Lancaster University celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014 with a reputation as a world-class centre for excellence in research, teaching and scholarship. It is ranked as a top 10 university in the United Kingdom in The Times, Guardian and Complete University Guide league tables.

The University is now seeking to appoint a Lecturer in Digital Humanities to work in the Department of History. We are interested in hearing from candidates with a range of research and teaching interests. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is committed to promoting inter-disciplinary research and teaching, and candidates may come from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, although they should be able to demonstrate how they can contribute to the research and teaching profile of the Department of History. The Faculty has identified Digital Humanities as a major area of strength, not least in attracting external research income, and it is expected to be a priority area over the next five years. The successful candidate will have a high level of technical skills as well as a thorough understanding of how digital methodologies can be applied to teaching and research. Further details about Digital Humanities at Lancaster can be found here (http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/dighum/).

Candidates should demonstrate a readiness to work with colleagues from a range of departments both at Lancaster and at other institutions in the UK and overseas. Candidates should also demonstrate an understanding of the wider UK Higher Education environment and its impact on all those working in universities (Research Excellence Framework, Teaching Excellence Framework, etc). The Department will expect the successful candidate to be actively involved over the next few years in seeking major external grant income (both as a Principal Investigator and as a Co-Investigator on projects led by colleagues at Lancaster or elsewhere). They will also be expected to play a significant role in maximising the impact of research carried out at Lancaster through developing relations with a range of external stakeholders. Candidates who wish to be considered for appointment at Lecturer Grade 8 will need to show that they have already been successful in attracting external research grant income.

The successful candidate will contribute to Digital Humanities teaching at both undergraduate and taught postgraduate level, not least in embedding digital literacy among students, by demonstrating how digital methodologies can be used to explore a range of historical topics. Candidates who wish to be considered for appointment at Lecturer Grade 8 will need to demonstrate that they already have extensive experience of delivering teaching at undergraduate and / or postgraduate level.

The Department of History has been at the forefront of historical research and teaching over the past 50 years (http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/history/). The research and teaching interests of members of the Department of History range chronologically from ancient Greece through to the contemporary world and geographically from Britain and Europe through to North America and Asia. The Department hosts Lancaster’s Digital Humanities Hub, making it a leading centre in the development of Digital Humanities, particularly approaches using geospatial and corpus linguistic methodologies. We collaborate closely with other departments attracting extensive research grant income from a range of funders in the UK, Europe and the United States. The Social History Society was established at Lancaster in 1976 (the editorial office of the Society’s journal Cultural and Social History is still based in the Department). The Department has also for many years played a pivotal role in the study of the North-West, most recently through the formation of the Regional Heritage
Centre, which builds on the work of the former Centre for North West Regional Studies (http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/rhc/). There are around 25FTE academic staff in the Department.

Members of academic staff in History have in recent years attracted grant income from a range of funders including: the AHRC; the ESRC; the Leverhulme Trust; the European Research Council; the Mellon Foundation; and many others. They also work with a wide range of external stake-holders, including museums and heritage organisations across Britain, in order to achieve the maximum impact for their research.

The Department of History places great emphasis on ensuring all its students receive a high-quality education while at Lancaster. The Department has received consistently high scores in recent National Student Surveys, reflecting its commitment to providing students with a high quality education. The Department of History is well-placed in the main league tables (5th in the Guardian, 11th in the Complete University Guide and 12th in The Times).

The Department is committed to working closely with other departments and institutions within Lancaster. The Department has joint degrees with a number of departments, and is currently developing a range of MA modules delivered jointly with colleagues from other Departments. We currently have an MA pathway in Digital Humanities and are planning to develop this further. We also train post-graduates and early career staff through the Lancaster Summer Schools program. Members of the Department work closely with the Data Science Institute and the Institute of Social Futures. The Department has also been involved in developing proposals for a new Ruskin Centre for Culture, Landscape and the Environment. Members of the History Department will be playing a central role in the development of this new Research Centre which is designed to foster interdisciplinary research of a kind likely to attract major grant income.

Lancaster’s Digital Humanities Hub is a thriving inter-disciplinary centre of excellence that has been highly successful in developing successful grant applications for a wide range of DH-related projects. The successful candidate will be expected to build on this success and will need to show how they plan to attract further grant income. They will also be expected to play a leading role in developing the Hub further, particularly to develop the teaching side and to encourage further collaborations within History, the Faculty of Arts and Social Science and the wider university.

Informal enquiries may be made to:

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