

SENIOR LECTURER / READER IN ENERGY POLITICS

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Closing date: 29 July 2022
Interview date: To be confirmed
Reference number: SOC074A



Version: Sep21

INTRODUCTION

Politics and International Relations (PIR) is a medium-sized department within the School of Social Science. The University of Aberdeen has an international reputation in Politics and International Relations and is distinguished by diversity in teaching and research interests, with very robust undergraduate and postgraduate student numbers. The Department of Politics and International Relations teaches on both the University of Aberdeen's Aberdeen and Qatar campuses.

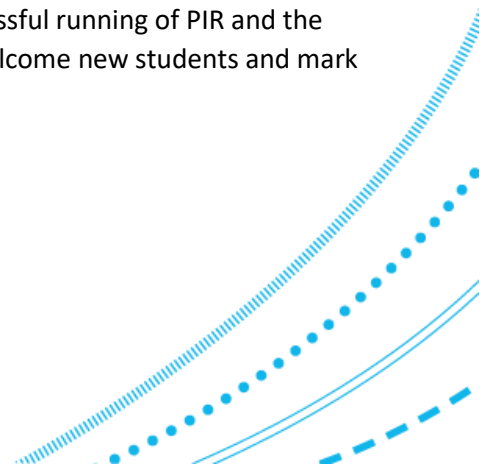
We seek to appoint a Senior Lecturer/Reader with a strong research portfolio in Energy Politics, who will lead the School's MSc in Energy Politics. The successful candidate will also play a leading role in undergraduate courses and develop synergies with our other postgraduate programmes in Political Activism, International Relations, International Political Economy, Strategic Studies and the University's Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Transition. Candidates must have a proven ability to attract regular funding and publish papers in high quality journals. The successful applicant is expected to commence work on 1 September 2022 where possible.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The Senior Lecturer/Reader will have experience of teaching Politics and International Relations and an established track record of publications in highly ranked journals.

- To take a leading role in the School's Politics and International Relations curriculum and associated programmes, on both the Aberdeen and Qatar campuses.
- To lead the School's MSc in Energy Politics.
- To develop synergies with our other postgraduate programmes and the University's Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Transition.
- To supervise undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations.
- To participate in the development and delivery of the School's strategic objectives.
- To contribute to the academic administration of the School of Social Science.
- To undertake research in accordance with PIR's research strategy including the development of external funding applications.
- To contribute to regularly occurring events which are important to the successful running of PIR and the School. These include Open Days, Summer Schools, and School events to welcome new students and mark graduations.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

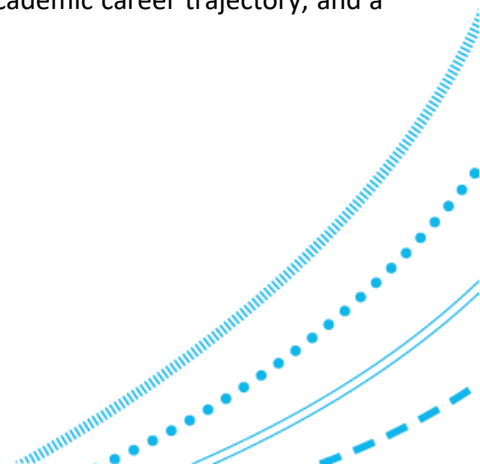
- Leading the School's MSc in Energy Politics.
- Lecturing and tutoring on the MSc in International Relations and other related programmes.
- Lecturing and tutoring undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Teaching and assessing PIR core courses (years 1-3).
- Developing, delivering, and assessing honours and postgraduate courses.
- Supervising and marking undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations.
- Developing on-line teaching modules.
- Acting as mentor for students in the capacity of personal tutor and for teaching assistants.
- Actively researching and developing an international research profile.
- Establishing and maintaining links with other Schools and external contacts.
- Participating in the development and delivery of the School's strategic objectives.
- Contributing to the administration of the School as appropriate.
- Maintaining and expanding knowledge and experience through continuous professional development.

NB the above list is not exhaustive.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

The successful candidate should have completed their PhD in a relevant discipline and have experience of teaching and research in Politics and International Relations. Expertise in Energy Politics is essential with a proven track record of securing funding and publishing in this area.

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 8, £53,348 – £60,022 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

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](#).

