

THE POST

College:	College of Social Sciences and International Studies (http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/)
Post:	Research Fellow (post doc) in Islamic Legal Studies – HERA Understanding Sharia project specialism
Reference No:	P53101
Grade:	F
HERA:	RFEL
Reporting To:	Professor Robert Gleave

The above full-time post is available from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2018 in the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, College of Social Sciences and International Studies.

Combining world class research with very high levels of student satisfaction we are a member of the Russell Group and now have over 19,000 students. In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) Exeter was ranked 16th nationally with 98% of its research rated as being of international quality.

The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, in which this post is located, has the strongest REF2014 results of any Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies department in the UK, establishing Exeter as the leader in the field in terms of research quality, impact and environment. Our international profile as a pioneering and multidisciplinary institute continues to grow. For details: www.exeter.ac.uk/iais

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

Understanding Shari'a: Past Perfect. Present Imperfect (USPPIP) is a two-year project funded through the Humanities European Research Area (HERA), a consortium of European research agencies in the Arts and Humanities (www.heranet.info). The project is a collaboration between the universities of Exeter (UK), Gotingen (Germany), Leiden (the Netherlands) and Bergen (Norway). The project forms part of the HERA *Uses of the Past* research programme, and will investigate how ideas of the past, and historical precedent more generally enables us to understand the dynamics of Islamic legal thought and practice in the contemporary period. Each university in the USPPIP consortium will lead a programme of activities focussing on a specific research theme: these are violence (Exeter), gender (Gotingen), custom and practice (Leiden) and the role of the state (Bergen).

We are seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work with Professor Gleave at the University of Exeter on the USPPIP project, examining the research theme concerned with violence in Islamic Law and Legal Thought. You would be working within Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, working with Professor Gleave and making a day-to-day contribution to the Institute's research environment. Although there are no official teaching duties attached to the post, you will contribute to research seminars and lectures as appropriate. You will, with Professor Gleave, develop a collaborative research project alongside a personal programme of research linked to the research theme. You will also be working collaboratively with the rest of the project team including the postdoctoral researchers working with Professors Irene Schneider (Gotingen), Leon Buskens (Leiden) and Knut Vikor (Bergen).

You must have completed (submitted and been examined) a PhD in a relevant field and demonstrate your ability to work both independently and as part of a team. You will need to demonstrate appropriate research skills (including proficiency in at least one relevant research language). A good publications record,

appropriate to your career stage, would be an advantage, as would experience of tuition and lecture presentations.

To carry out research, both collaboratively and independently as part of the USPPIP project, under the guidance of Professor Robert Gleave, contribute to fulfilling the aims and objectives of the USPPIP project, and producing high-quality research publications relevant to the research theme “Violence in Islamic Law and Legal Thought”.

The aims and objectives of the USPPIP project are:

- How do contemporary Muslims legal scholars use the past when they argue about violence, gender, governance and culture?
- How does the employment of the past as a model in contemporary Muslim legal practice differ from regional, state and local context, and from subject to subject?
- In what ways has the use of the past in Muslim legal argumentation changed and developed in the modern period, and how have the patterns of arguments been maintained from the early 19th century to today?
- What are the potential trajectories of change in the use of the past? Does the common Islamic legal appeal to the past aid or undermine efforts to reform legal thought and practice?

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Conducting individual or collaborative research projects;
 - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
 - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline;
 - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
 - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
 - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
 - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
 - Acting as principal investigator on research projects;
 - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
 - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
 - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
 - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
 - Deciding on research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues and sometimes subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
3. To act as research team leader including:
 - Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
 - Coaching and supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques;
 - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects;
 - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff;
 - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities;
 - Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research.
4. To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to sponsors and at conferences.

