

## **THE SULTAN QABOOS PROFESSORSHIP OF ABRAHAMIC FAITHS AND SHARED VALUES**

### **FACULTY OF DIVINITY**

#### **1 The Professorship**

##### **Background**

The HM Sultan Qaboos Professorship of Abrahamic Faiths and Shared Values is one of four endowed Professorships in the Faculty of Divinity. It has been endowed by HM Sultan Qaboos, Sultan of Oman, and has been held since 2013 by Professor Garth Fowden. The University is now looking for a distinguished scholar in the study of the relationships between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam to succeed Professor Fowden on his retirement in 2020.

The post-holder will also be the Academic Director of The Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme (CIP). The Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme, founded in 2002, is an integral part of the Faculty and works to shape the future of engagement within, between, and around peoples of faith. Full details of the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme can be found on its website, [www.interfaith.cam.ac.uk](http://www.interfaith.cam.ac.uk). CIP is committed both to teaching and research related to Judaism, Christianity and Islam and to public education, dialogue and other forms of engagement related to them. In 2008 the General Board of the University approved it as a long term programme of the University. The HM Sultan Qaboos Professorship in Abrahamic Faiths and Shared Values is the second endowed post related to CIP, the first being the Polonsky-Coexist Lectureship in Jewish Studies, a Jewish-Muslim joint endowment, at present held by Dr Daniel Weiss.

The Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme presents an exciting opportunity for someone to develop a research vision through its established prestigious network of communities, leaders and museums that can assist as pathways to impact. Substantial funds are available for the work of CIP through the agreement of the Trust Fund Managers, and it is supported by a team, including an Administrator of Research and External Relations, a Research Associate (Dr Giles Waller), and the members of the Management Committee, currently chaired by Dr Daniel Weiss.

##### **Selection Criteria**

Candidates will be considered for the Professorship on the basis of the following selection criteria, which they should address in their application.

- An outstanding research record of international stature in the study of at least one of Judaism, Christianity or Islam, and with a focus on the interactions between these traditions, and their relationships to other religious traditions and to the modern world. They will be distinguished scholars of at least one of these traditions, with a proven interest in its relations to the other two.
- Ability to serve as Academic Director of the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme (CIP), responsible for its research agenda. This includes fostering work by colleagues in the University and outside it, guiding CIP's engagement in public education, being a member of the CIP team, and assisting in management and fundraising.
- The vision, leadership, experience and enthusiasm to build on current strengths in maintaining and developing a leading research presence in their field and in the Faculty, and an established record in securing research grants.
- The ability to manage and interact effectively with staff and students at all levels.
- An enthusiastic commitment to the recruitment, training and mentoring of the next generation of researchers, including undergraduates, research students, and postdoctoral research fellows

Candidates will hold a PhD or equivalent postgraduate qualification.

## **2 The Faculty of Divinity**

The Sultan Qaboos Professor of Abrahamic Faiths and Shared Values will work alongside Professors and other colleagues in the Faculty. The Professors of Divinity are Professor Catherine Pickstock (Norris Hulse Professor), and Professor George van Kooten (Lady Margaret Professor); the Regius Professorship of Divinity is currently in the process of being filled. Professor Richard Rex holds a Professorship in Reformation History and Professor Douglas Hedley holds a Professorship in Philosophy of Religion.

The Chair of the Faculty Board of Divinity is currently Dr James Aitken.

There are eighteen further University Teaching Officers in the Faculty covering all aspects of Theology, Philosophy of Religion, and Religious Studies. There is also a vibrant community of postdoctoral and doctoral researchers, and of affiliated lecturers and other specialists in the Colleges.

The Faculty has a strong research culture, comprising collaborative, inter-disciplinary and grant-funded research projects as well as outstanding individual research programmes. Each of the major fields of study runs its own regular Research Seminar, and the Faculty hosts a number of public named Lectures, which attract high-profile speakers. The Faculty also welcomes a number of Visiting Scholars into its research community each year.

The Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion Tripos is a three-year undergraduate course, leading to the BA, with approximately 140 students. The Advanced Diploma in Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion and the M.Phil in Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion are one-year postgraduate degrees.

