



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Job reference: 58999  
Closing date: 30 April 2018



## Chair in World Christianity

### The University

We have a long and proud history of firsts at the University of Birmingham; we were the first – and are now one of the largest – civic universities in the UK. We were also the first UK University to, amongst other things:

- be built on a campus model;
- establish a Faculty of Commerce;
- incorporate a Medical School; and,
- welcome women to take medical degrees.

More recently we were the first University to establish a fully comprehensive secondary school and when we open our new campus in Dubai this autumn, we will become the first Russell Group and Global Top 100 university to do so.

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. Birmingham is a leading member of the Russell Group and a founder member of the Universitas 21 global network of research universities.

Home to world-class researchers, we count 11 Nobel Laureates among our staff and alumni, including three prizes awarded in 2016 for Physics and Chemistry. We have been integral to some of the greatest scientific discoveries of recent times, such as the Higgs Boson and Gravitational Waves, and are pioneering new approaches to tackling some of the biggest global challenges facing society; from antibiotic resistance and maternal health to conflict resolution and access to education.

With more than 7,500 staff, 34,000 students and 300,000 alumni across the globe, we think, recruit and compete worldwide. Ranked in the top 100 universities globally and the top 20 in all domestic league tables, the quality of what we do at Birmingham is widely recognised. We were awarded Gold in the 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework and in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) more than 80 per cent of our research was rated as internationally excellent or world-leading. In 2014 *the Times* and *Sunday Times* named us **University of the Year** in recognition of our bold, ambitious strategy and innovative approach to the challenges facing the sector. In 2016 they named us **University of the Year for Graduate Employment** – recognising our sector-leading employability programmes and outstanding rates of graduate employment. Thinking differently is in our DNA. 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. Many of our initiatives, such as our 'Birmingham Fellows' programme, which has so far seen over 70 of the world's best early career academics join us, our widening participation activities, and our unconditional offers strategy for exceptional students, have been much emulated within the sector.





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## Investing for the future

At Birmingham we have a clear vision, ambitious leadership, world-leading academic strengths, and a secure financial base. Our plans for the future are underpinned by long-established financial probity. With an annual turnover of exceeding £650 million, we use our financial strength to invest in the intellectual and physical future of the University, enabling us to plan with confidence and to continue to invest in the facilities and services that are required for high-quality research and an outstanding student learning experience. This judicious planning has enabled us to deliver a capital development programme. Some £300 million has been invested in the Birmingham campus over the past three years and our staff, students and wider community are already benefiting from a number of signature buildings, including a best-in-class library, a major sports centre, a dedicated postgraduate centre, outstanding new student accommodation, and a state-of-the-art student services hub. We have now embarked on a further capital investment that will exceed £600 million over the next five years. Development is moving apace to establish a stunning Green Heart parkland area at the centre of our campus, a Collaborative Teaching Laboratory, a Hotel and Conference Park, Life Sciences Park and many other facilities to benefit our academic and student communities.

Many of these developments also benefit the wider Birmingham community, with school children from across the city learning to swim in our pool and 50,000 people to date visiting our recently reopened Lapworth Museum of Geology. As an anchor institution in the city, we contribute £3.5 billion a year to our region's economy. The University of Birmingham School is part of this civic vision, providing an outstanding academic education for the city's young people and serving as a centre of teacher education in the region.

## A convenor of debate

The University also plays an important role in shaping the national political agenda. We count two UK former Prime Ministers among our past Chancellors, and continue to welcome MPs, Ministers and Prime Ministers to our campus. We regularly host political debates and events, bringing together people from across the political spectrum to debate the biggest issues, indeed as one political commentator put it: *'The magnificent Great Hall of the University of Birmingham has established itself as one of Britain's great cathedrals dedicated to our political devotions.'*

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, the security impact of drones, Healthy Ageing, Mental Health, and Cold Energy.

## Exceptional Research

The University is one of the UK's most successful institutions in terms of attracting research funding. We have a portfolio of 2,645 live projects with an award value to the University of £656 million. Our research record speaks for itself; our research and knowledge transfer activity is worth £885 million. More than 80 per cent of all research outputs submitted by Birmingham to the latest UK-wide research quality survey (REF 2014) were rated as internationally excellent or world-leading. These results also showed that 87 per cent of submitted research case studies were judged to have 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. We also enjoy robust industrial partnerships.



