Lecturer in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY (DIVINITY)

Closing date: 24 February 2021
Interview date: TBC
Reference number: DHP095A
INTRODUCTION

The University of Aberdeen intends to appoint a Lecturer in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible to a three-year full-time lectureship to replace Professor Joachim Schaper during his tenure of a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (September 2021 to August 2024). The person to be appointed is expected to have a PhD in Old Testament studies (or to have submitted his or her dissertation for examination), and a thorough knowledge of Hebrew, at least one other Semitic language, and Greek. A special interest in and knowledge of either Comparative Semitics or the Cognitive Historiography of the Ancient Near East is desirable. The Lecturer will be expected to develop and teach a wide range of subjects within the field of Old Testament studies to undergraduate and postgraduate students both on-campus and online. They will be able to supervise PhD students, and to undertake administrative work in accordance with curricular needs and departmental strategy.

The department offers a wide range of undergraduate courses, usually leading to the Master of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity, or Bachelor of Theology degrees, and is home to one of the largest bodies of postgraduate students in the University. It is ranked in the top 25 of Theology and Religious Studies Departments in the world by the QS Rankings.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Main purpose of the role:

The main purpose of this role is to fulfil supervision and teaching requirements within the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, and to contribute to the research environment of the School and the University. The successful candidate will also be expected to contribute to the strong research culture and activity of the department, including by way of the development of external funding applications.

Key Responsibilities:

Lecturer in Old Testament / Hebrew Bible (fixed-term):

- Supervision and examination of the work of postgraduate students
- Course design, coordination and teaching in Masters and undergraduate courses in Divinity and Religious Studies
- Assessment of coursework in Divinity and Religious Studies
- Pursuit of personal research of a level and quality that can contribute to the Research Excellence Framework submission
- Contribution to the wider research environment within the School
- Participation in general academic administration

AT A GLANCE:

- SALARY: £41,526 per annum
- HOURS OF WORK: Full-time
- CONTRACT TYPE: Available until 14 September 2024
**CANDIDATE BACKGROUND**

Applicants should have a PhD in Old Testament studies (or should have submitted his or her dissertation for examination). They should have a thorough knowledge of Hebrew, at least one other Semitic language, and Greek. A special interest in and knowledge of either Comparative Semitics or the Cognitive Historiography of the Ancient Near East is desirable. The Lecturer will be expected to develop and teach a wide range of subjects within the field of Old Testament studies to undergraduate and postgraduate students both on-campus and online. They will be able to supervise PhD students, and to undertake administrative work in accordance with curricular needs and departmental strategy. Applicants should have experience of teaching in higher education, and possess excellent oral and written communication skills. They ought to have an existing track record of publication, and clearly developed plans for future research.

**TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

The salary will be paid at the rate of £41,526 per annum on the Grade 7 salary scale.

As this post is funded by the Leverhulme Trust it is available for a period of 3 years.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here)

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Heather Clark, HR Adviser (e-mail: h.m.clark@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### Education/Qualifications

**Academic, technical and professional education and training**

- PhD in the field of Old Testament / Hebrew Bible (or dissertation submitted for examination)
- Excellent language skills in Hebrew, at least one other Semitic Language, and Greek

**Knowledge of either Comparative Semitics or the Cognitive Historiography of the Ancient Near East**

### Work and Other relevant experience (including training)

- Teaching experience in higher education
- Ability to provide postgraduate supervision to students both on campus and at distance
- Ability to teach on a broad range of courses in Divinity and Religious Studies
- Track record of research excellence and demonstrable research promise
- Ability to contribute to the administration and running of the Department and School

### Personal qualities and abilities

- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a collegial team
- Ability to relate well to colleagues, build a rapport with students and impart enthusiasm for the subject
- Excellent IT skills
- Willingness and ability to undertake administrative duties
- Willingness to travel as needed and to take digital tutorials outside of normal office hours
Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, which puts students at the centre of everything it does. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen has also been credited for its international reach and its commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.

**2019 Highlights**

- **Scottish University of the Year (Times & Sunday Times)**
- **70th in the World for Research Citations (THE)**
- **32nd in the World for Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (THE)**
- **28th Most International University in the World (THE)**
- **15th Equal in the UK for Overall Student Satisfaction (NSS)**
- **11th Best Student Intake in the UK (Times & Sunday Times)**
- **Percentage of Scottish Intake from Most Deprived Areas Up from 4.5% in 2018/19 to 9% in 2019/20**

**Current Context**

The University will build on the significant achievements above in 2020 and beyond. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen’s estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King’s Quarter, and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts, and 2020 will see the launch of 5 Interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of research strength. The 5 Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

The University of Aberdeen is a recent recipient of The Queen’s Anniversary Prize, awarded to recognise world-class excellence in innovation and practical benefit to people and society. The University was given this award for health service research leading to improvements in academic and clinical practice and delivery of health care.

**International**

Aberdeen is also increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation, and building on its established partnership in Qatar with new partnerships in Sri Lanka, with the International Institute of Health Sciences, and in China, with Shanghai University and SCNU.

The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to operate on a dedicated campus in Qatar. Phase 1 of this partnership with AFG College has successfully recruited over 600 students. Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus, visit [https://www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar/](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar/).
On Founders’ day in 2020, our 525th anniversary as a University, we launched our new strategy ‘Aberdeen 2040’. Over the next 20 years, four strategic themes will shape our learning, discovery and strategic actions:

**INCLUSIVE:** We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY:** We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.

**INTERNATIONAL:** We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.

**SUSTAINABLE:** We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and our finances. We work responsibly.

**OUR EDUCATION**

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future and become change-makers across the globe. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

**OUR RESEARCH**

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen’s Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous, working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.
ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHEIRE

With a population of approximately 230,000, the city stands between the Rivers Dee and Don. This historic city has many architectural splendours and the use of its sparkling local granite has earned Aberdeen the name of the Silver City. Recognised as the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live.

Aberdeen enjoys excellent communication services with other European cities - e.g. flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights. There are direct air links to London (City, Heathrow, and Luton), Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Southampton, Belfast and East Midlands within the U.K. There are also flights to international hub airports: Amsterdam (Schiphol), and Paris (Charles De-Gaulle as well as flights to other European destinations. http://www.aberdeenairport.com Road and rail links are also well developed.

The Grampian Region which took its name from the Grampian Mountains has a population of approximately 545,000. It is made up of five districts – Aberdeen, Banff & Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside and Moray. The city and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, sea-side and country pursuits. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty's Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the P&J Arena, Museums, and Beach Leisure centre. Within a short time, beach pursuits, equine activities, salmon, trout and sea fishing, hill-walking, mountaineering, golf, sailing, surfing and windsurfing can be reached. The city and the surrounding countryside are repeatedly given high ratings for quality of life in surveys.

Aberdeenshire is one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire cater for a wide range of tastes in sporting and cultural activities.

To find out more about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire go to www.visitabdn.com
The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found here: https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php

The University’s commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE’s Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) user can contact us directly by using contact SCOTLAND-BSL

The University is delighted to be accredited as a Disability Confident employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277.php

**HOW TO APPLY**

Applications should include a curriculum vitae and personal statement of no more than two sides of A4, outlining your reasons for making an application.

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 24 February 2021

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Tom Greggs, FRSE (Marischal Chair and Head of Divinity): t.greggs@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Greggs.

Please quote reference number DHP095A on all correspondence