The Faculty supervises over 100 doctoral students. The Faculty is also responsible for the Bachelor of Theology for Ministry, candidates for which are members of the Cambridge Theological Federation. The BTh is taught both within the Faculty and within the Cambridge Theological Federation.

The Faculty's website, where further information about all aspects of its life can be found, is located at <http://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk>

### **3 Standard Duties**

#### **Teaching and research**

The Professor will be required to deliver lectures and give instruction in the Abrahamic Faiths and their relations, and in particular to perform the following duties:

- (i) to provide lectures, seminars or classes for undergraduates and postgraduates, fulfilling a normal load of approximately 40 hours per annum;
- (ii) to undertake original work and the general supervision of research and advanced work in his/her subject and in the Faculty;
- (iii) to assist students in their studies by supervision.
- (iv) to undertake such university examining as may be required by the relevant Faculty Board or comparable body.

#### **Supervision**

The Professor will be required to attract high quality graduate students and to act as supervisor (or adviser) of graduate students as and when requested.

#### **Administration**

Administrative duties are shared equitably among the teaching members of the Faculty. The HM Sultan Qaboos Professor of Abrahamic Faiths and Shared Values will be responsible for managing the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme's research profile, both by attracting research funds and by developing the research vision for the Centre. This will include:

- i) liaising with CIP's partners in public education, including Co-exist House, the Rose Castle Foundation, and the Senior Faith Leadership Programme.
- ii) Cultivating the national and international relations of CIP and representing it in academic and public settings
- iii) Managing the CIP team under the overall direction of the CIP Management Committee and the Chair of Faculty

The Professor is also expected to play significant roles from time to time on the Faculty Board and Faculty Committees dealing with such matters as academic and other appointments, admission of graduate students, research and teaching assessments, the libraries and computing arrangements. Professors are also encouraged to accept appointment to School and University Committees.

## 4 The Colleges

The University, the Faculties and Departments, and the Colleges are linked in a complicated historical relationship that is mutually beneficial but not simple. Students (both graduate and undergraduate) are admitted by one of the 31 Colleges, although in the case of graduate students the Faculties and Departments determine admissions before the Colleges are involved. Almost all undergraduates, and many graduate students, live in a College. The teaching of undergraduate students is shared between the Colleges and the Faculties and Departments, with the Colleges arranging small group teaching (“supervision”) and the Departments providing lecturing, laboratory classes, and advanced supervisions. Most academic staff will also be invited to join a College as a teaching or professorial fellow. College teaching is remunerated separately from the University teaching, and appointment to a College is a separate matter from a University appointment. Membership of a College adds an important social and intellectual dimension for many of the academic staff. The Chair of the Faculty/Head of Department or senior colleagues can give more advice.

The Scheme for newly-appointed University Officers seeking a College Fellowship is set out at:

<https://www.ois.cam.ac.uk/uto-scheme/guidance-for-applicants/view>

## 5 Procedure for Appointment

The appointment will be made by a Board of Electors, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor or his Deputy, with a membership which includes members of the Faculty/Department, members of cognate Departments and external experts.

All applications will be acknowledged. The Board of Electors will decide how they wish to proceed towards making an election, which may include interviews and/or presentations. Short-listed candidates may be invited to visit the Faculty / Department to give a seminar on their work and meet prospective colleagues in the course of the process.

Candidates will be informed of the progress of their applications as agreed by the Electors.

It is anticipated that the successful candidate will take up the appointment on 1 October 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.

## 6 Enquiries and Applications

Informal enquiries about this Professorship may be directed to Dr James Aitken, Chair of the Faculty of Divinity, West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9BS; telephone +44 (0)1223 763024 or email [jka12@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jka12@cam.ac.uk).

Further information on the University is available at the following address:  
[www.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cam.ac.uk).

Applications, consisting of a letter of application together with a statement of current and future research plans, a curriculum vitae and a publications list, should be made online no later than **2 December 2019**.

If you are unable to apply online, please contact the Human Resources, University Offices, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TT (email [professorships@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:professorships@admin.cam.ac.uk)).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

All appointments to University Offices are subject to the Statutes and Ordinances of the University.

