

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM  
**Job description**

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| <b>Post title and post number</b>           | <b>Research Fellow 59423</b>                       |
| <b>Organisation advertising Description</b> | <b>School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion</b> |

### Job summary

- To create and contribute to the creation of knowledge by undertaking a specified range of activities within the EU funded project 'Creating an Alternative *umma*: Clerical Authority and Religio-political Mobilisation in Transnational Shii Islam'
- To investigate, in particular, the role of exilic and diasporic networks and their hubs (e.g. Kuwait, Damascus, London etc.) in the transnational mobilisation of Twelver Shii communities in the last 50 years

### Main duties

**The responsibilities may include some but not all of the responsibilities outlined below:**

- Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, with assistance of a mentor if required
- Analyse and interpret data
- Apply knowledge in a way which develops new intellectual understanding
- Disseminate research findings for publication, research seminars etc
- Supervise students on research related work and provide guidance to PhD students where appropriate to the discipline
- Undertake management/administration arising from research
- Contribute to Departmental/School research-related activities and research-related administration
- Contribute to public engagement activities of manifest benefit to the College and the University, often under supervision of a project leader
- Collect research data; this may be through a variety of research methods, literature reviews, and research interviews
- Present research outputs, including drafting academic publications or parts thereof, for example at seminars
- Provide guidance, as required, to support staff and any students who may be assisting with the research
- Deal with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines

### Skills and Experience

- PhD on a topic related to thematic remit of the post (e.g. transnational religio-political activism in the contemporary Middle East) and very good command of Arabic
- High level analytical capability
- Ability to communicate complex information clearly
- Ability to assess resource requirements and use resources effectively
- Understanding of and ability to contribute to broader management/administration processes

## Planning and Organising

- Contribute to the planning and organising of the research programme and/or specific research project
- Co-ordinate own work with others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort

## Decision Making

- Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate, on the most appropriate way of undertaking the specified research activities
- Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate how to analyse and interpret the data from the specified research activities
- Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate what knowledge to draw on and how to apply it to develop new intellectual understanding
- Decide in collaboration with co-authors which aspects of the research findings to include in a presentation or a publication and how to convey the findings
- Give guidance, support and advice to students on research related work including PhD students and decide the most appropriate method of providing this supervision.

## Internal/External Relationships

- Liaise with research staff and support staff on research-related matters
- Liaise with external collaborators on the research, where appropriate
- Give presentations and/or contribute to presentations at national and/or international conferences
- Maintain contact with (including membership of) appropriate professional bodies
- Liaise with the relevant external research community via seminars and conferences
- Participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration
- Liaise with external clients of the University or members of the public