Senior Lecturer (Teaching & Scholarship), Head of Postgraduate Taught Professional Learning

School of Education

Closing date: 6 September 2021
Interview date: TBC
Reference number: EDU110A
INTRODUCTION

This new 1.0 FTE Senior Lecturer (Teaching and Scholarship) Head of Department post within Postgraduate Taught (Masters-level) and Professional Learning comes at a significant time of growth in the School of Education, which is now ranked in the top 10 in the UK (Complete University Guide 2022). We have ambitious plans to further strengthen the academic and teaching profile of our collegiate school, and to build new teams of positive, forward-thinking educators, with quality, innovation, and an international outlook, at the core.

Benefiting from a long and pioneering tradition of Masters-Level Professional Learning, most recently in the development of the new professionally accredited International Postgraduate Diploma in Education (iPGDE); the department supports teaching and therapeutic practitioners, and other professionals, to develop and to grow academically and professionally. The School’s and department’s programmes have strong partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally, and a new Learning Hub, in partnership with the Northern Alliance, located in the School of Education’s MacRobert Building.

The School is seeking a Head of Department of Postgraduate Taught and Professional Learning. As Head of Department, you will lead a team of able Programme Directors across: Autism and Learning; Inclusive Practice; Leadership in Professional Contexts; International Postgraduate Diploma in Education (iPGDE); Master of Education (MEd); Mindfulness; Pastoral Care, Guidance, and Pupil Support; Gaelic; and Teaching Qualification for Further Education (TQFE). Having a developmental disposition, the Head of Department will empower and support others in the pursuit of quality and growth.

If you are passionate about education and research-informed teaching; are committed to working collaboratively; possess intellectual curiosity; and are dedicated to your own, and others’, learning - join us and help to shape our future through this key academic School leadership position.

Further information on the school is available at: www.abdn.ac.uk/education

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

We are seeking to appoint a positive, creative, and collaborative, Head of Department of Postgraduate Taught and Professional Learning to support academic development and growth within this academic department, which sits alongside three other departments: Counselling, Wellbeing, and Educational Psychology; Early Childhood and Care; and Initial Teacher Education. As Head of Department, you will lead and support a team of able Programme Directors across the department’s programmes and courses, in support of the University’s and School’s strategic goals. As a member of the School Executive Committee, you will also contribute to the wider strategic direction of the School of Education as it seeks to fulfil the Foundational Charter of the University of Aberdeen, namely being: ‘Open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others’ (Bishop Elphinstone, 1495).

With a passion for a high-quality student experience, you will support the on-going embedding of a culture of research-enhanced teaching within Postgraduate Taught and Professional Learning and provide collaborative leadership to support growth in this academic department.

You will represent the department internally and externally, building and maintaining positive relationships with primary stakeholders in support of the department. For example, working collaboratively with others, you will engage externally with local and national governments; Northern Alliance; the General Teaching Council for Scotland; Education Scotland; Third Sector, and national and international Higher Education Institutions.

As someone who thrives on leading teams of talented individuals and who possesses a core commitment to academic endeavour; the role is responsible for quality enhancement within the department as well as ensuring that students’ academic, pastoral, learning and assessment needs are in focus. As the occupier of a key academic leadership and academic line managerial role within the School of Education, you will seek to nurture and build academic capacity within your department, its colleagues, and its students.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- In collaboration with the School’s Senior Leadership Team, School Executive Committee, and Programme Directors, lead the strategic direction of this department to contribute to, and to ensure that, the objectives of the School are achieved – contributing also to the School’s wider strategic direction through membership of the School Executive Committee.

- Ensure the effective, efficient, and sustainable, running of the department through working with Programme Directors, Tutors, and others around areas, such as, for example: teaching and learning; curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment; recruitment; marketing; staffing and workload; and departmental budget.

- Working with others, such as the Director of Research and other Heads of Department, to support quality academic activity and research-enhanced teaching within the department.

- Liaise with key external stakeholders, such as: local and national governments; Northern Alliance; the General Teaching Council for Scotland; Education Scotland; A Third Sector, and national and international Higher Education Institutions in support of the strategic aims of the School, raising the profile of this department, including externally.

- Support Programme Directors and Administrative colleagues within your department to ensure that a high-quality student experience continues to be at the heart of Aberdeen’s Postgraduate Taught School of Education programmes.

