RESEARCH, MEDIA AND IMPACT ASSISTANT (0.2 FTE, grade 6)

The Westminster Faith Debates and the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion (PPR), Lancaster University

Further Particulars

The Post:

The Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion seeks to appoint a 0.4 (2 days per week) assistant to support the research impact activities of Professor Linda Woodhead and her core team (Peta Ainsworth, administrator, and the Rt Hon Charles Clarke, Visiting Professor) for one year in the first instance.

You will have a commitment to disseminating good quality research on religion beyond the academy and to achieving impact. You will have some experience of dealing with media contacts and social media channels. Experience of writing content for such media would also be advantageous.

You will be keen to learn more about: impact work, planning public events and media strategies; using social media creatively; working with distinguished academics and public figures. You will have significant responsibility for updating the Religion and Society/Faith Debates website and social media channels. You will be willing to learn new skills, to work flexibly with a small team, and to be independently creative and take initiatives.

You will have successfully completed BA and MA work in a relevant area, and will have completed or be working on a PhD.

You will be part of the small team who run the Westminster Faith Debates and related activities, and you will help plan new activities. You will also be part of the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religious Studies. You will be offered training as needed, and will develop skills of direct relevance to an academic CV and to careers related to research impact. There is the potential for career progression and for securing funding for further employment.

The Westminster Faith Debates are a spin-off from the £12m AHRC/ESRC Research Programme directed by Professor Linda Woodhead. They have already established a reputation for presenting high quality research on religion, and they have received widespread media coverage from around the world. BBC news, Newsnight, the Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Washington Post etc. have covered the debates and comment from Professor Woodhead. http://www.religionandsociety.org.uk/faith_debates-2013/media_coverage

The last series was supported by a specially commissioned YouGov poll, and another is in preparation. http://religionandsociety.org.uk/faith_debates-2013/

Two more series of Debates are planned for Spring 2014 and Spring 2015, funded by the AHRC, ESRC and Lancaster University. A number of related activities are also envisaged, and the person appointed will have an active role in devising and implementing new activities.

For more information see www.religionandsociety.org.uk  Twitter: @Faith Debates
The Department:

In August 2010 Lancaster University created the United Kingdom’s only Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion (PPR). This exciting development (bringing together the departments of Politics and International Relations, Philosophy and Religious Studies) was one of the major research strategies of Faculty of Arts and Social Science at Lancaster University. The new Department is a large unit (40 academic staff), has received substantial investment from the University (16 new academic staff), is housed in the newly refurbished County South building and strives to make a major impact on fundamental societal issues and policies. Some of its areas of existing expertise include:

- Conflict and peace studies
- Analytic and European philosophy
- Ethics and policy
- International relations
- International political economy
- Middle Eastern studies
- Asian studies
- Politics and policy
- Religion and society

http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/ppr/

The University:

Lancaster University is approaching its 50th anniversary with a world-class reputation as a centre for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research. It is currently ranked in the top one per cent of universities in the world, listed at 131 in the Times Higher Education International table and 163 in the QS World University Rankings. The growing reputation of Lancaster is reflected by high ratings year on year in each of the UK’s major university league tables – The Times (12th), the Guardian (7th) and the Complete University Guide (11th).

The University is set near to the Lune Valley and the Forest of Bowland – areas of outstanding natural beauty – and on the edge of the Lake District. £450m has been invested into the estate since 2002, transforming the campus. Key developments include: new academic centres of excellence, student social facilities, improved teaching spaces and one of the largest student residences projects in the UK: www.lancaster.ac.uk

The City:

The campus is located a short distance from the vibrant and historic city of Lancaster, which has excellent schools. Lancaster is a city of about 55,000 people, with a largely Georgian and Victorian core of sandstone buildings, overlooked by a medieval castle and priory church. It has independent shops, an alternative cinema and theatre, lively markets on Wednesday and Saturday, and easy access to the surrounding countryside on paths, bikeways, and canals. Lancaster is easily accessible by road (M6 Junction 33) and rail (west coast mainline). It is approximately an hour to Manchester International Airport, and about 2.5 hours by train to London.

Contact:

If you want to discuss the post, please e-mail Professor Linda Woodhead at l.woodhead@lancs.ac.uk