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## Outstanding Students

We have been encouraging bold, independent thinking and providing exceptional academic programmes that stretch and challenge for more than a century. We are proud of our excellent teaching which has been recognised in both the University's recent outstanding performance in the Quality Assurance Association's (QAA) Higher Education Review and our Gold rating in the 2016/17 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

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 – in 2017 we have received almost 90,000 applications for our programmes. This year we will welcome approximately 12,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students at home and abroad. We are committed to delivering a first-class experience for our students in every aspect of their university life.

## Global Outlook

Ranked 84th in the QS World University Rankings 2018, the University has a significant international presence. The University was one of the founding partners of, and remains highly active in, the Universitas 21 global network of research intensive universities ([www.universitas21.com](http://www.universitas21.com)). Our global outlook has two main components. In research, the University has a focused approach with an emphasis on key country partnerships. In China we have developed a broad range of activities, including a signature collaboration with the Guangzhou Municipal Government, and well developed research collaborations in many parts of the country; we also have a dedicated China Institute to further these partnerships. 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 -to-faculty relationships. In Australia we have a growing partnership with the University of Melbourne and in India our partnerships continue to develop and have been strengthened by our Chancellor, Indian-born entrepreneur and Cross-Bench Peer Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea.

In international education, we have more than 1,500 students being taught on Distance Learning programmes; over 200,000 learners have taken one of our Major Open Online Courses (MOOC) with 60 per cent of these overseas students; and we deliver University of Birmingham degree programmes in Singapore and China. We also have partnership agreements with many of the world's leading universities involving a range of different educational collaborations, including joint PhDs with the University of Melbourne, numerous '2+2' degree programmes, and a developing suite of Master's courses delivered in conjunction with partners around the world. The University currently has some 7,000 international students. As a University with a global mind-set, we have offices in New Delhi, Brussels, Shanghai and Guangzhou. We are also developing a campus in Dubai, which will open its doors to students in September 2018. More information about our strategic global engagements and international research focus can be found on our website ([www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/global-engagement/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/global-engagement/index.aspx)).

## Sport

Sport is integral to life at Birmingham and we are regularly ranked in the top five in the UK for the quality of student sport and are proud to count 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympians and Paralympians amongst our current students and alumni. Our new sports development includes the city of Birmingham's first 50-metre swimming pool – an asset not only for our students and staff but for the wider community. We hosted the fastest man on earth in 2012 when the Jamaican Amateur Athletic Association chose the University as the venue for their pre-Olympic training camp and they were back again in 2017 as they prepared for the World Athletics Championships in London. We also worked closely with partners regionally and nationally to successfully bid for Birmingham to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.





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## Structure

The University structure comprises of five Colleges - College of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Law, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, College of Life and Environmental Sciences, and College of Engineering and Physical Sciences – each with a distinctive identity and areas of renown.

## Social Sciences

In the Social Sciences we have an active research, knowledge transfer and consultancy culture, grounded in the academic framework of social sciences and always focused on issues of public concern. Interdisciplinary by nature, our work has local, national and global impact and is focused around a number of specialist research institutes including the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security, Institute for Research into Superdiversity, the Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management (CHASM) and the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, which is based within our outstanding School of Education.

We have also 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 well-being 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 Business School is one of only a handful of the world's business schools to hold the gold standard of 'triple-crown' accreditation from the **AACSB** (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), **AMBA** (Association of MBAs) and **EQUIS** (European Quality Improvement System). It is also consistently ranked in the top 100 in the Global Financial Times MBA rankings and the Economist 'Which MBA' global rankings.

## Arts and humanities

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 among the top ranked departments in the country and recognised for bringing significant benefits to society. The Arts and Humanities, and University life in general, are enhanced by a rich set of cultural assets that include the Shakespeare Institute in 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. Our Lapworth Museum of Geology, which reopened last autumn following a major refurbishment, is already drawing major acclaim having been shortlisted for the prestigious Arts Fund 2017 Museum of the Year.





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## Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine

The University of Birmingham is also renowned across the STEM disciplines. 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) builds on Birmingham's excellent track record in clinical trials and is helping to progress the very latest scientific research findings from the University into enhanced treatments for patients across a range of major health issues. Bringing together the University, the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, and Birmingham Children's Hospital, it is increasing capacity and enabling more patients to be co-located alongside clinicians and researchers. This vision is reflected in Birmingham's ambitious project to create a 12-acre science park, specifically for the life sciences, adjacent to the University and Hospital to attract cutting-edge health 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.

