Fixed-Term Lectureship in Nineteenth-Century Studies

Department of English Literature and Creative Writing

FURTHER PARTICULARS

THE POST

The successful candidate will be a dynamic academic with a growing research reputation in their field, eager to be part of the Department of English Literature & Creative Writing, to teach at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to contribute generally to the life of the Department for a fixed term of one year. They will be expected to undertake high-quality research at a level commensurate with the Department’s standing and ambitions. The individual will develop students’ skills in the particular field of Nineteenth-Century Studies, contributing lectures and seminars to established courses in the second year: Victorian Literature and/or British Romanticism. They would also contribute teaching in one other area: theory; film and media; or creative writing. These additional contributions would likely involve teaching on one or more of the following: the second-year core module The Theory and Practice of Criticism; and/or the second-year module Literature, Film and Media; and/or the second- or third-year core Creative Writing modules. There may be opportunities for MA teaching or supervision.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department is ranked 1st for Creative Writing and 11th for English Literature (The Complete University Guide, 2021). We came 3rd in REF 2014 for Research Environment and 7th for Impact. We are a community of writers, scholars and students founded on collegiality and a shared commitment to both the intrinsic importance of literary and cultural texts and the symbiotic relationship between teaching and research. We are a forward-looking department where innovative teaching and sophisticated theoretical approaches support historically-informed and practice-led research. The Department is also distinctive in its Critical-Creative work, actively seeking to unite the study of literature with the practices of writing at every level of the curriculum and in joint research projects.

The Department is home to 24 full-time and 14 part-time members of academic staff. Among them, we have 2 Distinguished Visiting Professors (Terry Eagleton and Paul Muldoon) who spend two weeks in the Department each year. There are 4 ‘off-shore’ Creative Writing MA Lecturers teaching the Distance Learning MA, and a number of Associate Lecturers, most of them taken from our own PhD programmes. Academic staff are ably supported by 6 administrative colleagues.

The Department continues to recruit very large numbers of extremely well qualified undergraduates on all its programmes, with the standard entry requirement of AAB. The Department places great emphasis on its students and we pride ourselves on offering very high standards of teaching but also of pastoral care and support at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Our current undergraduate population numbers about 400.

The Department also offers an English Literary Studies MA, two MAs in Creative Writing (campus-based and distance learning), and MA programmes that combine the two disciplines. We also offer PhD supervision in most areas of our discipline(s), including specialist Distance Learning provision within Creative Writing.

The Department’s research culture is enriched by an exciting range of events and activities, including not only the regular departmental research seminars but also events organised by the Shakespeare
Programme (e.g. the Northern Renaissance Seminar and the British Shakespeare Association), the Wordsworth Centre (formally associated with Dove Cottage, Grasmere), and the Ruskin Library and Research Centre (founded on the world’s foremost collection of Ruskin materials). In addition, The Luminary (a postgraduate Journal), Literature and Theology, and Nineteenth-Century Contexts, are all edited out of the Department, and we offer a vibrant programme of research events.

THE UNIVERSITY

Lancaster University has a world-class reputation as a centre for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research. It is in the top one per cent of universities globally and English Language and Literature rose to 51st in the latest QS World Rankings. The growing reputation of Lancaster is reflected by high rankings year on year in each of the UK’s major university league tables. It is currently ranked in the Top Ten UK Universities and seeks to consolidate that position. The university was awarded Times University of the Year 2018, and Times International University of the Year 2020.

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 (45 minutes to Windermere). Lancaster has invested millions in the campus to create new academic facilities, student social facilities, and improved teaching spaces. Recent years have seen a new centre for the Creative Arts, an extension to the Sports Centre, a state-of-the-art Engineering building, and a new Health Innovation Campus.

LANCASTER

The campus is located a short distance from historic city of Lancaster, which has excellent schools and a vibrant alternative culture with lots of “green” events. Lancaster is a city of about 55,000 people, with many largely Georgian and Victorian 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.