

Job description

Post title and post number	Lecturer in Islamic Studies - 55436
Organisation advertising Description	School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion within the College of Arts and Law
Post number	55436
Full-time/Part-time	Full-time
Duration of post	Permanent
Post is open to:	Internal and External candidates
Grade	8
Salary	Starting salary is normally in the range £38,896 to £46,414. With potential progression once in post to £52,219 a year.
Terms and conditions	Academic Teaching Staff (non-clinical)

Job summary

The University of Birmingham wishes to appoint a Lecturer in Islamic Studies. Candidates who have expertise in the textual study of Islamic religious thought in particular periods or geographical regions and who have a track record of engaging contemporary questions (for example in law, in inter-religious engagement or in cultural identity) are especially encouraged to apply. The candidate's primary focus of expertise is relatively open: we welcome applications from scholars in Qur'an (including study of hadith or the history of tafsir), in classical Arabic texts, in Islamic law and jurisprudence, or in their application and use in particular regions or periods. Readiness to teach undergraduate and master's courses in Qur'an, the early history of Islam, and Islamic law, regardless of research specialisation, will be an advantage.

Main duties

Research

To plan and carry out research, using appropriate methodology and techniques. This may include, where appropriate to the discipline:

- Pursue personal research including developing research ideas and winning support, including financial support.
- Plan, publish and/or execute high quality research
- Project manage research activities, and/or supervise other research staff
- Present findings in high quality publications and conference proceedings
- Develop novel methodologies and techniques appropriate to the type of research being pursued
- Supervise and examine PhD students, both within the institution and externally

- Provide expert advice to staff and students within the discipline
- Apply knowledge in a way which develops new intellectual understanding
- Develop and make substantial contributions to knowledge transfer, and enterprise (including business engagement, public engagement) and similar activity that is of manifest benefit to the College and the University.

Learning and Teaching

To use a variety of methods in teaching and advising individuals and groups of undergraduates, postgraduates, or Continuing Professional Development students.

Where appropriate to the discipline this may include:

- Teach and examine courses at a range of levels
- Plan and review own teaching approaches and act as a mentor to encourage others to do the same
- Develop programme proposals and make substantial contributions to the design of teaching programmes more widely in the Department or School, as appropriate
- Where appropriate, undertake and develop the full range of responsibilities in relation to supervision, marking and examining (including summative assessment, assessed work, contributing to the final award – as a mark or as credit – such as unseen examinations, essays, dissertations or presentations.
- Use appropriate approaches to learning and teaching in their field
- Disseminate appropriate practices through suitable media
- Develop and advise others on learning and teaching tasks and methods
- Develop and make substantial contributions to knowledge transfer, enterprise, business engagement, public engagement activities or similar on own specialism that enhances the student experience or employability and is of manifest benefit to the College and University
- Devise and supervise projects, student dissertations and practical work

Management/Administration

To contribute to Departmental/School administration or have a high level of responsibility for others. This may include:

- Contribute to the administration/management of research and/or teaching across the Department/School
- Lead and manage a team to devise and implement a new and/or revised process (e.g. new programme or a recruitment drive)
- Advise on personal development of colleagues and students
- Make a major contribution to some administrative activities within the University (e.g. appeals panels, working groups)
- Manage enterprise, business development, and public engagement activities of manifest benefit to the College and University
- Develop and make substantial contributions to knowledge transfer, enterprise, business engagement, public engagement, widening participation, schools outreach.

Skills and Experience

Knowledge

- Normally, a higher degree relevant to the research/teaching area (usually PhD) or equivalent qualifications
- Extensive research/teaching experience and scholarship within subject specialism
- Knowledgeable about the methods, approaches, disciplinary culture and relevant networks of both Theology & Religious Studies and Sociology or Social/Public Policy
- Proven ability to devise, advise on and manage learning/ research
- Skills in managing, motivating and mentoring others successfully at all levels

Research

- An innovative researcher with clear potential to develop an international reputation for research excellence and an emerging record of grant success, ideally in both ESRC- and AHRC-funded fields.
- Interdisciplinary in their approach to research with the capacity both to lead and otherwise participate in major funded research projects, working with colleagues from other areas such as politics, social policy, and the Law, Business and Medical Schools and from other institutions (HEIs and external partners, including Third Sector organisations and faith communities);
- An excellent communicator who will be able to combine world-class research with a coherent, strategic approach to public, community and policymaker engagement, with an extensive track record in at least one of these fields, and, ideally, experience of community co-production of research;
- Extensive experience and demonstrated success in planning, undertaking and project managing research to deliver high quality results
- Extensive experience of applying and/or developing and devising successful models, techniques and methods
- Experience and achievement in knowledge transfer, enterprise and similar activity

Teaching

- Committed to excellence in teaching and research supervision and capable of contributing to modules such as Introduction to the Study of Religion, Religion in the Public Sphere and further the study of religion in the contemporary world, religion and politics/public policy, and social research methods, with the potential capacity to contribute substantially to the Department's BA in Politics, Religion and Philosophy.
- Ability to design, deliver, assess and revise teaching programmes
- Extensive experience and demonstrated success in developing appropriate approaches to learning and teaching, and advising colleagues
- Experience and success in knowledge transfer, enterprise and similar activity that enhances the student experience or employability