In Engineering and 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 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, a £60 million investment for the Energy Research Accelerator, and most recently £92 million from government and industry to establish a UK railway research partnership.

## The City of Birmingham

The city of Birmingham has undergone a major transformation in the last decade and regularly features as a top place to visit – in fact it was the only place in the UK listed in the *Rough Guide's* Top ten places in the world to visit in 2015. In a recent *Sunday Times/Zoopla* report 'Best Places to live in Britain' three areas of Birmingham all made the top 50 best places to live in Britain, with the suburb of Moseley being voted the overall winner.

A city of historical interest and contemporary vision, Birmingham has a rich and diverse community that creates a vibrant, multicultural and exciting place to live and work.

The city is home to the internationally renowned Birmingham Royal Ballet and one of the world's greatest concert venues: 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 tennis, 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, and the city will be a major hub for the high-speed rail network. London is 80 minutes away by shuttle service, with trains every 20 minutes.



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## College of Arts and Law

With over 5,000 students and in excess of 500 staff, the College of Arts and Law encompasses a vibrant range of subject areas from Archaeology to Drama, and from History to Music, as well as world-renowned research centres such as the Shakespeare and Ironbridge Institutes.

The College's results in the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) of 2014 show its research to be amongst the best in the world. History was rated 1st of all such departments in the UK, Philosophy 2nd and Theology 2nd (by GPA of output profile). Overall we have one of the largest and best concentrations of Humanities researchers in the UK.

Arts and Law consists of the following five Schools, making it the second largest College on campus in terms of student numbers:

- Birmingham Law School;
- English, Drama and American and Canadian Studies;
- History and Cultures;
- Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music;
- Philosophy, Theology and Religion.

Each School offers a varied suite of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and a vibrant and supportive environment that allows research to flourish. The College also possesses excellent facilities including several study spaces, libraries and collections, a number of dedicated computer clusters and a cyber cafe.

Located centrally on the University campus is the renowned Barber Institute of Fine Arts. The Bramall Music Building has a 450-seat auditorium and is the most flexible performance space to be found at a UK University – suitable for performances from solo voice, early music, to a full symphony orchestra. When not used for music, it is a high profile location for drama and dance performance and for prestigious lectures. The Bramall completed the redbrick semicircle of buildings which have been the heart of the University since 1909.

The diversity of the College's activities is one of its biggest strengths. Its academic reach spans established groups with rich heritage (such as its 80-year-old Law School and a Music Department whose first Professor was Edward Elgar) through to emerging strengths and new interdisciplinary areas of study (such as Global Ethics, Analytic Philosophy and Digital Humanities).

Further information about the College, including additional details about its departments, research institutes and facilities, can be found at [www.about.bham.ac.uk/colleges/artslaw](http://www.about.bham.ac.uk/colleges/artslaw)





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## School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion

The School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion is one of the outstanding research bodies in the country, as measured by the REF – both its constituent Departments came second in the whole of the UK. This is the ideal home for ambitious and forward-thinking students, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, and simultaneously it provides a dynamic and friendly community of staff and students, committed to independence, originality and good sense in research and learning. It offers four single honours undergraduate programmes (BA Philosophy, BA Theology and Religion, BA in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, and a BA in Politics, Religion and Philosophy), and a suite of postgraduate taught programmes including several distance learning programmes, constituting one of the largest postgraduate research clusters in the UK.

There are presently approximately 50 members of academic staff in the School. The administration and management of the School is led by the Head of School (Dr David Cheetham). He is supported by Head of Research for the School (Dr Nikk Effingham) and Director of Education for the School (Dr Andrew Davies). Dr Katherine Brown is the Head of Theology and Religion and Dr Al Wilson is the Head of Philosophy.

The School consists of two Departments, working closely together:

The **Department of Theology and Religion** plays a world-leading role in areas of research such as: intercultural theology, Pentecostal/Charismatic Studies, textual scholarship, inter-religious relations. Since its outstanding performance in REF2014 (2nd in the UK), the University has invested in several new academic positions which have strengthened its research profile. The proposed Chair in World Christianity is intended to reinforce Birmingham's international reputation for research in these fields. The department also enjoys extensive formal and informal links with academic institutions on five continents. Various research projects, centres and postgraduate programmes operate within these units, including the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies, Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing, the Centre for Islamic Studies and the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion.

