

LECTORSHIP (SEMINARY TEACHER) POSTS IN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY/PHILOSOPHY AT BLACKFRIARS *STUDIUM* (FIXED TERM WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWAL)

Salary: £32,800 *p.a.* plus yearly academic allowance of £2,680

Ref: Blac/Lectors 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), seeks to appoint three outstanding teachers in Catholic Theology and/or Philosophy. The successful candidates will be able to teach a wide breadth of Theology and/or Philosophy as is required by the curriculum for Catholic ordination studies. There are two posts in Theology and one post in Philosophy. Successful applicants will teach on the Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB) programme accredited by the Pontifical University of St Thomas (the Angelicum), the Dominican Order's university in Rome. The majority of students will be training for priesthood in the Catholic Church.

While posts are primarily for teaching, undertaking and publishing research is an important part of the role. Successful candidates will be recognized as having the potential to contribute research-based publications to the fields that comprise Catholic Theology and/or Philosophy and help foster a culture of research and scholarship at Blackfriars *Studium*. In addition to teaching and carrying out research, the appointed persons will be expected to contribute to the administration, development, and mission of Blackfriars *Studium*, which includes, as appropriate and if time permitting, responding to the needs of the local Church, the needs in seminary teaching beyond Blackfriars, and engagement with the wider society.

The successful candidates should be practising Catholics, be concerned with upholding the ethos of Catholic orthodoxy as required for ordination studies in the Catholic Church, and be concerned for the good reputation of Blackfriars *Studium* as a Catholic seminary and as run by a community of Dominican friars who also run a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford. They should also have an ecclesiastically

recognised qualification, preferably at Doctoral and/or Licentiate level; applicants without an ecclesiastically recognised doctorate must have a secular doctorate. Those appointed will be under the direction of either the Regent or the Vice-Regent of Blackfriars *Studium* (to be decided and depending on personnel).

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

STANDARD DUTIES OF THE POST

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- Give lectures and tutorials, lead reading classes, and examine students, in Theology and/or Philosophy to ordination students as part of the programme of ordination studies at Blackfriars *Studium*
- Design and develop course materials and curricula in collaboration with the Moderators of Blackfriars *Studium* (Governing Body of three Dominican friars; henceforth: 'Moderators')
- Conduct research in Theology and/or Philosophy, with a view to publishing and presentation of research in seminary and other contexts
- Present research in progress in a seminar setting on at least a yearly basis at Blackfriars
- Support the academic administration of the *Studium*, which may include course leadership, professional development, strategic planning, and working with colleagues on committees and other forums
- Support student care at Blackfriars *Studium*
- Support, as appropriate and if time permitting, the fundraising and other development work of Blackfriars *Studium*, as needed and in conjunction with the Moderators and the Province's Development Director

- Work with the Director of at least one of the research institutes of Blackfriars to support and develop its research and teaching programmes, if the field of expertise of the appointee is appropriate, and if time permitting
- Contribute through teaching and public speaking, if time permitting and as agreed with the Moderators and the relevant bodies, to the mission of the local Church and to the mission of other Catholic seminaries in the UK and beyond
- Promote Theology and/or Philosophy, and in particular Catholic perspectives in these fields, in the wider society, and as agreed by the Moderators: for example, speaking to organising and speaking at conferences, hosting visiting lecturers, and fostering links with theological institutes, nationally and internationally
- Help to foster fruitful relationships for Blackfriars *Studium* with other bodies and parties who can help Blackfriars *Studium* fulfil its mission.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful applicant will have:

- The ability to: teach Catholic ordinands 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, including essay marking and oral examinations
- Publications in recognised academic contexts and evidence of future research plans
- The ability to contribute to teaching that supports the Dominican intellectual tradition, which pays particular attention to the teaching of St Thomas Aquinas
- Excellent presentation skills, with highly developed skills in both listening and in engaging listeners
- Organizational skills with reliability and efficiency in course-related delivery to students, administration, and planning
- Flexibility and the ability and willingness to respond constructively and practically in situations in which changes in teaching and/or other schedules have to be made at short notice

