

## Supplementary Information for Candidates

### 1. Areas of Specialization:

The advertised job is *open*: applications are welcome from philosophers in any area. You will need to be able to contribute to teaching in some of the six modules that make up the Foundation Arts programme: Critical Thinking and Reflective Learning; Important Thinkers through History; Language and Culture; Media, Communication and Society; Narrative and Creativity; The Project. We will also need the appointee to be able to contribute to the delivery of the first year Philosophy curriculum in at least one of the following areas: Logic, Philosophy of Mind, Ethics, and Epistemology.

### 2. About Foundation Year Arts and Department of Philosophy

The Foundation Arts team is based in the Humanities Building, located on the University's beautiful, and award-winning University Park campus. The Foundation Arts programme is a part of the University's commitment to widening participation in higher education and welcomes applicants with alternative qualifications. A key goal for our programme is to ensure that students have the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to go on to succeed in their chosen degree. Having completed the foundation year students are guaranteed a place on their chosen degree programme, which includes programmes in all schools in the Faculty of Arts. You will be joining us in a small team in Foundation Arts, consisting of three other members of staff.

The primary affiliation of the post is with the Foundation Arts team, but we will also ask you to teach, and invite you to be a part of, the Department of Philosophy.

The Department of Philosophy is also based in the Humanities Building. We are a large community, comprising around 25 academic staff. We have a large number of undergraduate students, admitting more than 150 each year. Many students study single honours Philosophy, but we also have significant numbers studying joint degrees with Music, French, Classics, English, Psychology, Politics, Economics, Physics, and Theology and Religious Studies. We are looking to develop new joint degrees with Politics and History. We care about our students and their experience: we aim to give them an exceptional education in philosophy, along with mentoring and pastoral care.

The Department has a thriving MA programme and an exemplary community of PhD researchers, with students writing dissertations on a diverse range of topics such as the ethics of carebots, the philosophy of perception, and microaggressions. We have a regular programme of research seminars (where we welcome a range of early-career researchers, and internationally renowned philosophers to share their research. Recent guests include Quill R. Kukla, Heather Stewart, and Errol Lord), reading groups (recent groups cover Srinivasan's *The Right to Sex*, Schroeder's *Reasons First*, and Smith's *The Problem of Perception*), and academic conferences (with a recent example being a workshop on Buddhist Philosophy).

We celebrate methodological and topical diversity, and our work covers a broad range of areas including Western, Indian, Chinese, analytic, and continental philosophy.

We are deeply committed to diversifying further. We are especially committed to finding ways to improve matters for underrepresented groups in philosophy: we recognise the range of challenges for such groups and want our Department to embody the changes we'd like to see in the wider profession.

### 3. Benefits

We are committed to providing generous employment packages whilst supporting the well-being of our staff to help them reach their full potential. As a university employee, you will work in a beautiful location, have an excellent choice of benefits and rewards, including access to fitness and health facilities, staff discounts and travel schemes, along with 30 days' holiday (pro rata) allowance, plus bank holidays and a pension scheme. The role is available to job share. We are also supportive of requests for flexible working and keen to support those with caring responsibilities.

### 4. Additional Requirements of the Role

You will engage in professional development related to teaching and engage with local and national teaching developments. You will have excellent IT skills, including excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office 365 applications. You will have the ability to work accurately under pressure, whilst prioritising your own work activities in response to differing needs and demands.

### 5. Application Questions

As noted in the main advert, shortlisting is by criteria-based questions, and not CV or cover letter. Below are the questions that you will be asked in your application (together with the criteria that they relate to, so that you understand what we are trying to assess with each question). Overlap across questions is absolutely fine. Please see these questions as your opportunity to explain to us how you meet the criteria.

There are two pre-screening questions:

- A. Do you have a PhD in philosophy?
- B. Do you have a Higher Education teaching qualification, or are you prepared to work towards one?

Regarding question (A), please note that we appreciate that a *philosophy* PhD is not necessarily a PhD awarded by a philosophy *department* (for instance, we appreciate that a philosopher might have obtained their philosophy PhD in Ancient Philosophy from a Classics department).

The application prompts ask you to explain how you satisfy each of the essential criteria in the person specification. Please draw on examples from your own experience to help respond to the prompts.

The prompts read:

1. We are looking to appoint someone with the ability to be reflective in their teaching practice, and to use a range of teaching techniques and technologies to inspire, engage, and retain the interest and enthusiasm of students. Please describe how you meet this criterion.
2. We are looking to appoint someone with the ability to design and deliver high-quality modules in areas covered by the existing Foundation Arts curriculum, and within at

least one of Logic, Philosophy of Mind, Ethics, and Epistemology in the Philosophy first year curriculum. Please describe how you meet this criterion.

3. We are looking to appoint someone who has the approachability, empathy and the ability to provide pastoral support to students from a diverse range of backgrounds, inspiring and encouraging them to reach their full potential. Please describe how you meet this criterion.
4. We are looking to appoint someone who has previous experience of effective teaching at undergraduate or foundation level in the UK or abroad. Please describe how you meet this criterion.
5. We are looking to appoint someone who has a commitment to the topical, methodological, historical, and cultural diversity of Philosophy and Foundation Arts. Please describe how you meet this criterion.

## 6. Further Information

6.1 Shortlisted candidates will be invited to campus for interview and presentations.

6.2 You will need a PhD in philosophy, and need to demonstrate evidence of teaching excellence. There are many ways to set about demonstrating teaching excellence, including peer review feedback, teaching awards, student comments and other review mechanisms. Whatever form of evidence you use, please explain to the panel why you've chosen that evidence and provide as much context as you feel able to. For instance, if the evidence is in the form of a prize, how many people are eligible for it? How are winners selected? And so on.

6.3 Please direct any questions about the role or application process to the interim Head of Foundation, and Head of School, Jonathan Tallant. We recognise that, for very understandable reasons, some applicants may want to make informal inquiries about the climate of a department or foundation year before considering whether to apply. If this applies to you, you are more than welcome to contact any member of the Philosophy Department or the Foundation Arts staff, if you wish to raise such queries.