The **Department of Philosophy** has completely reformulated its undergraduate programmes and it is now engaged in creative reshaping of all its postgraduate operations to take advantage of the exceptional investment it has made in world-leading staff over the past five years. It demonstrates by its REF2014 result that it is becoming one of the leading departments in the English-speaking world. The Department has become a centre of excellence for research in metaphysics, philosophy of logic and language, philosophy of mind and psychology, philosophy of religion, as well as broad ethical and meta-ethical theory (including a strong Centre for Global Ethics).



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## Chair in World Christianity – Job Outline

- Full-time
- Post is open to internal/external candidates
- Duration of post – permanent
- Salary – Competitive package for an outstanding candidate
- Commencement Date – from 1 September 2018, negotiable
- Informal Enquiries – Please contact Dr David Cheetham, email: [d.cheetham@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.cheetham@bham.ac.uk) or Dr Katherine Brown, [k.e.brown@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.e.brown@bham.ac.uk)

## Person Specification

We wish to appoint an outstanding individual who will strengthen and augment the Department's existing profile in this area. The field is well-respected internationally and has been occupied by some of the leading scholars in the field, (including Walter Hollenweger). It is regarded as one of the pre-eminent Chairs in the field of World Christianity. We are particularly keen to appoint a candidate who is working in World Christianity and/or Missiology and/or Pentecostal Studies. Sub-disciplines might include contextual or intercultural theology, historical approaches, sociology or anthropology of religion.

## The appointment

The Chair will be expected to have:

- An outstanding research profile of international stature in World Christianity, missiology or Pentecostalism and Charismatic studies, together with a sustained record of significant world-leading 4\* publications.
- The experience and enthusiasm to build good working relationships across the Department and College, as well as support the research culture within the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies.
- An understanding of the importance of international collaborations, networks, and contacts.
- Strong awareness public engagement and potential wider social, political and/or cultural impact of their research.
- The ability to manage and interact well with staff and students at all levels, and to contribute to broadening the strategic development of the Department.
- A commitment (from day one) to attracting high quality Post Graduate Research students to UoB.
- A demonstrable commitment (from day one) to leading international and national research grant applications.
- An awareness of the importance of, and willingness to play a full part in, the teaching of undergraduate and graduate students coupled with a clear understanding of UoB's belief that teaching should inform research and vice-versa.
- A REF submission (minimum of one item) of 4\* standard.





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## Main responsibilities

- Publication of high quality world-leading research outputs
- Actively engage in significant grant capture
- Show clear leadership in the field and make intellectual connections with other colleagues from across UoB, the UK, and internationally
- Teach modules (UG and PGT) in the Department as directed by the HoD
- Actively seek to develop and support junior members of staff, providing informal support and mentoring, for example, around submitting high quality peer-review publications and when leading on high profile research bids
- Contribute to, develop and review teaching programmes within the School, ensuring these meet relevant standards within the University and external institutions
- Contribute to the management of the Department, School and College
- Serve as required on School, College and University wide bodies

## The candidate profile

We would expect the candidate to:

- Have an outstanding research record of international stature;
- Hold research funding and demonstrate an established record in attracting external funding;
- Have the vision, leadership, experience and enthusiasm to build on current strengths in maintaining and developing a leading research presence;
- Demonstrate an ability to manage and interact with staff and students at all levels, and to contribute to broadening the strategic development of the Department;
- Show awareness of the importance of, and willingness to play a part in the teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, and the mentorship of post-doctoral research visitors.

### Qualifications

- A good first degree together with relevant higher degree
- An international standing in the research field, evidenced by contributions to peer review, journal editorship etc.
- Demonstrated effective teaching and learning methodologies

### Research

- Demonstrate major research experience
- Demonstrate an extensive list of publications with publishers with an international reputation
- Evidence of income generation
- Evidence of leadership in research and the potential to drive forward a research strategy

### Management

- Demonstrate the ability to lead and support a team of teachers and researchers
- Be able to identify new areas of research and teaching
- Demonstrate networking skills across the university
- Demonstrate resource planning and management
- Be able to implement the mission of the School, College and University
- Be able to solve problems creatively and effectively
- Demonstrate knowledge of quality assurance mechanisms

## How to apply

Applicants are invited to submit their application online to us, via [www.hr.bham.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.hr.bham.ac.uk/jobs)

The interview panel is planned for **Thursday 14 June 2018**.