Management Administration

- Ability to contribute to School/Departmental management processes
- Ability to assess and organise resources effectively
- Understanding of and ability to contribute to broader management/administration processes

The University

With more than 7,000 staff and 30,000 students, we were the first – and are now one of the largest - civic universities in the UK. Our heritage as the original 'redbrick', is combined with one of the most compelling and ambitious agendas in higher education. Quite simply, at Birmingham we make things happen. Home to world-class researchers - whose work in everything from developing next generation engine technologies to harnessing quantum technology to solve everyday problems makes a real difference to people's lives - we provide innovative solutions to big problems. We think, recruit and compete worldwide.

Being named the *Times and Sunday Times* University of the Year 2013-14 recognised a transformative time in our history characterised by our bold, ambitious strategy and innovative approach to the challenges facing the sector. The University is a pioneer in sector-leading initiatives, including our 'Birmingham Fellows' programme, which has so far seen around 70 of the world's best early career academics join us; and the much-emulated unconditional offers strategy for exceptional students. We have a clear vision for the future, ambitious leadership, world-leading academic strengths and a secure financial base. With an annual turnover of more than £520 million, we use our financial strength to invest in the intellectual and physical future of the University. Judicious planning has enabled us to embark on a £500 million capital development programme. Over the past three years, some £250 million has been invested in the Birmingham campus including a new library, a major sports centre, outstanding new student accommodation and a state-of-the-art student services hub. We have been encouraging bold, independent thinking and providing exceptional academic programmes that stretch and challenge for more than a century, and the new University of Birmingham School will continue this tradition; providing an outstanding academic education for the city's young people and serving as a centre of teacher education in the region.

Birmingham is a leading member of the Russell Group and a founder member of the Universitas 21 global network of research universities (<http://www.universitas21.com/>) and our Vice-Chancellor is the current Chair of both groups.

Exceptional Research

The University is one of the UK's most successful institutions in terms of attracting research funding. We have a portfolio of over 2600 live projects with an award value to the University of £594 million.

Our research record speaks for itself. More than 80 per cent of all research carried out at Birmingham is rated as internationally excellent or world-leading, according to the latest UK-wide research quality survey (REF 2014). The results also showed that 87 per cent of our research activity has a global impact, confirming our position among the world's top universities for research in a broad range of areas, from History and Education to Chemical Engineering and Psychology.

Long established as a pioneer in the field of medicine, Birmingham scientists were the brains behind the first heart pacemaker, the use of aspirin and the synthesis of Vitamin C. 'Great minds, in the right location' sums up our unique combination of cutting-edge laboratory work, clinical expertise and first-class surgical facilities all housed on one vast life sciences campus. The Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM), which is scheduled to open later this year, will build on Birmingham's excellent track record in clinical trials and help to progress the very latest scientific research

findings from the University into enhanced treatments for patients across a range of major health issues including cancer and liver disease. Bringing together the University, the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, and Birmingham Children's Hospital, it will increase capacity and enable more patients to be co-located alongside clinicians and researchers. It will also make it easier for firms to engage with clinicians and academics, bringing additional investment into the city. This vision is reflected in Birmingham's ambitious project to create a four hectare science park specifically for the life sciences adjacent to the University and Hospital to attract cutting edge health and pharmaceutical research firms into the city, driving economic growth alongside medical and scientific innovation.

These investments reinforce the University's position today as a world leader in, for example, the development of new treatments for cancer, heart, and liver disease, as well as innovative transplant technologies and new drugs to combat antibiotic resistance.

This strength in life sciences is reflected throughout our College of Life and Environmental Sciences which is home to one of the best stand-alone Psychology schools in the country as well as one of the top three centres for research into Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Science. Supported by a major gift from a philanthropist, the University is developing a unique institute for forest research which will investigate the effect of rapid climate change on tree canopy development and pathogens.

The University's arts and humanities researchers are among the very best in the UK, highlighting our world-class research programme. Philosophy, History, Classics, Theology and Religion, and West African Studies are amongst the top ranked departments in the country and recognised for bringing significant benefits to society.

In the Physical Sciences we boast outstanding academic and research credentials, including in Chemical Engineering, in which we were recognised with a Queen's Anniversary Prize in the Jubilee year, and in Physics, where we have just received investment of £80 million to develop Quantum Technologies. Our substantive links with industry include receiving a £60 million investment from Rolls-Royce and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for the world-leading High Temperature Research Centre.

In the Social Sciences we have developed a broad range of initiatives, focused on enhancing, supporting and developing public sector services across the city and nationally. The Public Service Academy (PSA) brings together the University's teaching, research, consultancy and knowledge transfer expertise in public services. Working with a range of key public service partners, including Birmingham City Council, our work is focused on key themes including cohesion, health and wellbeing and localisation. Our Health Services Management Centre provides a combination of research, teaching, professional development and consultancy to health and social care agencies and has established a unique reputation as a 'critical friend' of the healthcare community. The Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) is the leading UK centre for the study of local public service management, policy and governance. With more than 40 years of experience working within local government and the public sector, it shapes the very latest thinking for public servants.

