POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
Position Number: TBC
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term (3 years)
Classification: Academic Research 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 in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (65). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index and our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

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 national teaching excellence awards 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, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

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 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 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.
UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

**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 current Executive Dean is Professor Julie Duck who is Acting in the role following the transition of Professor Tim Dunne to a Pro-Vice-Chancellor position in the Office of the Provost.

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 Futures, and several school-based research centres. The Faculty is also host to the Institute for Modern Languages and the Confucius Institute. The Faculty 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, making it one of the largest in Australia. One indicator of the Faculty’s 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 2015 Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) round. 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 Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), was founded in July 2015. It seeks to promote high level research in traditional humanities disciplines such as history, philosophy, and literature, while also engaging with more recent developments in the humanities, including cultural studies and communication. The Institute consists of a number of full-time research-focused academics, postdoctoral fellows, faculty fellows, and visiting fellows. IASH is supported by strategic funding from the UQ Senior Executive and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Most of its specific research projects are funded by external grants. Areas of research focus include intellectual history, critical and cultural studies, and history of emotions. The Institute is also home to a 5-year Australian Research Council Laureate project on Science and Secularization, led by Professor Peter Harrison, the Institute Director.

In addition to its research and publication activities, IASH organises international conferences, public lectures, themed seminar series, and in-house work in progress seminars. Its members are actively involved in national and international research networks, and it has formal links to a number of Australian and overseas institutions. Central to the mission of the Institute is a Faculty Fellows programme that sees staff from teaching schools in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences seconded to the Institute for a semester in order to pursue their own research projects.

The Institute occupies a purpose-built research space in the Forgan-Smith Tower, located in the Centre of UQ's St Lucia campus.

Information about the Faculty and the School may be accessed on the Faculty’s web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/faculty-school.

**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**

To conduct research on a topic that will contribute to existing IASH research programmes, with a preference for one of the following areas:

1. Intellectual History, including history of science, history of religion, history of sexuality
2. Science and Religion
3. Literary Studies
4. Cultural Studies (including Asian Digital Cultures)

Candidates should formulate their own research project, along with a timetable and likely outputs. More generally, the successful candidate will be expected to undertake a plan of high-quality research and publication, and assist with the organization of research and engagement activities of the Institute.

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Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research and Research Management

- Under the supervision of the research leader within the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), undertake research and publication of scholarly outputs in high impact journals and presses.
- Present conference/workshop papers on the project findings at relevant national and international conferences.
- Assist with the organization of seminars and conferences related to the project.

Research Related Activities

- Where appropriate, effectively contribute to the supervision of Honours and Research Higher Degree students.
- Undertake other academic, administrative, collegial or developmental activities as required by your supervisor.
- Where appropriate, contribute to a teaching program in the relevant field of expertise.
- Contribute to and participate in a range of activities associated with IASH.

Other

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:

- 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 of 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 Institute Director, Professor Peter Harrison.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
- A recent PhD (normally within the last 5 years) in a relevant discipline
- Track record of high quality publications.
- Track record of other research outcomes, such as conference presentations.
- Demonstrated capacity to conduct research independently.
- Demonstrated ability to manage a large research project independently.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- High level communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to organise and prioritise own work with minimal supervision.

Desirable
- A demonstrated research interest in cross-disciplinary work at the boundaries of the humanities and sciences.
- A demonstrated capacity for developing applications for research funding.
- Experience at organizing seminars, conferences or similar events.

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.