### **A Salary**

Salary on appointment will be determined by the Vice-Chancellor at the appropriate point on the University's salary spine for grade 12, taking account of the criteria for the respective contribution band. Professorial salaries are reviewed periodically, on the basis of research, teaching and general contribution, by the Vice-Chancellor with the assistance of a small Advisory Committee.

There is a normal sabbatical entitlement of one term in seven on full pay, subject to the University regulations.

### **B Headship of the Department**

Should a Professor be appointed to the Headship of a Department, a pensionable payment in addition to salary is made.

### **C Recruitment Incentive**

The University has a scheme whereby a single recruitment incentive payment may be made on appointment at the Vice-Chancellor's discretion.

### **D Removal Expenses**

If the person appointed is not resident in Cambridge, a contribution from University funds towards expenditure incurred in removal to Cambridge to take up a University office will be made.

### **E Consultancy Work**

The University's policy on consultancy work is that consultancy arrangements must be entered into privately between the employee and the organisation concerned. The consultancy work must not interfere with the duties required of the officer under the officer's contract of employment with the University. Consultancy work is not covered by the University's insurances, even when the University has knowledge that such work is being done. The University must not be regarded as being directly or indirectly involved in any consultancy arrangement through the use of University letterheads, advice given or work done in the individual's capacity as an employee of the University. Individuals undertaking private or consultancy work are advised to take out personal insurance.

Alternatively, professional indemnity cover may be obtained by channelling private work through the University company Cambridge Enterprise Ltd. Anyone wishing to do so should, in the first instance, contact Cambridge Enterprise at [www.enterprise.cam.ac.uk](http://www.enterprise.cam.ac.uk).

### **F Professorial Fellowships**

The great majority of Professors at Cambridge hold a professorial fellowship of a college. Although election to a fellowship is a matter for an individual college, the University takes active steps to draw to the attention of Heads of House the names of those Professors eligible for election. The Scheme for newly-appointed University Officers seeking a College Fellowship is set out at: <https://www.ois.cam.ac.uk/uto-scheme/guidance-for-applicants/view>

In seeking the views of referees, their permission will be sought for the release of their comments on the successful candidate if it were to be requested by the professorial fellowship electors of a college.

#### **G Health screening on appointment to University Office and in the case of University Officers undertaking a change of duties**

Offers of appointment made to prospective University officers whose work will fall within certain categories are conditional on the completion of a medical questionnaire and, if necessary, on a satisfactory health check by the Occupational Health Service.

Only the person elected will be asked to complete the questionnaire at the time of election.

#### **H Family friendly policies and benefits**

The University has a range of family friendly policies to aid employee's work-life balance including maternity, paternity and parental leave, flexible working and career break schemes. In addition, childcare vouchers, access to two nurseries and a holiday play scheme are available through the Childcare Office to help support University employees with childcare responsibilities. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/benefits/family.html>

#### **I Eligibility to work and reside in the UK**

UK immigration procedures stipulate that an employer may not consider the appointment of any person unless they have seen evidence of their immigration status. Accordingly, shortlisted candidates, whatever their nationality, will be asked to provide such evidence at an appropriate stage in the recruitment procedure.

#### **J Equal Opportunities Information**

The University of Cambridge appoints solely on merit. No applicant for an appointment in the University, or member of staff once appointed, will be treated less favourably than another on the grounds of sex (including gender reassignment), marital or parental status, race, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability (including HIV status), sexual orientation, religion, age or socio-economic factors.

#### **K Information if you have a Disability**

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. Our recruitment and selection procedures follow best practice and comply with disability legislation.

The University is committed to ensuring that applicants with disabilities receive fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. Adjustments will be made, wherever reasonable to do so, to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. We encourage applicants to declare their disabilities in order that any special arrangements, particularly for the selection process, can be accommodated. Applicants or employees can declare a disability at any time.

Applicants wishing to discuss with or inform the University of any special arrangements connected with their disability can, at any point in the recruitment process, contact, Dr Gosia Wloszycka, who is responsible for the administration of the recruitment process for this position, by email on [mw425@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mw425@admin.cam.ac.uk)