Our research helps to shape the national political agenda too. The ground-breaking Birmingham Policy Commissions bring together key figures from the public, private and third sectors with our academics to generate new thinking on contemporary

issues of global, national and civic concern. Commissions to date have included reports on the shape and nature of local public services in a 'big society', the future of nuclear energy in the UK and the security impact of drones.

Outstanding Students

At Birmingham we encourage bold, independent thinking and provide exceptional academic programmes that stretch and challenge. We understand that every student is an individual with a unique learning style and have invested in the latest learning facilities and technologies. As a result we attract students with the finest academic credentials and year on year applications for our undergraduate places are growing rapidly and more impressively than they are nationally or for comparable universities. This year we will welcome approximately 8,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students. We are committed to delivering a first-class experience for our students in every aspect of their university life. This is also why the University was ranked 11th in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2013 and 17th out of 123 UK universities in The Complete University Guide for 2015 and in The Guardian University Guide 2015. These latest league table results further strengthen Birmingham's position as a Top 20 university and reflect our recent performance in other highly-regarded league tables, such as the The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2014, which ranked the University in 16th place overall.

Global Outlook

Rated 64th in the QS World University Rankings 2014-15, the University has a significant international presence. The breadth of our research in China, and particularly in the Guangzhou region, is testament to the success of our collaboration with the local government and universities there. In Brazil, the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham are working together in a unique collaboration to develop a network of strategic partnerships with Brazilian universities, as well as the oil and gas industry. In North America, the University has a major collaboration with the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign underpinned by a flourishing network of faculty-faculty relationships. Our partnerships in India continue to develop and have been strengthened by our Chancellor, Indian-born entrepreneur and Cross-Bench Peer Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea. We also have partnership agreements with many of the world's leading universities; an office in New Delhi and a presence in Brussels. More information about our strategic global engagements and international research focus can be found on our website (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/global-engagement/index.aspx>)

Cultural Assets

The University's many cultural assets take in the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford-upon-Avon, which has direct working links with the Royal Shakespeare Company; the Ironbridge Institute in Shropshire, and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts - our own art gallery that houses works by many of the greatest artists in the western tradition. The Edgbaston campus also includes Winterbourne House and Garden, a unique Edwardian heritage attraction that is home to more than 6,000 plant species from around the world. Our cultural profile was significantly enhanced with the opening of the Bramall Music Building in 2013. This houses the Elgar Concert Hall, named after our first Professor of Music, Sir Edward Elgar, and is a striking venue that complements our global reputation in music, attracting some of the most talented musicians from across the world to study here.

Sport

Sport is integral to life at Birmingham and we are ranked third in the UK for the quality of student sport. Our new sports development, also due to open early next year, will include the city of Birmingham's first 50-metre swimming pool – an asset not only for our students and staff but for the wider community.

Future Investment

Our plans for the future are underpinned by long-established financial probity. We contribute £1 billion a year to our region's economy. Our surpluses and substantial philanthropic support are re-invested into the intellectual and physical fabric of the institution, enabling us to plan with confidence for the future and to continue to invest in the facilities and services that are required for high-quality research, and an outstanding student learning experience.

Led by our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, the University is structured for swift decision-making, enabling us to capitalise on our academic range and financial strength as well as the opportunities that emerge in the fast-changing global HE environment.

The City of Birmingham

Birmingham is the UK's second city and a major European centre as well as being the only place in the UK listed in the *Rough Guide's* Top 10 places in the world to visit in 2015. It is a city of historical interest and contemporary vision and has a rich and diverse community that creates a vibrant, multicultural and exciting place to live and work. In the recent Sunday Times/Zoopla report 'Best Places to live in Britain' three areas of Birmingham, Harborne, the Jewellery Quarter and Moseley all made the top 50 best places to live in Britain with Moseley being voted the overall winner.

It is home to the internationally renowned Birmingham Royal Ballet and one of the world's greatest concert venues, the Symphony Hall. The City Museum and Art Gallery houses the world's finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings, alongside a major collection of Old Masters, Modern and Contemporary pictures, while the iconic Bullring is one of the largest dedicated shopping facilities in Europe. Sports and recreation are also well served; the city offers international Test cricket, top-flight football, international championship golf and top-class rugby. As a multicultural city, Birmingham is also renowned for the breadth of its cuisine and has more Michelin starred restaurants than any other English city outside London.

Birmingham is within an hour's drive of Stratford-upon-Avon and the Cotswolds. From Birmingham International Airport, more than 50 different airlines operate scheduled services to 100 destinations worldwide. The University has its own dedicated railway station, while 50 million passengers a year use Birmingham New Street Station, which will be at the centre of the proposed high-speed rail network. London is 80 minutes away by shuttle service, with trains every 20 minutes.