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 Lauren Storey, HR Adviser (e-mail: lauren.storey@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 8

£53,348 – £60,022 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:

37.5 hours per week

CONTRACT TYPE:

Substantive

LOCATION:

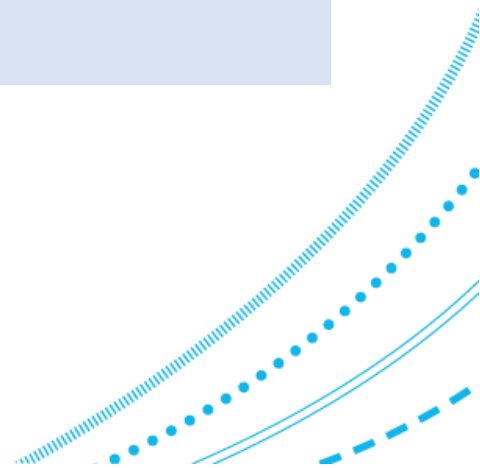
Aberdeen





PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD degrees in Politics and/or International Relations • Expertise in Energy Politics, research and teaching • Experience of undertaking lectures and tutorials at various levels of undergraduate and postgraduate study • Experience of coordinating and teaching own course(s) • Clear demonstration of an academic and research career trajectory • Track record of securing grant funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of teaching research methods • Professional recognition by the HEA, or other recognised teaching qualification • Expertise related to health, education, energy, transportation, infrastructure, urbanisation, environment/sustainability, etc., as well as research on economic development, post-colonial transitions, and global inequalities more generally • Expertise in quantitative data analysis
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of PhD supervision • Excellent organisation and communication skills, empathy, self-motivation and ability to work both as part of a team and individually • Good IT skills • Ability to act as mentor for students in capacity of personal tutor and for teaching assistants • Open Day participation includes Saturdays • Experience of developing and delivering on-line teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to contribute to the programmes delivered by our partner, AFG in Qatar
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of effective leadership and of ability to self-motivate • Commitment to participate in relevant evening and weekend events i.e. Open Days; Widening Participation courses; Summer Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong commitment to Equality and Diversity
Other e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.		



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

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.



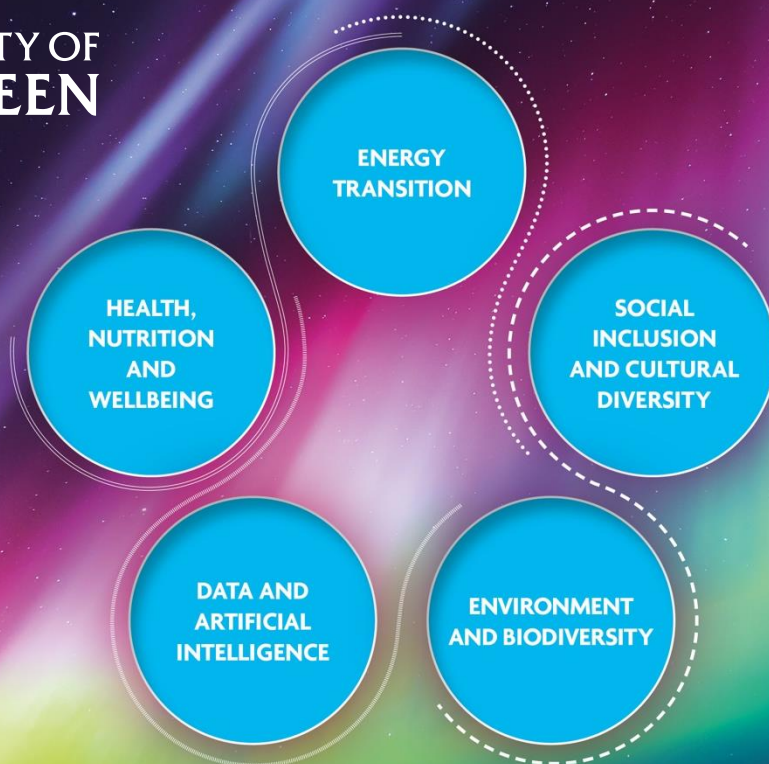
CURRENT CONTEXT

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

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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 several 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 within 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 out more visit www.visitabdn.com



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 **29 July 2022**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Michael Smith, Chair in International Relations

01224 272707

m.e.smith@abdn.ac.uk

Please do **not** send application forms or CVs to Professor Smith.

Please quote reference number **SOC074A** on all correspondence

