Job Description – Lecturer in Philosophy

About the Role and responsibilities

The Open University wishes to appoint a Lecturer in Philosophy. The area of specialization is open. The successful candidate should have an area of specialization that complements the expertise of existing staff. The post is a permanent appointment (subject to initial probation), available from 1 September 2020, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The successful candidate will have obtained an excellent honours degree in Philosophy and will usually have completed a doctorate in philosophy and will already have demonstrated outstanding promise in their chosen field of research.

The post-holder must be a flexible and adaptable university lecturer in a vibrant and diverse department, willing to contribute to a wide range of undergraduate and graduate modules. More specifically, the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the presentation and production of undergraduate modules such as A222: Exploring Philosophy and A333: Key Questions in Philosophy, postgraduate qualifications such as F30, the MA in Philosophy, and may be asked to supervise doctoral students. Building towards the next REF exercise, the successful candidate will also be expected to contribute to the school’s research profile and impact work.

Occasionally, the role may require attending events such as conferences, open days, and learning events, e.g. the Philosophy Day Schools, Associate Lecturers Research Day, Departmental Research Conference, also occasionally on weekends.

The person appointed will be a Central Academic member of staff based in the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies (SSGS) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes.

The OU is rooted in social justice principles and therefore seeks to recruit candidates with an understanding of the socio-historical background to inequalities underpinning UK society. We are aware that there is underrepresentation within Philosophy and welcome applications from females and from Black, Asian or other minority ethnic groups. All appointment decisions will be made on merit, following a fair and competitive process.

Skills and Experience

We are looking for candidates with:

Education, qualifications & training
Essential

- An excellent honours degree in philosophy or related subject, as well as a completed PhD in Philosophy.

Knowledge, work & other relevant experience

Essential

- The ability and readiness to a) develop, research and write (together with other colleagues) innovative teaching materials that will be made available to students in both printed and online forms; b) to manage and administer (together with other colleagues) the delivery of specified modules through the preparation of assessment materials, the provision of guidance to part-time staff and participation in the Quality Assessment and examination processes; c) to engage at times in direct teaching opportunities in both online and face-to-face environments.
- A willingness and ability to contribute to teaching on a range of modules, including some that will be beyond the post-holder’s areas of specialisation.
- An ability to put complex ideas into words in an exceptionally lucid and engaging way;
- Understanding of the pedagogy for teaching philosophy in HE, including an understanding (or willingness to gain an understanding) of the nature of the Open University’s distance and online teaching.
- A track record of successful research and/or firm and detailed plans for future research with clear potential for REF submission.
- A research specialism in some area of philosophy that complements existing expertise in the department.
- Familiarity with most or all of the philosophical topics on our existing undergraduate modules.
- Efficiency and organisation skills, including the ability to use IT and work to deadlines.

Desirable

- Experience of distance or adult education.
- An interdisciplinary approach in research and/or teaching.
- Experience of/developed plans for securing external research income.
- The ability to contribute to maintaining and raising the profile of Philosophy, the School, and the Faculty (e.g. through outreach work or activities with a public impact).
- The ability to add to or complement the existing research strengths in the department.

Personal abilities & qualities

Essential

- The ability to communicate ideas effectively, both orally and in writing.
- The ability to work as an effective and collegial member of a team, with the communication and inter-personal skills needed to encourage co-operation and co-ordination of work.

Desirable

- Commitment to the mission of The Open University, including widening participation in HE and equality and diversity issues.
About the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)

FASS is the largest and most diverse faculty at The Open University, with some 50,000 students studying our modules with excellent completion rates and consistently high student satisfaction ratings. Noted for the strength of our interdisciplinary approaches, 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.

FASS is organised into three Schools:
- School of Arts and Cultures
- School of Psychology
- School of Social Sciences and Global Studies

FASS works closely with important organisations and institutions in the UK and other parts of the world in a range of validated partnerships and collaborations. With c.1800 members of staff comprising central 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, FASS 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 Philosophy Department

Philosophy at The Open University offers a number of qualifications such as the BA (Hons.) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE), the BA (Hons.) in Philosophy and Psychological Studies, the BA (Hons.) in Arts and Humanities (Philosophy), the BA (Hons.) in Social Sciences (Philosophy) and the BA (Hons.) in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. In addition to our well-developed undergraduate qualifications, we offer the MA in Philosophy (F30), which has been one of the most popular postgraduate qualifications among OU Arts subjects. Since August 2019, Philosophy has become part of the new School of Social Sciences and Global Studies.

Philosophy at the OU has research strengths in a wide variety of areas, among them ethics, epistemology, aesthetics, history of philosophy of science, philosophy of language, post-Kantian European philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of mind, and the philosophy of sport. Details of the current Philosophy staff members are provided below, along with further information about their position and current research interests.

Philosophy Staff and their Research interests

Alex Barber (Senior Lecturer)
Ethics (including metaethics and applied ethics), epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of linguistics, some topics in philosophy of science.

Dan Cavedon-Taylor (Lecturer)
Philosophy of Mind; in particular, perception and mental imagery. Aesthetics; in particular, aesthetic and informational value; aesthetic judgment and appreciation.

Sophie-Grace Chappell (Professor)
Normative ethics, applied ethics, metaethics; ancient philosophy, especially Plato and Aristotle; epistemology; philosophy of religion; philosophy of mind and action.

**Cristina Chimisso (Professor)**
History of philosophy, especially twentieth century; history of philosophy of science, especially twentieth century; philosophy of science in the French tradition; historical epistemology; historiography; sociology of scientific knowledge.

**Sean Cordell (Lecturer and Staff Tutor)**
Moral, social and political philosophy and any of their intersections. Virtue ethics (ancient and contemporary); the ethics of social roles; the agency, morality and/or epistemology of social collectives and institutions; political philosophy and political morality.

**Manuel Dries (Senior Lecturer and Head of Discipline)**
Post-Kantian European Philosophy; in particular, 19th and 20th-century German philosophy; Ethics; Aesthetics, Philosophy of Mind.

**Derek Matravers (Professor)**
Aesthetics; in particular, the philosophy of fiction and narrative. Also, moral and political philosophy.

**Jon Pike (Senior Lecturer and Staff Tutor)**
Philosophy of Sport; Political philosophy, and moral philosophy as it impinges on the political. Within political philosophy; Marx, Aristotle, egalitarianism and social justice, political obligation, analytical accounts of discrimination, and applied ethics and political action.

**Mark Pinder (Lecturer)**
Philosophy of language; philosophical logic; epistemology; methodology in philosophy, specifically concerning the process of conceptual engineering.