

THE POST

College:	College of Social Sciences and International Studies http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Islamic Studies (Shiism/Islamic legal studies) – ERC Advanced “Law and Learning in Shiite Islam” (LAWALISI) project (two posts both 1.0FTE for 2 years fixed term).
Reference No:	P54630 & P54631
Grade:	F
HERA:	RFEL
Reporting To:	Professor Robert Gleave

The above full-time post is available from 1st March 2017 to 28 February 2019 in the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, College of Social Sciences and International Studies (SSIS) at the University of Exeter.

Combining world-class research with very high levels of student satisfaction the University of Exeter 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 (IAIS), 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

The Centre for the Study of Islam (CSI), the cluster of Islamic Studies-facing academics in IAIS, has an international reputation for excellence in scholarship and research, and has attracted significant research funding for its projects. Its current director is Professor Robert Gleave.

Job Description

The Law and Learning in Shiite Islam (LAWALISI) is a five-year ERC Advanced project funded through the European Research Council (<http://erc.europa.eu/>). Professor Robert Gleave, based in the IAIS, is the Principal Investigator on this project, and will lead a team of researchers examining the development of Imami Shi'i legal thinking from the earliest times to the present day. In the first two years of the project, the focus will be on the development of Imami Shi'i legal thinking in the context of the wider development and elaboration of Islamic law, from the earliest time to the fifteenth century CE. There are two posts available:

1. **Legal Theory/Legal Doctrine.** One research fellow will examine the appearance and development of legal theory and its relationship to the production of legal norms, and how the Imami literature of *usul al-fiqh* provides a particular perspective on the development and elaboration of this science.

2. **Fatwas and Fiqh.** One research fellow will focus on the development of a body of legal doctrine (*fiqh*, also expressed in *fatwas*), carrying out a comparative analysis of how commentaries on legal texts functioned to form a legal tradition and facilitate doctrinal change in the Imami legal tradition.

These constitute two of the 3 research themes to be explored in the first half of the LAWALISI project (the third research theme will be led by Professor Gleave and relates to the origins and early development of the Imami legal school during and immediately after the period of the Imams). The Research Fellows will coordinate the project's activities in these two areas (workshops, conferences, fieldtrips and production of scholarly outputs),

creating and consolidating existing international networks of scholars. The overall emphasis of the project is to develop a nuanced and sophisticated account of the development of Imami Shi'i law, and place this within the wider developments of Islamic legal thought and practice. The project will aim to explore how contemporary scholarship on the origins and elaboration of Islamic law and institutions can be enriched by increased attention to the history and dynamics of Imami Shi'i legal thinking.

The two Research Fellows will be working within the 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, there may be opportunities to teach undergraduate and postgraduate students. You will contribute to research seminars and lectures in the Institute as appropriate and play a role as a member of the Centre for the Study of Islam. You will, with Professor Gleave, develop a programme of collaborative and individual research within the parameters of the LAWALISI project.

You should have completed (submitted, examined and passed) a PhD in a relevant field (or demonstrate equivalent postdoctoral standing) and demonstrate your ability to work both independently and as part of a team; students in the final stages of their doctoral studies may apply, but will need to demonstrate that their doctoral research and thesis preparation will be completed by the time the post starts in March 2017. You will need to demonstrate appropriate research skills (including proficiency in at least one relevant research language). Researchers in the relevant area of Shi'i law are encouraged to apply; also, since the Project aims to place the history of Shi'i law within the broader Islamic legal studies field, scholars in cognate disciplines of Islamic legal studies are also potential candidates for the position. Researchers, in any case, demonstrate in their application an awareness of the Project's intellectual direction, and an enthusiasm to fulfil the Project's aims. A good publications record, appropriate to your career stage, would be an advantage, as would experience of tuition and lecture presentations.

Main purpose of the job:

To carry out research, both collaboratively and independently as part of the LAWALISI project, under the guidance of Professor Robert Gleave, contribute to fulfilling the aims and objectives of the LAWALISI project, and producing high-quality research publications relevant to one of the research themes (either "legal theory/legal doctrine" or "fiqh and fatwas").

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Conducting individual or collaborative research;
 - 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;
 - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
 - Acting as principal investigator on research projects, where appropriate;
 - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
 - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area beyond the period of the LAWALISI project;
 - 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, as appropriate.
3. To act as research team leader, in time, 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.

We are very keen to sustain a strong academic community where people share and collaborate in research, and where students feel part of a vibrant academic culture. Therefore we expect that, in general, you will be physically present at the University at least four days a week during term time. This will enable you to become part of this community and be supported and enriched by it.

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.	

Applications must completed online through:

- 1. an accurately completed online form**
- 2. a single PDF attachment, uploaded on the consisting of a CV (maximum 4 pages), a letter of application (maximum 2 pages) and a project proposal (maximum 2 pages)**

The project proposal should demonstrate how your contribution to the project will facilitate the networking between the network menu.

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Professor Robert Gleave, Principal Investigator of the LAWALISI project, telephone (01392 264025) email r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk.

Additional Information Relating to the Post

Salary

The starting salary will be from £33,943 up to £38,183 on Grade F, depending on qualifications 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.

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 **Tuesday 8th November 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.