



THE POST

College:	College of Social Sciences and International Studies http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/
Post:	Research Fellow
Reference No:	R11517/P43838
Grade:	F
Reporting To:	Professor Robert Gleave

The above full time post is available 1/10/12 to 30/9/2014 in the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, College of Social Sciences and International Studies.

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

To engage in independent and collaborative research on a topic related to the Islamic Reformulations project, and, working with Professor Robert Gleave, to develop and organise research and impact-related activities related to the project. The Research Fellow will be employed as part of Professor Gleave's recently awarded Global Uncertainties Leadership Fellowship, "Islamic Reformulations: Belief, Violence, Governance". This project is a continuation and development of Professor Gleave's previous Global Uncertainties Fellowship, entitled "Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Islamic Thought" (LIVIT: for further information go to www.livitproject.net). Both LIVIT and Islamic Reformulations form part of the RCUK Global Uncertainties (GU) Programme, a ten year programme of research activities examining the causes of insecurity and how security risks and threats can be predicted, prevented and managed. Further information on the GU Programme can be found at www.globaluncertainties.org.uk.

The Islamic Reformulations project consists of two elements; the Research Fellow will contribute to both elements of the project:

- (1) a programme of research related to the continuities and discontinuities in Islamic thought on the topics of belief, violence and governance; this continues the research into the questions examined in the LIVIT project. These include examination of how belief, violence and government are interlinked in both premodern and modern Islamic thought, and how political, legal and ethical modes of argumentation around these topics have developed over time, and consideration of how they might develop in the future.
- (2) a programme of interdisciplinary research and impact activities examining how beliefs and ideologies constitute potential "global uncertainties". Belief and ideology form one of the themes within the GU programme, and the Global Uncertainties Leadership Fellowship, under Professor Gleave's direction, will examine how to best characterise the relationship between belief and ideological commitment on the one hand, and action as a source of "global uncertainty" on the other. The relationship, which is not limited to radical Islamism but includes so-called "violent and extremist ideologies" more generally, will be approached through the development of an international network of scholars from various disciplines examining the belief-action nexus in a series of workshops and conferences.

The Research Fellow will divide his/her time equally between these elements of the project.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Developing research objectives and proposals as part of his/her individual and collaborative research projects within the scope of Islamic Reformulations project;
 - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities, in accordance the aims of the Islamic Reformulations project;
 - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the Islamic Reformulations project;
 - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in Islamic Reformulations project events;
 - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding within the framework of the Islamic Reformulations project;
 - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area beyond the life of the project, in order to extend and broaden its activities;
 - Contribute to the organisation of Islamic Reformulations and Global Uncertainties fellowship events.
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School, as appropriate, and, if appropriate, to supervise postgraduate research students on topics related to the themes of the Islamic reformulations project.
3. To participate in the delivery of impact-related events, including routinely communicating 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.

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. (<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/employment/recruitment/templatelibrary/jobdescriptions>)

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	Be a nationally recognised authority in the field of Islamic Studies. PhD or equivalent in Islamic Studies or a related field of study.	Expertise in the relationship between pre-modern and modern Islamic thought, with a focus on questions of governance and violence. Demonstrate an interest in the relationships between ideologies and beliefs (generally), and action.
Skills and Understanding	Sufficient specialist knowledge in Islamic Studies to develop research programmes and methodologies. Competency in language (in Arabic and/or another relevant Muslim world language) sufficient to consult and use primary sources in research.	Record of research output in nationally recognised publications.
Prior Experience	Experience of teaching at undergraduate level. Experience of conference development and the organisation of research events.	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	

	<p>communication skills in English.</p> <p>Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups.</p> <p>Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within an institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking.</p> <p>Able to participate in and develop external networks.</p> <p>Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.</p> <p>Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.</p>	
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Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Professor Robert Gleave, Director of the Islamic Reformulations Project, telephone (01392 264025) or email r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk (Professor Gleave is unavailable between 17th and 26th August 2012).