

## **FREDERICK COPLESTON SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW & LECTURER IN THEOLOGY AND/OR PHILOSOPHY IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION (FIXED TERM)**

---

**Salary: £48,110 - £55,750 p.a. plus yearly academic allowance of  
£2,680**

**Ref: Blac/Campion 202103**

### **POST SUMMARY**

Blackfriars *Studium*, a Catholic seminary mainly for religious based at Blackfriars Priory in Oxford and run by the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and Campion Hall, a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford and run by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), seek to appoint an outstanding scholar to teach and carry out research in Theology and/or Philosophy as these are pursued in the Catholic Tradition. The principal employer will be Blackfriars *Studium*, where the appointee will be a Lecturer. The successful applicant will also be a Senior Research Fellow of Campion Hall.

The post is an exciting new collaboration between two Catholic institutions run by two different religious orders in one of the world's greatest academic centres. Of particular relevance is that the University of Oxford has highly distinguished Faculties of Theology and Religion and of Philosophy. Furthermore, Blackfriars has a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford, which adds significantly to the research environment at Blackfriars.

In addition to teaching and carrying out research, the appointed person will be expected to respect the Catholic ethos of the sponsoring institutions and to contribute to the development and mission of Blackfriars *Studium* and of Campion Hall and to participate in the activities and mission of these bodies. The successful candidate will be recognized as having the potential to contribute research-based publications of international significance to the fields of Theology and/or Philosophy in the Catholic Tradition. The person appointed will work under the direction of the Regent of Blackfriars *Studium* in collaboration with the Master of Campion Hall.

**Informal enquiries are welcome and can be made directly to the Academic Registrar, Mrs Barbara Brecht ([academic.registrar@english.op.org](mailto:academic.registrar@english.op.org)).**

## **STANDARD DUTIES OF THE POST**

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- Give lectures and tutorials and lead reading classes in Catholic Theology and/or Catholic Philosophy to ordination students as part of the programme of ordination studies at Blackfriars *Studium*
- Produce academic, peer-reviewed publications in the fields of Theology and and/or Philosophy in the Catholic Tradition (for preferred fields, see under Selection Criteria)
- Foster collaborations in research and promote the role of Theology and/or Philosophy in the Catholic Tradition, in Oxford, nationally, and internationally
- Engage constructively with theologians, philosophers, and possibly scholars in other fields, including those both sympathetic to and critical of Catholic thought
- Work with the Director of at least one of the research institutes of Campion Hall and Blackfriars to support and develop their research programmes, depending on the field of expertise of the appointee
- Present research in progress in a seminar setting on a termly basis at either Blackfriars or Campion Hall
- Help to foster fruitful relationships for Blackfriars *Studium* and Campion Hall with other institutions and parties to help advance the missions of Blackfriars *Studium* and Campion Hall
- Support the general missions of Blackfriars *Studium* and Campion Hall, which may include course leadership, professional development, strategic planning, fundraising, and working with colleagues on committees and other forums.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

The successful applicant will have:

- A doctorate in Theology and/or Philosophy
- Publications in Theology and/or Philosophy in the Catholic Tradition in recognized academic contexts (for preferred fields, see under Selection Criteria)
- Evidence of intended research output in Theology and/or Philosophy in the Catholic Tradition (for preferred fields, see Selection Criteria)
- Evidence of ability to teach Catholic ordinands of different abilities in lecture, seminar, reading class, and tutorial settings; develop and improve pedagogy in response to student feedback; manage and deliver modules; fulfil designated student assessment requirements, such as essay and thesis marking
- Excellent communication skills
- Readiness to work enthusiastically and collegially in an interdisciplinary environment, and willingness to contribute to general initiatives and research projects at Blackfriars *Studium* and Campion Hall.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **ESSENTIAL**

- Doctoral level qualification in philosophy or theology: D.Phil., Ph.D., etc.

