seeking to boost part time and in-work students, and the OU is responding to this agenda. We know that the world has not stood still, and neither can we; success matters, not just for us as a university, but also for the UK.
ABOUT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

More about the OU:

• The University has around 12,000 staff including 7,000 tutors (Associate Lecturers), more than 1,200 full-time academic staff and around 3,500 support and administrative staff.

• The OU offers a choice from around 600 courses.

• More than 30,000 employers – including over 88 FTSE 100 companies – have chosen to sponsor their staff on OU programmes.

The OU’s extensive material on iTunes U has had over 70 million downloads.

• OpenLearn, a free learning resources website from the OU, has had 44.2 million visits since its launch in 2006.

OUR MISSION

The Open University’s mission is to be open to people, places, methods and ideas.

We promote educational opportunity and social justice by providing high quality university education to all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential.

Through academic research, pedagogic innovation and collaborative partnership we seek to be a world leader in the design, content and delivery of supported open learning.

OUR VALUES

In achieving our vision, we remain committed to, and are guided by, the enduring Open University values of inclusivity, innovation and responsiveness.

Inclusive:

• We play a unique role in society, making higher education open to all.

• We promote social justice through the development of knowledge and skills.

Innovative:

• We lead the learning revolution, placing innovation at the heart of our teaching and research.

• We continuously seek new and better ways to inspire and enable learning.

• We create world-class research and teaching.

Responsive:

• We respond to the needs of individuals and employers and the communities in which they live and work.

• We are dedicated to supporting our students’ learning success.
The Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies has approximately 415 members of staff (including 1350 Associate Lecturers), based in Milton Keynes and in offices in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Manchester and Nottingham, who support approximately 35,900 students. The majority of these are in the UK, but the Faculty also has students in the Republic of Ireland, Continental Western Europe and elsewhere in the world. The Faculty’s curriculum comprises programmes at undergraduate, Masters and doctoral levels.

The Faculty is organised as three schools:

- School of Education, Childhood Youth and Sport
- School of Languages and Applied Linguistics
- School of Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

The Faculty works across a range of disciplines including education, childhood and youth, health and social care, youth work, social work, languages and applied linguistics, nursing, and sport and fitness. We have an innovative approach to teaching and learning, develop collaborative partnerships with employers and other institutions, and engage in cutting edge, action oriented and internationally recognised research.

Further information about the Faculty can be found at http://wels.open.ac.uk

"Our aspiration is to transform society through life changing learning. Cutting edge pedagogy, underpinned by excellent research has enabled us to become one of the UK’s largest and most innovative providers of higher education in wellbeing, education and language studies. We use this expertise in our work with collaborative partners in the UK and across the world."

Professor Mary Kellett, Executive Dean
The School of Languages and Applied Linguistics is part of the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies at the Open University, UK.

TEACHING

We provide outstanding teaching founded on world-class research in Applied Linguistics, English Language and Modern Languages. Subjects include intercultural communication, Chinese, French, German, Italian and Spanish, English for academic and business purposes and English language studies. We also offer an introductory course in Welsh language and culture. Our curriculum ranges from access modules to research degrees, including an MA in Translation and an MA in Applied Linguistics. Our undergraduate modules contribute to BA (Hons) degrees in Language Studies, Arts and Humanities, English Language and Literature and the BA (Hons) Open degree – and to their related Diplomas and Certificates in Higher Education. Our students also undertake MRes (Masters in Research Methods), PhDs and EdDs (Doctorate in Education). Our evidence-based, cutting-edge pedagogy is supported by the informed use of technology, and our expertise in distance education enhances intercultural understanding and the ability to communicate in diverse ways and through diverse means. We foster students’ understanding of the power of language to express cultural, political and social meanings and to express people’s identities in a multilingual and multicultural interconnected world.

Our school includes over 12,000 students on our modules, more than 370 Associate Lecturers (part-time staff), 58 members of academic staff, 16 academic related staff and 39 doctoral students (some studying full time on campus, others part time at a distance). A great diversity of linguistic, social and cultural backgrounds makes the School a truly vibrant multilingual and multicultural environment in which to work and study.

