Lecturer in Sociology

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Closing date: 21 January 2022
Interview date: TBC
Reference number: SOC072A
The University of Aberdeen is seeking applications for a fixed-term, part-time (0.6 fte) Lectureship in the Department of Sociology. The Department of Sociology is a lively and collegiate department with a strong emphasis on both teaching and research. This is a fixed term post for 6 months from March 2022.

The Department of Sociology is one of the UK’s leading Departments and is currently ranked 10th in the UK by the Guardian University Guide and 16th by the Complete University Guide. It provides a lively and collegiate atmosphere, with a strong emphasis on research led teaching. The University of Aberdeen – one of the UK’s six ancient universities – is consistently ranked in the top 200 globally and is currently ranked in the top 160 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2022). Both the Department and the University provide excellent support for scholarship and research activity. We have an established mentorship programme for new staff members and support for early career researchers.

The successful candidate would normally hold a PhD degree in Sociology and will have experience of teaching in higher education and the ability to make a contribution to courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The successful candidate should be able to teach across the range of our programmes, but particular themes of interest for the post are gender, conflict and peacebuilding, and sexual and gender-based violence. The focus of the post will include support for the development and delivery of our online and/or blended programmes and courses.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The successful applicant will be required:

- To undertake teaching in Sociology at undergraduate and graduate levels
- To supervise undergraduate and postgraduate taught dissertations
- To contribute to the academic administration of the School of Social Science
- To contribute to regularly occurring events which are important to the successful running of Sociology and the School, such as regular Open Days

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Plan and deliver a range of teaching and assessment activities including lectures, tutorials and seminars, with a particular focus on gender, conflict and peacebuilding, and sexual and gender-based violence
- Mark course work, practical sessions, and examinations and provide timely and appropriate feedback
- Supervising and marking undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations
- Participating in the development and delivery of the School's strategic objectives
- Contributing to the administration of the School as appropriate
- Act as informal mentor for teaching assistants in subject specialism

NB the above list is not exhaustive.
CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

The successful candidate should have experience of teaching in Sociology and have completed their PhD in a relevant discipline, with a particular focus on gender, conflict and peacebuilding, and sexual and gender-based violence.

They should have experience of undertaking tutorials and lecturing at various levels of undergraduate and postgraduate study. They should be self-motivated, flexible and have an ability to engage the interest and enthusiasm of students, inspiring them to learn. There should be a clear demonstration of an academic career trajectory, and a willingness to make a full contribution to the School’s activities.
TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the appropriate point on Grade 7, £42,149 - £50,296 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

The post is tenable from March 2022 for a period of 6 months.

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

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

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 post does not meet the minimum requirements for visa sponsorship under the Skilled Worker Route. We are therefore unable to consider applicants for this post that require sponsorship to work in the UK.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 7

£42,149 - £50,296 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:

37.5

CONTRACT TYPE:

Fixed term

LOCATION:

Aberdeen
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th><strong>ESSENTIAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>DESIRABLE</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Education/Qualifications</strong></td>
<td>• PhD degree in Sociology</td>
<td>• Associate Fellowship of the HEA or equivalent, or plans to gain in near future</td>
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<td>Academic, technical and professional education and training</td>
<td>• Commitment to high quality teaching and learning</td>
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<td>• Experience of undertaking lectures and tutorials at various levels of undergraduate and postgraduate study</td>
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<td>• Experience of blended and/or on-line teaching, organisation and delivery</td>
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<td><strong>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</strong></td>
<td>• Excellent organisation and communication skills, empathy, self-motivation and ability to work both as part of a team and individually</td>
<td>• Experience of undergraduate supervision</td>
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<td>e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research</td>
<td>• Knowledge of Sociology</td>
<td>• Experience of software packages and IT systems for teaching, learning and assessment (e.g. MyAberdeen)</td>
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<td>• Particular themes of interest must include gender, conflict and peacebuilding, and sexual and gender-based violence</td>
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<td>• Excellent IT skills</td>
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<td>• Ability to act as mentor to teaching assistants</td>
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<td><strong>Personal qualities and abilities</strong></td>
<td>• Fluency in both spoken and written English</td>
<td>• Experience of undergraduate supervision</td>
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<td>e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills</td>
<td>• Ability to teach in close collaboration with colleagues</td>
<td>• Experience of software packages and IT systems for teaching, learning and assessment (e.g. MyAberdeen)</td>
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<td>• Excellent oral and written communication skills</td>
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<td>• A proven track record of ability to manage time and to work to strict deadlines</td>
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<td>• Commitment to participate in relevant evening and weekend events i.e., Open Days; Widening Participation courses</td>
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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 students and have been named 31st in the world for International Outlook. The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to deliver programmes on a dedicated campus in Qatar in partnership with AFG College. Phase 1 has successfully recruited over 600 students and 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 17.

1 QS World University Rankings 2022
2 Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022
3 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021
The School of Social Science is home to three departments (Anthropology, Politics and International Relations, and Sociology) and more than 45 research active members of staff. The research conducted within the School covers a number of themes and topics. Within Anthropology scholars have focused on the themes of Anthropology of the North, Environment, Creativity and Perception, Museums and Histories of Science, Religion, Politics and the State and Anthropology with Art and Craft. Within Politics and International Relations scholars focus on the department’s key research themes of Comparative Politics and Public Policy; Conflict and Security Studies; Democracy and Representation; and Political and International Relations Theory. While in Sociology staff have focused on religion and secularization, peace and conflict studies, global political economy, Identity and Gender, and human and animal studies.

All three departments in the School have excellent reputations both with the UK and globally, with all three departments ranked in the top two quartiles in the most recent Guardian University Rankings (for 2022). The pursuit of excellence in research and teaching within the School echoes the wider University’s commitment to these goals in its Aberdeen 2040 Strategy and staff within the School benefit from a variety of institutional mechanisms that promote and encourage research excellence and innovative teaching. New staff, and particularly early career researchers are further supported by a probation system, and all new staff benefit from a robust yet collegial mentoring system within their department that partners them with a senior academic to guide them through their probationary period.

The School actively strives to provide an engaging environment for research, teaching, impact and exchange both for staff and students. Staff in all three departments participate actively in regular seminar series throughout the academic year, for example, which host external speakers, provide a forum for staff to present their ongoing work, and encourage PhD students to engage with emerging research and present their own work to an academic audience. The School benefits from participation in two of Doctoral Training Programmes, the first in Anthropology and managed by the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities, and the second in Sociology and managed by the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science. Both provide access to competitively awarded PhD funding opportunities and provide, along with the University’s own Postgraduate Research School, a host of opportunities for PhD and early career researchers to develop their skills in research and teaching. Collectively these various support mechanisms encourage rigorous, engaged and impactful research and innovative and inspiring teaching.
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.

Aberdeen has ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, and was recently named the happiest city in the UK to live and work in4.

To find our more visit [www.visitabdn.com](http://www.visitabdn.com)

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4 Shawbrook Bank Happiest Cities Index 2021
EQUITY 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 21 January 2022

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Dr Gearoid Millar, Head of Sociology
g.millar@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Dr Gearoid Millar.

Please quote reference number SOC072A on all correspondence