

## Job Description – Lecturer in Psychology (career early)

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### About the Role

The post holder will work in a team that produces and delivers innovative and exciting teaching and learning resources across the School of Psychology & Counselling, focusing on the development and teaching of the British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited psychology qualifications.

The Open University offers distance learning, at scale, with modules being taught via a combination of core textbooks, VLE materials and online and face-to-face tutorials delivered by associate lecturers/tutors. If appointed, you will have the opportunity to work as part of a team of fellow academics, editors and producers to create innovative teaching and learning materials using a variety of media. You will also join a team working on an existing module, to offer support to students and associate lecturers.

In addition to contributing to teaching within the School of Psychology & Counselling, the post holder will be expected to conduct independent research (appropriate to career stage) and contribute to a future REF exercise (or equivalent). They should undertake research that aligns with the School's established research profile, and in particular with at least one of the three research strands of the Open Psychology Research Centre: Culture and Social Psychology (CuSP), Psychology of Health and Wellbeing (PHeW) and Forensic Cognition (FCRG).

This is an ideal first academic post, so we are keen to receive applications from candidates who have recently completed their PhD or have not held a substantive academic post since completing their doctorate. We especially welcome applications from candidates for whom the Open Psychology Research Centre would provide a fitting intellectual home and a springboard for successful career development and intellectual and person growth.

We value diversity and we recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge and culture, and that this difference brings great strength. Applications from candidates with protected characteristics are welcomed.

### Key responsibilities

The person appointed will be expected to contribute to the teaching, research and administration of the School, Faculty and University in the following ways:

#### *Teaching*

- Contribute to teams producing, delivering, and updating relevant modules and qualifications for the School of Psychology & Counselling
- Support teaching and learning activity appropriate to online and distance education and qualifications for the Open University
- Take an active role in School and Faculty activities and groups developing innovative curricula and pedagogies

- Contribute to the production and delivery of interdisciplinary curricula involving psychology across the Open University curriculum more broadly

#### *Research*

- Engage actively in research and produce high quality research outputs that have the potential to be entered in a future REF exercise (or equivalent) for Unit 04 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- Contribute to research activities and events complementary to ongoing research in the School, Faculty and the Open Psychology Research Centre, and take an active role in research communities
- Engage actively in making grant applications
- Supervise research students

#### *Academic Management*

- Contribute to academic management within the School, Faculty and University, as required by the Head of School

### Person Specification

#### *Essential*

- A PhD or equivalent in an area of psychology or cognate discipline (we will only consider applications from candidates who have successfully defended their thesis before the closing date for applications as stated in the job advert)
- Some experience of teaching psychology
- Evidence of understanding the issues involved in supporting and delivering distance learning in Higher Education
- Evidence of interest in, or commitment to, online teaching and learning
- Excellent writing skills and the ability to produce written material for students appropriate to their level of study
- A developing profile of research excellence in an area of psychology complementary to existing strengths of members of staff within the School of Psychology & Counselling <http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/people>
- Evidence of the potential to produce high-quality research outputs appropriate for career stage
- Evidence of engagement with the research funding environment
- Commitment to the values of open and engaged research and to engaging meaningfully with various stakeholders
- A track record of being able to work collaboratively with others, and of working successfully in teams

#### *Desirable*

- Experience of working with and producing distance-teaching materials
- Evidence of interest in using and developing online and multimedia teaching materials

- Evidence of success in securing research funding appropriate to career stage
- Experience of additional research activity (e.g. knowledge exchange, impact activities) appropriate for career stage
- A teaching qualification relevant to HE

## About the Unit

### The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)

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, and have a direct and profound influence on our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

The Faculty is organised into three Schools:

- School of Psychology & Counselling
- School of Social Sciences & Global Studies
- School of Arts & Humanities

Students are supported by three Student Support Teams, one for each School. These teams offer specialist study support to students undertaking our qualifications across the University. Members of academic staff, including regional academics, 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with work in numerous subject-based and interdisciplinary research groups and projects.

With c.2100 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/>

### The School of Psychology & Counselling

The School of Psychology & Counselling is Europe's largest provider of university-level education in Psychology & Counselling, offering undergraduate, postgraduate and research qualifications. The school has a vigorous research culture with strengths in Culture and Social Psychology (CuSP), Psychology of Health and Wellbeing (PHeW); Forensic Cognition (FCRG) and wide-ranging multidisciplinary collaborations. Our general orientation is specifically multi-perspectival and interdisciplinary. This is reflected in both our teaching and research - our students are not only trained in methodological concepts and techniques, but also understand fundamental conceptual and philosophical issues in psychology and the different ways in which psychological knowledge can be constructed and applied. The School also has a growing curriculum in counselling at foundation degree and degree level.

Members of the School work in close collaboration with psychologists in other Faculties including the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS), the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) and the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in research, teaching and curriculum provision.

### Psychology & Counselling Staff and their Research interests

For individual staff profiles please visit: <http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/people>

For information about the Open Psychology Research Centre and its strands see:

<https://www.open.ac.uk/centres/psychology/>