- The ability to work independently, as well as part of a team and with senior management; to collaborate with colleagues in both same and other disciplines (in teaching, research, course development, and other initiatives such as fundraising and public outreach)
- A commitment to assisting the promotion and development of the mission of Blackfriars *Studium*, for example, to support other seminaries, create links with other institutions, and support ways in which Blackfriars *Studium* can be of greater service to the Church more widely
- A commitment to societal engagement in ways that will strengthen and develop the work of Blackfriars *Studium*
- Ability to help sustain a friendly academic community at Blackfriars, including Blackfriars Hall, which may include scholars with a wide variety of views.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicants will have an ecclesiastically recognised Doctorate in Theology or Philosophy, and ideally with the specialisations as indicated below.
- In the absence of an ecclesiastically recognised doctorate, the successful applicant should have a doctorate in some aspect of Catholic Theology and/or Philosophy from a recognised university-level institution (ideally with the specialisations as indicated below), and an ecclesiastically recognised qualification at Licentiate (ideally with the specialisations as indicated below) and/or Baccalaureate level.
- Applicants without ecclesiastically recognised qualifications may be considered.
- Whilst successful applicants will be required to teach a wide range of courses, the following are favoured specialisms:
 - (i) Post 1 in Theology – Church History and Catholic Dogmatic/Systematic Theology (preferably with some expertise in both);
 - (ii) Post 2 in Theology – Patristics and Medieval Theology (preferably with some expertise in both);

- (iii) Post in Philosophy – Medieval Philosophy and Modern Philosophy (preferably with some expertise in both).

Other specialisms may also be considered, especially if the applicant is able to demonstrate that he or she has good knowledge of the above specialisms and the ability to teach in these areas. In the case of the posts in Theology, a good knowledge of, and ability to teach, Hebrew, Greek, or Latin would be an advantage.

SELECTION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

- Appropriate qualification (please see above)
- Successful track record of teaching at undergraduate level, including student assessment
- Ability to teach a wide breadth of topics in Catholic Theology and/or Catholic Philosophy and topics in Theology and Philosophy as required for ordination studies
- Ability to teach students of different abilities and of different backgrounds; and to express theological and philosophical ideas in accessible ways
- Evidence of research achievement and potential
- Ability to teach using new teaching media, including online platforms
- Ability to explain Catholic theological and/or philosophical ideas to a general audience
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Catholic practice and concern for upholding the ethos of Catholic orthodoxy as required for ordination studies in the Catholic Church
- Ability to work constructively with those who are not especially sympathetic to the Catholic Faith or who have issues with the Catholic Faith

- Concern for the public profile and good standing of Blackfriars *Studium*; and upholding the reputation of Blackfriars *Studium* in relation to the University of Oxford, as well as within the Church and the wider society.

DESIRABLE

- Relevant teaching qualification (*e.g.* FHEA, AFHEA)
- Proven experience of module development and academic administration, such as designing, planning, and implementing academic programmes
- Experience of working with colleagues in an environment that might be theologically/philosophically plural in method, theory, and practice and perhaps at variance with one's own viewpoint
- Participation in research seminars and conferences, nationally and internationally, both by invitation to provide a lecture and as participant contributor.
- Experience of organizing research seminars, public events
- Experience of speaking before general public audiences
- Experience of training people in presenting ideas and academic material to general audiences

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please send the following application materials to the email address academic.registrar@english.op.org by the closing deadline of **12 noon (UK time) on Monday, 12 April**, with the subject 'Studium Lectorship.' **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 two referees (email addresses if possible) who should be able to comment on the applicant's academic ability and potential. The name and contact details of a third referee (email address if possible) should also be supplied. This third referee should be able to comment on the involvement of the applicant in the life of the Catholic Church and the ability of the applicant to uphold the ethos required for a Catholic seminary and the good name of Blackfriars (as a seminary, as a community of friars, and as the location of a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford run by the Dominican Order). 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
- Teaching statement (summarising teaching experience and philosophy – maximum of 2 pages)
- Research plan (summarising research to be carried out in the next three to five years and including details for funding to be sought – maximum of 2 pages).

Blackfriars *Studium* welcomes applications from candidates who have a disability or long-term health condition and is 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 online in late April or 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 £32,800 *per annum*. Should the post continue beyond one year, a cost of living review of *Stodium* salaries takes place annually.
- **Lectors' academic allowance.** Lectors 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.

As well as the excellent teaching they receive, lecturers and students 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. 35,000 volumes), and *Studium* students and staff can be granted access to Oxford's famous Bodleian Library.

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