

**THE HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID PROFESSORSHIP OF MODERN
ARABIC STUDIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
FACULTY OF ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES**

1 The Professorship

Background

The His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Professorship of Modern Arabic Studies was established in 2005 with a generous endowment from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman. The purpose of this Professorial Chair is to underpin the development and consolidation of Modern Arabic Studies as an integral part of the teaching and research activity of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at Cambridge. Its inaugural holder is Professor Yasir Suleiman CBE, a renowned expert in Arabic socio-linguistics and an extremely active member of the national and international academic communities working on the Arab World. We are now looking for a new post-holder to foster the rising trajectory of Modern Arabic Studies at the University of Cambridge.

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 the modern Arab world, including but not limited to history, politics, or culture and society.
- The vision, leadership experience and enthusiasm to build on current strengths in maintaining and developing a leading research presence, and an established record in attracting research grant support to further this development.
- The ability to further the academic planning and strategic development of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies in the University and, where appropriate, to facilitate its development within the UK.
- 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 Department of Middle Eastern Studies

The Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES) is located in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (FAMES) together with the Department of East Asian Studies (DEAS). The department currently includes the following posts in the field of Arabic: the Sir Thomas Adams's Professorship of Classical Arabic, the His Majesty the Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Professorship of Modern Arabic Studies, a Readership in the History and Culture of the Maghrib, a Readership in Classical Arabic Studies, a Lectureship in Contemporary Middle Eastern Politics and Society, a Lectureship in Modern Arabic Literature, and three language teaching posts in Modern Arabic. The Headship of the Department, which currently includes being co-Chair of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, rotates on a triennial basis and it is expected that the postholder would take on this responsibility in October 2019.

The Department has an excellent record of research and research grant capture. Its research strategy is based on a broad commitment to 'Islam: a world civilisation' under which several research clusters coalesce, ranging from classical Arabic intellectual culture to Persian manuscripts and their contents, and preserving endangered Semitic languages. The Sultan Qaboos Professor has an important role within the Department's research strategy as the leader of the research cluster in Modern Arabic, which includes a social scientist and a modern Arabic literature specialist and a number of post-doctoral fellows, working on distinct and overlapping issues, including the cultural politics surrounding Arabic, diasporic Arab experiences and contemporary Arabic writing both inside and outside the Middle East. The Department has close ties with the HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies <http://www.cis.cam.ac.uk> whose current director is the outgoing Sultan Qaboos Professor.

The Department currently admits about 25 undergraduates per year to study Arabic, Hebrew or Persian, often in combination with each other or a modern European language (MML). The Cambridge Middle Eastern Studies course is based on the principles that students must acquire a good knowledge of a Middle Eastern language to fully engage with the region's history and culture and that informed understanding of the present requires engagement with the region's history. We offer teaching in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Sanskrit and Hindi and associated papers in the history and literatures of the Middle East. Postholders in Arabic therefore work closely and collaboratively with colleagues in Persian (3) and Hebrew (4). Students may also take Sanskrit or Hindi as a second language option

The course (Tripos) is spread over four years, with the third year spent abroad in the country or countries of the Middle Eastern language(s) being studied. During the first year, Part IA, students engage in intensive language learning and take 1 or 2 papers introducing them to the pre-modern and modern Middle East respectively. In their second year, Part IB, students take 1 core paper in their chosen language(s) and choose from a selection of other papers in the literature, history and anthropology of the region. During their Year Abroad they enhance their spoken language skills and commence research for their final

year dissertation. In their final year, Part II, students take 1 core paper in their chosen language(s) and then select from a range of more thematic papers informed by the research specialisms of academic staff.

The Department also admits some 5 to 10 graduates students each year for study on its MPhil (Masters) and PhD programmes and envisages expansion in this area through the rebranding of the MPhil and the active recruitment of graduate students. The Department also has a thriving post-doctoral community that includes Leverhulme early-career fellows in a variety of fields from the Christian Arab experience in early Islamic times to Mughal India and the modern Middle East.

Further information can be found at www.ames.cam.ac.uk

3 Standard Duties

Teaching and research

The Professor will be required to deliver lectures and give instruction in modern Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at all levels of the undergraduate tripos, and to both MPhil and PhD students and in particular to perform the following duties:

- (i) to convene and/or lecture on one or more papers each year and offer supervisions as required, unless on sabbatical.
- (ii) to undertake and publish original research and the general supervision of research and advanced work in his/her subject and Faculty/Department, and to assist students in their studies by supervision or informal instruction.

Examining

The Professor will be required to undertake such university examining as may be required by the relevant Faculty Board or comparable body.

Supervision

The Professor will be required to act as the supervisor of graduate students as and when requested.

Administration

Administrative duties are shared equitably among the teaching members of the Faculty. As noted above, the expectation is that the appointee will take on the role of Head of Department in October 2019. In addition, Professors are 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. They are also encouraged to accept appointment to 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.

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 of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, 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 *DATE* or as soon as possible thereafter.

6 Enquiries and Applications

Informal enquiries about this Professorship may be directed to Dr Amira K. Bennison, Co-Chair of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Head of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge, telephone +44 (0)1223) 335115 or email knb21@cam.ac.uk.

Further information on the University is available at the following address: 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, along with details of three referees should be made online no later than **28 April 2017**.

If you are unable to apply online, please contact the Human Resources Division, University Offices, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TT (email ibise@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.

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.

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