“OUR VISION IS to be an internationally recognised leader in key areas of teaching and researching language, communication and cultures in a complex and connected world.”
RESEARCH

Our research is undertaken as part of the Centre for Research in Education and Educational Technology (CREET) and covers a range of research areas, including:

• Academic and professional literacies
• Children's informal language and literacy practices and children's literature
• English in a global context
• Intercultural communication
• Language and creativity
• Language teaching and technology
• Literacy reading and interpretation
• Metaphor in discourse
• Multimodal meaning making
• Open Educational Resources.

Our research is currently organised through two research groups: Open Languages and English and Applied Linguistics. We use a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches from applied linguistics and foreign and second language acquisition, producing innovative and rigorous research that contributes to a variety of applied settings. Recent research has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Higher Education Academy (HEA) as well as charitable bodies such as the Carnegie UK Trust and the Rix-Thompson-Rothenberg Foundation.

For more information about publications by members of the School, please visit Open Research Online http://oro.open.ac.uk/ and browse by Academic Unit/Department.
THE ROLE

This is an exciting time to join The Open University, one of the UK’s most respected teaching and research universities. We are seeking a senior colleague to join the School of Languages and Applied Linguistics, based in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, and lead the growth of our research in languages and applied linguistics.

You will play a key strategic role and will be expected to enhance and extend the scope of the intellectually vibrant work that characterises our research profile. You will be expected to provide leadership and mentor all researchers in the School, at all stages of their careers. We therefore wish to appoint an academic of the highest calibre, who can combine academic leadership with a commitment to working collaboratively and driving the Faculty’s success in winning large projects and grants.

You should already be a full Professor of some standing and will have an international research reputation and an outstanding record of publication and research leadership. You will have a proven track record in obtaining external funding and success in gaining substantial external grants. You will be committed to the development of one or more of our discipline areas. You will take an active leadership role to support the Faculty’s goal of continuously improving quality and impact, especially through increased levels of collaborative research activity and supporting colleagues, particularly those at early and mid-stages of their career.

The title of the Chair will be agreed between The Open University and the successful candidate on appointment and will be related to their area of expertise and one of our established research areas in the School of Languages and Applied Linguistics, as described on our research website: http://www.open.ac.uk/creet/main/language-and-literacies.
MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

RESEARCH

• Make an outstanding contribution to the Faculty’s research profile through a strong record of high quality publications and impact
• Demonstrate an international reputation as a leading academic in languages and/or applied linguistics.
• Generate successful applications for external grant income, especially large, collaborative proposals that break new ground and set new agendas
• Play a leading role in our preparation for the next UK research assessment exercise (the Research Excellence Framework)
• Play a leadership role in the development and delivery of the research strategy of the School, the Faculty and the institution
• Support the Faculty’s research culture by fostering strengths and growing new ones, including through mentoring colleagues at early and mid stages of career
• Attract and supervise research students
• Contribute to a group of research active scholars in the School of Languages and Applied Linguistics and build on our record of academic excellence through publications, research degree supervision and research grants
• Promote OU research/reputation at national and international events

TEACHING

• Contribute as appropriate to the development and delivery of the School’s curriculum portfolio including teaching, assessment and quality enhancement as part of module teams at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in one of the subject areas taught at the School of Languages and Applied Linguistics.
• Work with colleagues in developing and implementing innovative teaching methods and materials
• Play a leading role in planning course development both within the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies and in collaboration with other Faculties
• Foster and sustain the effective integration of teaching and research

ACADEMIC MANAGEMENT

• Work closely with the Head of School, the Associate Dean (Research) and other senior members of staff in the Faculty and beyond
• Line manage a number of academic staff.
• Work as part of the School’s management team
• Represent the Faculty and University internally and externally in ways that enhance the standing and reputation of the OU nationally and internationally
PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- A PhD in a relevant discipline