### **DESIRABLE**

- A ecclesiastically recognised qualification at licence or doctoral level.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **ESSENTIAL**

- Appropriate qualifications (please see above)
- Evidence of research achievement and continuing research potential (preferred research fields: Theology and/or Philosophy in the Catholic Tradition, especially

Theological and Philosophical Ethics, Catholic Social Thought, Spirituality, Systematic Theology, Fundamental Theology, and Philosophical Anthropology)

- Commitment to pursue and complete a strategic research and publishing plan
- Participation in research seminars and conferences nationally and internationally, both by invitation to provide a lecture and as participant contributor
- Successful track record of teaching at undergraduate level, including student assessment; and ability to teach courses (depending on specialism) in Catholic Theology and/or Catholic Philosophy as required for ordination studies
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to work with colleagues in an environment that might be theologically/philosophically plural in content, method, theory, and practice
- Ability and commitment to create links with scholars in other institutions
- Experience of various aspects of academic administration, which may include research project and course leadership
- Commitment to scholarship, student care and societal engagement relevant to the missions of Blackfriars *Studium* and Campion Hall
- Concern for the public profile and good standing of Blackfriars *Studium* and Campion Hall, in relation to the University of Oxford, as well as within the Catholic Church and the wider society, taking note that Blackfriars *Studium* is a Catholic seminary.

#### **DESIRABLE**

- Capacity to explore the intersection of Theology and/or Philosophy in the Catholic tradition with other religions and/or secular thought
- Proven or potential ability to attract external grant funding
- Experience of organizing research seminars, public events
- Proven track record in organisation and administration including leading and working collaboratively with other colleagues as part of a course team.

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please send the following application materials to the email address [academic.registrar@english.op.org](mailto:academic.registrar@english.op.org) by the closing deadline of **12 noon (UK time) on Monday, 12 April**, with the subject 'Blackfriars – Campion Joint Post' **Please note that candidates who do not submit this information will not be considered for shortlisting.**

- A covering letter, stating how you believe that you fulfil the selection criteria of the post
- Full *Curriculum Vitae* to include list of teaching experience, list of publications, professional memberships, and the names and contact details of 3 referees (email addresses if possible). At least one of the referees should be able to comment on the ability of the applicant to uphold the ethos required for a Catholic seminary. (In the case of a priest, the application requires an additional letter of recommendation and support from his Ordinary. In the case of a non-ordained religious, an additional letter of recommendation and support from her or his religious superior is required)
- Research plan (summarising research to be carried out in the next five years and including details for funding to be sought – maximum of 2 pages)
- Teaching statement (summarising teaching experience and philosophy – maximum of 2 pages).

We welcome applications from candidates who have a disability or long-term health condition and we are committed to providing long term support. Please let us know if you need any adjustments to the recruitment process, including the provision of these documents in large print, audio or other formats. If we invite you for interviews, we will ask whether you require any particular arrangements at the interview. The Blackfriars Access Guide gives details of physical access to our buildings:

<https://www.accessguide.ox.ac.uk/blackfriars>

**It is expected that interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held in late April or in May 2021 (date tbd). It is expected that interviews will be online due to the pandemic situation.** All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and will be asked to give a presentation as part of the interview.

## BENEFITS, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

- **Salary.** The successful candidate will be appointed at an initial salary of £48,110 - £55,750 *per annum*. A cost of living review of *Stodium* salaries takes place annually.
- **Academic allowance.** The appointee will be allocated an annual allowance of £2,680 per year for purchases to support their teaching and research on presentation of receipts. This can be claimed for items such as books, professional subscriptions, travel and conference expenses, and computing equipment, with the possibility of reimbursement of other teaching or research expenses on application to the *Stodium's* Moderators. Physical items purchased under these schemes remain the property of the *Stodium* for five years from the date of purchase.
- **Pension scheme.** Lectors will be enrolled in the *Stodium's* pension scheme with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) with an employer contribution of 17.5% of salary.
- **Right to work in the UK.** The appointment will be subject to the satisfactory completion of a medical questionnaire and the provision of proof of the right to work in the UK. Applicants who would need a work visa if appointed to the post are asked to note that under the UK's points-based migration system they will need to demonstrate that they have sufficient points, and in particular that:
  - (i) they have sufficient English language skills (evidenced by having passed a test in English, or coming from a majority English-speaking country, or having taken a degree taught in English) and
  - (ii) that they have sufficient funds to maintain themselves and any dependents until they receive their first salary payment. Further information is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/tier2/general/>
- **Data Protection.** All data supplied by candidates will be used only for the purposes of determining their suitability for the post and will be held in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Blackfriars Hall and *Stodium* Privacy Policies (<https://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/policies/data-protection-and-privacy/>).

