Job Description – Lecturer in Social Work

Reports to: Associate Head of School, Health, Social Care and Social Work
Location: Milton Keynes with the flexibility to work from home

About the role
We are seeking to appoint a 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 will additionally offer expertise in research and scholarship as evidenced by ongoing professional development and measurable outputs. 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.

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.

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.

You can live anywhere in the United Kingdom, but the role is based at the Open University’s Milton Keynes campus and therefore will involve on campus attendance at academic community and module team meetings.

Widening Participation
We value diversity and we recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge and culture, and that this difference brings great strength. The Open University is rooted in social justice principles and therefore seeks to recruit candidates with an understanding of the socio-historical background to structural inequalities within UK society. We would particularly welcome applications from candidates from Black, Asian or other minority ethnic and underrepresented groups. All appointment decisions will be made on merit, following a fair and competitive process.

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;
Skills and experience

Essential

1. A higher degree or equivalent professional experience related to increasing the pursuit of knowledge in Social Work;
2. A recognised professional qualification that is currently registered with one of the UK regulators for Social Work;
3. An understanding of policy and practice issues across the social work and social care subject area from a UK perspective;
4. An ability to write materials for students studying online;
5. Ability to work effectively, flexibly and collaboratively with others; being reflective and self-critical of personal contributions;
6. Excellent command of spoken and written English, with the capacity to communicate clearly and influentially with a range of stakeholders;
7. An understanding of supported open and distance learning and an ability to write clearly and cogently for diverse audiences;
8. A willingness to write teaching materials in, and outside of, your immediate area of expertise;
9. Proven ability to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines, within resource constraints, and sometimes under pressure;
10. An understanding of the role of new technologies within blended teaching and learning, and a commitment to innovation in this area;
11. Demonstrable commitment to equal opportunities and anti-oppressive practice in social work;
12. The commitment to develop social work within an interdisciplinary and multi-professional framework in which there is a strong service-user partnership focus.
13. Ability and willingness to travel for work purposes,

14. A strong commitment to excellence in inclusive learning and teaching for a diverse student population.
15. Knowledge of, and commitment to, The OU mission, including equality and diversity issues.

Desirable

16. Evidence of research and scholarship – evidenced through publications and/or external income funding impacting the field of Social Work.
17. Fellow (or above) of the Higher Education Academy
18. A post graduate teaching qualification.