- Working with the Directors of Education, ensure programme review, quality, and delivery including meeting any regulatory requirements.

- To be responsible for the oversight and distribution of programme budgets in line with quality enhancement and strategic goals.

- Lead others to innovate and to creatively respond to the changing nature of teaching and learning, ensuring that the School’s students continue to be of the highest quality.

- With an eye to the future, and a creative collaborate disposition, work with others to envision future learning and the ongoing re-envisioning and growth of the department’s programme portfolio.

- Teach within an aspect of the school’s diverse programme offering.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Being positive, creative, and collaborative by disposition, you will also be suitably academically qualified, and skilled in leading others, with experience of Higher Education leadership, or equivalent, either within, or out with, Scotland. You may already have experience of departmental leadership or be ready to take that next step having had experience of Postgraduate programme/course leadership or other significant leadership experience.

You will have good networks in your academic field, which will be a cognate area within Education. You will also have been involved in contributing to new thinking and ways of working. Coupled with an inclusive and collegial personal style, you will have a developmental disposition; a passion for quality; and a keen ability to understand changing educational, socio-political, and economic landscapes. You will possess an ability to build positive relationships and to work effectively internally, with School colleagues, Departmental Heads; the School’s Senior Leadership Team, university decision-makers; and externally with educational partners, in national and international contexts.
**TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 8, £52,559-£59,135 per annum and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on an occasional or regular basis. For more information please refer to our Homeworking Policy.

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

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.

**AT A GLANCE**

**SALARY:**
Grade 8
£52,559-£59,135 per annum

**HOURS OF WORK:**
Full Time

**CONTRACT TYPE:**
Substantive

**LOCATION:**
Aberdeen
# Person Specification

## Education/Qualifications
### Academic, technical and professional education and training

- PhD or EdD in relevant discipline.

## Work and Other relevant experience (including training)
### e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research

- Knowledge and understanding of current developments in Education Masters-level professional learning.
- Experience and knowledge of online pedagogies.
- Doctoral-level qualified.
- Teaching experience, ideally at Postgraduate level.
- Knowledge of current international policy in relation to Education Masters-level professional learning.
- Knowledge of professional accreditation processes.
- Experience of PhD or EdD supervision, preferably to successful completion.

## Personal qualities and abilities
### e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills

- Experience and ability to work effectively as a dynamic departmental leader and academic line manager.
- Possessing a positive, developmental, disposition with a strategic outlook.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to work collaboratively and creatively with others.
- Strong organisational skills, able to manage a demanding workload.
- Ability and willingness to contribute to academic profile, leadership, administration, and general life of the School.
- Excellent, effective and empathetic communication and presentation skills.

## Other
### e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.

- Prepared to travel and teach off-campus, both at home and overseas (as applicable).
- Able to work flexible hours for the delivery of courses and to provide support to staff and students.
- Ability and willingness to work towards School and University strategic objectives and goals.

- Possess a full driving licence
open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and 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.

CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on its achievements. 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 in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched Aberdeen 2040, our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

• 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 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. 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.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in e.g. Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 32nd in the world for International Outlook². 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 www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT

Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

¹ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021
² QS World University Rankings 2021
³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021
The School of Education is a diverse and pioneering School, comprising over 100 staff across four departments: Initial Teacher Education; Counselling, Wellbeing, and Educational Psychology; Early Years and Childhood Education and Postgraduate Taught (Masters-Level) and Professional Learning. Within these departments, you will find a large portfolio of programmes and courses broadly designed for educators, therapeutic practitioners, and researchers.

The School has a thriving research culture, with our research activities underpinning all aspects of the School’s work. Our cohort of PhD students enhances our research community. The School’s four research themes are:

- International Studies in Social and Educational Development
- Lifelong Professional Education and Development
- Educational Inclusion and Wellbeing
- Pedagogy and Digital Learning
ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland’s third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland’s top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty’s Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the P&J Arena, Museums, and Beach Leisure Centre. The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also 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.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find our more visit www.visitabdn.com
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

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 at 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 an 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) users 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.

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

HOW TO APPLY

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

The closing date for receipt of applications is 6 September 2021

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor David Smith, Head of School of Education (davidsmith@abdn.ac.uk)

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Smith

Please quote reference number EDU110A on all correspondence