## **ABOUT BLACKFRIARS *STUDIUM***

Blackfriars *Studium* serves the Church and the world by providing an intellectual formation of ordination studies for Dominican friars and members of other Catholic religious orders, such as the Franciscans, Oratorians, and Benedictines. There are typically about twenty to twenty-five students training for the priesthood at any given time.

Students typically study Philosophy and Theology for six years (two years of Philosophy and four years of Theology), and at the end of their course normally receive a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St Thomas (the *Angelicum*), the Dominican Order's University in Rome.

Lectures and classes, some of which are open to members of the public, take place in the priory, located in Oxford city centre. Much of the teaching of *Studium* students takes place in tutorials, one-to-one meetings with a tutor for which the student writes an essay. Many of the teachers at Blackfriars *Studium* are Dominican friars, most of whom live in Oxford, but some commute from Dominican priories in Cambridge, Leicester and London. Our teaching draws especially on the Dominican intellectual tradition, most notably the teaching of St Thomas Aquinas. Our lecturers and tutors also include lay people and members of other religious orders.

Teachers at Blackfriars *Studium* also have the benefit of working in one of the world's great academic centres. Blackfriars *Studium* is situated in buildings that also house Blackfriars Hall, a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford. Blackfriars Hall welcomes to the University both Catholics and others as students and researchers who value our ethos. It currently has over forty students drawn from different backgrounds and a variety of nationalities. Students can study for a number of postgraduate qualifications in the University, and the Hall provides special programmes for Registered Visiting Students from abroad. The Hall has two very active research institutes: the Aquinas Institute and the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice, which enrich both the teaching and learning of those at Blackfriars *Studium*. Blackfriars also has a specialist Theology and Philosophy library (approx. 40,000 volumes), and *Studium* students and staff can be granted access to Oxford's famous Bodleian Library.

Blackfriars also has a Dominican priory of over twenty friars and a public church open to the general public for private prayer and daily liturgies.

## **ABOUT CAMPION HALL**

Campion Hall is a principal work of the British Province of the Society of Jesus and a Permanent Private Hall in the University of Oxford. Campion combines 'Jesuit' and 'Oxford' and so is well placed in academia and the Church, in Britain and internationally, to advance the contribution of learning to a more just society, care for our common home, and deepening the human relationship with God. Its educational mission offers formation at postgraduate level to international Jesuit, ministerial, and lay students at the University of Oxford who seek to make a contribution through their research to the greater good.

Campion Hall's research mission is to promote an academic endeavour and dialogue that serves the *humanum*. Against a general background of work in the Humanities, Campion Hall focuses on three specific research areas: (i) **Theology and Spirituality**. Campion Hall continues to attract students and Fellows in its engagement with theology and scripture. It has a particular focus on Modern Catholic Theology and Ignatian (Jesuit) spirituality. It has a rich programme of seminars in theology and related disciplines. (ii) **Ethics and Social Justice**. Recent research and doctoral work at Campion Hall have focused on refugees, indigenous peoples, homelessness, and development. Campion Hall strives to contribute to the dialogue about the acute ethical challenges facing humanity today, with a special focus on those on the peripheries and the promotion of social justice. The Hall's Pedro Arrupe Fellow in Forced Migration works with the Refugee Studies Centre in the University and the Jesuit Refugee Service on issues related to displacement. Campion Hall is also the home of the Association of Moral Theologians, originally founded by Kevin Kelly along with two former members of Campion Hall, Gerard Hughes and Jack Mahoney. (iii) **Integral Ecology**. The academic response to the 'cry of the earth' and the 'cry of the poor', the central crisis of our day, must include a multi-disciplinary approach that includes theology and philosophy. Inspired by Pope Francis's *Laudato si'* encyclical on Care for our Common Home, the new Laudato Si' Research Institute at Campion Hall conducts research at the



intersections of theology, ecology, and the social and natural sciences, for eco-social change.

Campion Hall's library, of approximately 35,000 volumes, is strong in Modern Catholic Theology, Philosophy, Integral Ecology, and Jesuit History and Spirituality.