5. To plan, co-ordinate and implement research programmes including:

- Managing the use of research resources and ensure that effective use is made of them;
- Managing research budgets;
- Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
- Planning and managing own consultancy assignments.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

Applicants should fill in an application form online, and upload a single document (word or PDF) containing:

1. a full Curriculum Vitae
2. a covering letter (2 A4 pages maximum)
3. a research proposal (3 A4 pages maximum)

In the Covering Letter, the applicants should explain how their skills, qualification and experience make them eligible for the position. The Research Proposal should be a description of the independent research project they aim to complete during the 2 years of the fellowship, including research aims and methodology, outputs and principal sources.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	Be a nationally recognised authority in the subject area. PhD (or be nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	
Skills and Understanding	Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop research programmes and methodologies. Record of research output in nationally recognised publications.	
Prior Experience	Experience of teaching at undergraduate level. Experience of managing research projects and research teams. Successful in obtaining grant funding.	Experience of postgraduate teaching and supervision. Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.
Behavioural Characteristics	Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups. Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking. Able to participate in and develop external networks. Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities. Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.	
Circumstances		

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting For further information please contact Professor Robert Gleave, e-mail r.gleave@ex.ac.uk or telephone (01392) 264025.

Additional Information Relating to the Post

Salary

Salary will be from £33,574 up to £37,768 per annum on Grade F subject to knowledge, skills and experience.

An increment will be payable on 1 August each year until the top of the scale is reached (subject to being in post for 6 months and satisfactory performance). The scale will be subject to a cost of living review each year.

Hours of work

Full time appointments are contracted to work a 36.5 hour week, over five days, to suit the requirements of the College, as notified by the College Dean. The hours of part-time staff are specified in the letter of appointment.

Annual Leave

The annual leave entitlement for full-time appointments is 41 days per calendar year (pro rata for part-time appointments). For further information see our website <http://www.admin.ex.ac.uk/personnel/leave.shtml>.

Probationary Period

The appointment will normally be subject to a probationary period of one year.

References & Medical Clearance

All appointments are subject to satisfactory reference and medical checks and individuals will be required to complete a medical assessment form before appointment is confirmed. Applicants should note that the University normally contacts referees for short-listed applicants without further advice to applicants. When advising of referees, if they are resident overseas, please ensure you supply fax numbers and/or email addresses enabling us to contact them (if necessary) without delay.

Right to Work in the United Kingdom

If you do not have the right to work in the UK, this appointment will be subject to the University successfully obtaining a Certificate of Sponsorship under the UK's Points Based System for migrant workers and to you obtaining Entry Clearance/Leave to Remain.

For further information, see the Home Office website at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>. In particular you are encouraged to undertake a self assessment of your eligibility to work in the UK using the link to www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator.

Terms & Conditions

The Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed on line by visiting <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/employment/conditions/terms/>

Pensions

Membership of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme (USS) is automatic provided that you meet the qualifying criteria for membership. For details on the scheme please go to the <https://forthefuture.uss.co.uk>. Staff automatically become members and employee contributions will be taken from your pay unless you opt out in accordance with the current rules of the scheme. More information about the USS scheme can be found at www.uss.co.uk/members. The University, as your employer, contributes such sums as will be required to maintain the full benefits of the scheme. You may opt out of the scheme and if you wish to do so, you should contact the Pensions and Reward Advisor, Mrs Alison Rose (01392 723088/email a.j.rose@exeter.ac.uk) for further information.

Relocation

You may be able to claim relocation expenses in accordance with the University's Relocation Assistance Scheme. The maximum allowance that you can reclaim under the Relocation Assistance Scheme, if eligible, is 10% of salary.

Short-listing Information

We will acknowledge your application by email. The University of Exeter recognises the time and effort taken to apply for a position and will contact you by email to inform you of results of shortlisting

Application Procedure and Interview Information

The closing date for completed applications is **17 July 2016**. We expect to hold interviews in Exeter on 26 July 2016.

Data Protection Act (1998)

The information contained within your application is being requested to enable the University to make employment decisions and meet statutory obligations. Any information provided to the University in this context will be treated confidentially and used only by manager(s), member of the University, Human Resources, Superannuation and Payroll during the course of your employment. Where the application relates to a post which is externally funded this information may be passed onto the relevant funding body.