



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit:	School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry
Position Number:	New
Type of Employment:	Fixed-term, full-time
Classification:	Research Academic Level A

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks well within the top 100 universities worldwide, measured through a number of major independent university rankings: the Academic Ranking of World Universities, Times Higher Education World University Rankings, US News Best Global Universities Rankings, QS World University Rankings and Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities, and is indeed in the top 50 in some of these rankings. In 2013, UQ attracted more Australian Research Council funding than any other Australian university or research body.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience –the *UQ Advantage* – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more Australian Teaching and Learning Council Awards for Teaching Excellence than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland's highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia's Group of Eight, and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities. UQ is also the largest university in Queensland.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 215,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 7,000 academic and professional staff and a \$1.6 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built

scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

Organisational Environment

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) is a large comprehensive Faculty with a broad academic profile and substantial research achievements. The Faculty Office is based at the St Lucia campus in the iconic Forgan Smith building adjacent to the Great Court of the University.

The Faculty comprises seven Schools (Communication & Arts; Education; Historical & Philosophical Inquiry; Languages & Cultures; Music; Political Science & International Studies; Social Science), two research Institutes (Institute for Social Science Research; Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities), two museums (Anthropology Museum and the RD Milns Antiquities Museum), a new Faculty Centre for Policy Innovation, and several school-based research centres. It offers a broad range of programs to a large cohort of international and domestic students, with 850 research higher degree students, approximately 1,500 students in postgraduate coursework degrees and close to 8,000 undergraduates.

There are over 300 academic staff across the Faculty. One indicator of our standing in the disciplines that we research is membership in the learned academies, where UQ can proudly claim 33 members of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and 50 members of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Teaching in the Faculty is underpinned by substantial research performance and several specialized fields of research were judged at the highest level (5 ranking) in the most recent Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) evaluation that concluded at the end of 2015. These fields include Specialist Studies in Education; Political Science; Cultural Studies; Literary Studies; History and Philosophy of Specific Fields. Overall, HASS returned outputs to 21 disciplinary field codes, where 90% were rated above (4 ranking) or well above world standard (5 ranking). This is indicative of high quality and capacity in research.

These research achievements internationally are reflected in the 2017 Leiden rankings (based on impact, not reputation), where the Humanities and Social Sciences at UQ ranks 16th in the world on the quantum of publications in ranked journals, placing us first in Australia and in the Oceania region (for the full data-set see <http://www.leidenranking.com>).

The quality of our overall Faculty's performance is also evident in the QS World University Rankings for 2017 which places Social Sciences/Management at UQ at 39th in the world, and Humanities at 50th in the world. This data can be accessed at: <http://www.topuniversities.com/faculty-rankings>.

More information about the Faculty can be accessed at <http://www.hass.uq.edu.au/>.

The **School of Historical & Philosophical Inquiry** is a dynamic team with a reputation for innovative approaches to teaching and research excellence. We consider and explore how human beings have ordered and made sense of their world throughout history, from ancient times through to the present, and how this informs our futures. Our disciplinary groupings of Classics and Ancient History, Studies in Religion, Philosophy and History are united by this common intellectual quest, and are mutually reinforced and supported by each discipline's distinct approaches, perspectives and methodologies. Through our research, teaching and engagement activities, we seek to further and disseminate knowledge about these aspects

of humanity. In doing so, we serve our scholarly communities, our students, and our wider societies. We operate to the highest ethical standards in the way our staff, students and other stakeholders relate to each other. We aspire to quality and best practice in all that we do.

More information about the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry may be found at: <https://hapi.uq.edu.au>

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - <http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq>

The University of Queensland [Enterprise Agreement](#) outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The primary purpose of the position is to work with and alongside the Head of the School (HoS), to conduct research in the broad area of medieval cultural and social history. The postdoctoral fellow will undertake her/his own research project, as well as make a contribution to teaching in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Undertake research in one or more of the following areas: medieval cultural and/or social history; medieval gender history; the history of medieval violence; medieval religious history; the history of the Crusades.
- Assist with the submission of research grants as required, including the submission of an Australian Research Council DECRA application or equivalent for the postdoctoral fellow during the three-year period of employment.
- Individual and collaborative writing (with the HoS and others relevant to the postdoctoral fellow's research interests and networks) and publication of scholarly papers in quality, high impact journals and presses.
- Dissemination of research findings in relevant academic outlets, including conferences.

Service and Engagement

- Assist in the preparation of workshops/symposia/conferences as required.
- Participate collegially in the life of the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry.

Teaching and Learning

- Deliver or contribute to one undergraduate or postgraduate course in the School each year, in the position-holder's field/s of expertise.

- Contribute where appropriate to the effective supervision of Honours and Research Higher Degree students in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry.

Other

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including:

- the [University's Code of Conduct](#)
- requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related [OH&S responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University or Institute/School
- the adoption sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University [sustainability responsibilities and procedures](#)
- requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related [responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University

Organisational Relationships

The position reports to the Head of School.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Completion of a PhD within the past three years in the area of history, medieval history or medieval studies.
- Capacity to conduct research of a high quality in the area of medieval history.
- Excellent academic skills, including communication skills, writing skills, conceptual and theoretical skills and ability to contribute to academic debates at a sophisticated level.
- Capacity and plan to write publications, and submit research grant applications where appropriate
- Some experience of undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching in history.
- Relevant language (medieval Latin, and/or a modern European language or Arabic) and preferably palaeographic skills.
- An ability to work independently and as part of a team with a high level of motivation.

Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process.

Qualification Verification

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University's Diversity and Inclusion webpage (<http://www.uq.edu.au/equity>) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.