KNOWLEDGE, WORK AND OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Proven research leadership skills commensurate with that expected of a high calibre academic researcher at senior professorial level
- Experience of research management
- An internationally excellent track record in research and publication
- Proven track record in external research funding and ability to generate substantial external funding (grants, contracts and other funding, especially from UK research councils, EU or equivalent) to support research activity in a sustained way
- Evidence of a strong REF profile, or non-UK equivalent or other esteem indicators
- Evidence of excellent teaching and a commitment to the provision of quality service in Open and distance learning to students in one of the disciplines taught in the School of Languages and Applied Linguistics
- Strong record of successful postgraduate supervision and experience of research supervision at PhD supervision
- Evidence of appropriate external national and international networks – e.g. with professional practice, policy makers, leading researchers at other institutions

PERSONAL ABILITIES AND QUALITIES

- Evidence of effective team working and team leadership in collaborative contexts
- Ability to provide intellectual leadership in collaborative settings
- Excellent communication skills (oral and written) in English
- Excellent interpersonal skills with an ability to work effectively as part of a team
- High level of computer literacy and ICT competence
- Ability to work effectively with individuals in senior roles across the institution and externally
- Commitment to the Open University mission and its equal opportunities policies
- Ability and willingness to travel for work purposes, and to live within reasonable commuting distance of The Open University in Milton Keynes.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Experience of Faculty and/or HE management role
- Experience of multi-media teaching technologies
- Successful experience of leading staff development and research mentoring
- Senior Fellow of the HEA or other related teaching qualification
- Experience of distance and online learning and teaching
- Experience of working in multicultural and multilingual environments and intercultural competence
- Knowledge of at least one language taught in the School in addition to English.
HOW TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROLE OR APPLICATION PROCESS

If you would like to discuss the particulars of this role before making an application please contact Dr Uwe Baumann, Head of School, uwe.baumann@open.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Helen Jackman, Staffing Administrator on 01908 332247 or email wels-recruitment@open.ac.uk

WHERE TO SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS

Please ensure that your application reaches the University by 5.00pm on Wednesday 23rd May 2018

Applications should include the following four items:

- a completed application form (short version), including the details of three referees, one of whom should be your current or most recent employer. Please complete all sections of the application form and the Equal Opportunities monitoring form;
- a curriculum vitae that includes details of academic qualifications, research, management and teaching experience, grants received and publications;
- a written statement (not more than 1250 words) about how your experience and skills match the person specification;
- copies of two publications (see below).

Electronic applications will be accepted and should be e-mailed to:
Wels-recruitment@open.ac.uk

(Applicants who are invited for interview will be asked to provide a signed hard copy.)

Post it to:
Name/Job title: Helen Jackman
            Staffing Co-ordinator
Department/Unit: Faculty of Education and Language Studies
            Staffing Team, Ground Floor, Stuart Hall Building
Address: The Open University
         Walton Hall
         Milton Keynes MK7 6AA
SEQUENGE PROCESS AND DATE OF INTERVIEW

The interview panel will be chaired by a Pro-Vice-Chancellor or Executive Dean. The other members of the interview panel will be:

- The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies
- The Head of School of Languages and Applied Linguistics
- A Professor from the School and/or the Faculty
- A Professor from another Faculty in the University
- A Professor external to the University

It is anticipated presentations will take place week commencing 9 July with interviews on Thursday 12th July 2018.

The interview panel will short-list candidates whose written application demonstrates a good fit with the person specification, subject to a limit on the number of candidates to be interviewed.

- Candidates should provide a full list of publications in their CV plus furnish two that reflect their current or recent research interests. These are likely to be discussed at the interview.

- References will be taken up on short-listed candidates.

- As part of the final selection process short-listed candidates will be invited to give a 20 minute presentation to members of the School on some aspect of their research. This will be followed by 20-30 minutes of questions and debate. School members will be provided with the name and current post of each of the candidates.

- Shortlisted candidates will also be expected to give a shortened version of their presentation to the interview panel, lasting approximately 10 minutes.

- A representative of the School will be responsible for co-ordinating feedback on the candidates’ presentations and ability to communicate ideas clearly, and will report to the interview panel after the interviews have taken place. The decision on the appointment rests solely with the interview panel.

- We will let you know as soon as possible after the closing date whether you have been shortlisted for interview. Further details on the selection process will also be sent to shortlisted candidates.

Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.