Teaching Fellow in American History

School of Divinity, History, Philosophy and Art History

Closing date: 12 July 2022
Interview date: To be confirmed
Reference number: DHP109A
INTRODUCTION

The School of Divinity, History, Philosophy, and Art History is seeking to appoint a Teaching Fellow in American History for a period of twelve months from 1 August 2022.

The successful applicant will have a good research record in American History from c. 1800 and extensive experience of teaching in higher education.

The Teaching Fellow will be expected to teach across the four-year Scottish undergraduate MA and, where appropriate, contribute to taught postgraduate courses, including courses delivered online.

The School offers a wide range of undergraduate courses leading to a Designated MA (Hons) after three years or, more usually, a single or joint MA (Honours) after four years. Approximately one hundred and thirty students graduate with honours degrees in History each year. The History Department, which currently comprises about twenty staff, runs various taught Postgraduate Masters courses, including those in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Scandinavian Studies, Modern Historical Studies and Scottish Heritage (online).

The History department is strongly committed to equality and diversity.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The History Department is seeking a Teaching Fellow in American History with broad expertise in the field from c. 1800, to consolidate our coverage of an area popular with students at all levels.

The successful candidate should have completed a PhD, will have a strong research record relative to career stage, and will be an experienced and flexible teacher.

The candidate will be expected: to teach one or more popular options on some aspect of American History at junior honours (level 3) and/or senior honours (level 4); to contribute to team-taught sub-honours and honours courses (including ‘American Civilizations’ (level 1), ‘Thinking History’, our main historiographic course (level 3), and ‘History in Practice’ (level 4)), and to supervise undergraduate dissertations (level 4).

The candidate may be asked, depending on experience, to contribute to teaching and research culture in the Department’s other areas of strength, which include: History of Empire and Decolonization, and Irish and Scottish History.

The successful candidate will enrich and add diversity to the Department, which is currently seeking to decolonize the curriculum.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Teaching at level 1 and 2 (sub-honours), including lecturing and running tutorials (e.g., on American Civilizations and/or Twentieth-Century Europe (level 1)
- Teaching at level 3 (junior honours), including a popular honours ‘option’ for c. 25 students
- Contributing (lectures, seminars) to level 3 ‘Thinking History’ (historiography)
- Contributing (lectures, seminars) to level 4 ‘History in Practice’
- Teaching at level 4 (senior honours), including supervision of dissertations
- Course coordination, as appropriate
- General academic administration

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Applicants should have a good research record in any aspect of Modern American History from c. 1800 and extensive experience of teaching in higher education.

The successful candidate should be versatile and should be able to offer teaching on sub-honours outline courses.

They will develop and teach at least one specialist honours option in American History on a subject attractive to students and ideally close to their research interests.

The successful candidate will have a PhD in History and possess excellent oral and written communication skills.

We welcome applications from individuals whose background or characteristics have historically been underrepresented in the discipline of History.
TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the appropriate point on Grade 6 of the University Salary Scale, £34,304 - £40,927 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and a 12-month probation period.

This post is available for 12 months with a preferred start date of 1 August 2022.

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 6
£34,304 - £40,927 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:
37.5 per week

CONTRACT TYPE:
Available for 12 months

LOCATION:
Aberdeen
**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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<th><strong>Education/Qualifications</strong></th>
<th><strong>ESSENTIAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>DESIRABLE</strong></th>
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| Academic, technical and professional education and training | • PhD in Modern History  
• Strong research record for career stage |  
• Interest in history of gender, sexuality, disability, race or emotions  
• Ability to contribute to one or more of the existing areas of strength in the Department such as: Global History, Empire and Decolonization, Twentieth-Century Europe, Irish and Scottish History |

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<th><strong>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</strong></th>
<th><strong>ESSENTIAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>DESIRABLE</strong></th>
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| e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research | • Extensive teaching experience in higher education, especially in Modern American History  
• Preparedness to offer popular level 3 option in some aspect of American History  
• Preparedness to support teaching at honours level on historiography and ‘History in Practice’  
• Experience in supervising undergraduate dissertations  
• Experience in supporting teaching online |  
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<th><strong>Personal qualities and abilities</strong></th>
<th><strong>ESSENTIAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>DESIRABLE</strong></th>
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| e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills | • Excellent oral and written communication skills  
• Excellent IT skills  
• Ability to build a rapport with students, and impart enthusiasm for the subject |  
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<th><strong>Other</strong></th>
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<td>e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.</td>
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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 31st in the world for International Outlook². 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 17³.

¹ QS World University Rankings 2022
² Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022
³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021
History at Aberdeen is a friendly medium-sized research-active unit. Our research spans a diverse range of areas chronologically, geographically, and thematically. Academic staff contribute to the research culture of the University, notably through participation in Centres for Early Modern Studies, Scandinavian Studies, History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine, Irish and Scottish Studies, and Poland-Lithuania (amongst others). Staff engage closely with the University’s historically significant museums and special collections. We pride ourselves on our active engagement with external stakeholders, locally and internationally.

Our highly-rated and popular undergraduate teaching programme offers single- and joint-honours History degrees, and a range of innovative, student-oriented courses. Approximately half of our honours students take joint-honours degrees with other disciplines across the University. All departmental staff are engaged in teaching and student support. Departmental activities include student reading parties, as well as research seminars and conferences. History staff collaborate with others across and outside the University on teaching, research grants, publications, and outreach activities.

History staff and postgraduates are located in their own building, Crombie Annexe, at the centre of Aberdeen’s historic King’s College campus. The department sits within a School that incorporates Divinity and Religious Studies, Philosophy and Art History. The School offers a suite of taught undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and a strong postgraduate research programme, with over 250 PhD students. Academic programmes and activities are supported by the Head of School and the School support team.

The History department is strongly committed to equality and diversity.
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 in.

To find our more visit www.visitabdn.com

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4 Shawbrook Bank Happiest Cities Index 2021
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 12 July 2022

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Dr Ben Marsden, Head of History Department: b.marsden@abdn.ac.uk.

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Dr Marsden.

Please quote reference number DHP109A on all correspondence