



**BLACKFRIARS**  
ST GILES OXFORD OX1 3LY

## **Research Assistant in Climate Change Ethics (Fixed term for 12 weeks)**

*Salary: £30,502 - £36,386 pro rata (£15.60 - £19.79 per hour), depending on experience*

*Contract: 20 – 30 hours of work per week over a fixed term of 12 weeks*

### **Job Description**

The Las Casas Institute at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, is seeking to engage a Research Assistant with experience in qualitative research, analysis and writing to work on the Institute's "What is Climate Humanitarianism?" project, which is a research and advocacy project funded by six agencies from the Caritas International network and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The project lead is Dr Hugo Slim, Senior Research Fellow.

If eligible, the successful candidate will also be offered an opportunity to apply to the Hall's Moderators to join Blackfriars as a Junior Research Fellow (a separate, non-stipendiary role).

### **Background**

Running from March 2023 onwards, the *What is Climate Humanitarianism?* project aims to identify, explain, and advocate for the new field of climate humanitarianism that is urgently needed if the humanitarian sector is to play its part in the emergency climate action re-quired to reduce extreme human suffering caused by climate change. The project has both research and advocacy objectives:

1. Its research will aim to align humanitarian aid with climate science, climate justice and climate action to produce a new ethical and operational framework of climate humanitarianism. This framework will define the precise values, scope and practices of climate humanitarianism in the 2020s. It will also carve out a clear humanitarian role within the much larger climate action of governments, businesses, local communities and social movements.
2. The project's advocacy will leverage the research findings into a set of practical policy proposals for improved humanitarian action in climate emergencies, working with the six funding organizations and six other Caritas and Red Cross organizations in countries whose populations are extremely vulnerable to climate change. A main part of the project will be to inform and empower the six funding agencies and six other agencies within their networks so they can use the research and its framework to drive their own policy advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy.

## **The Las Casas Institute**

Based at Blackfriars Hall, a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford, the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice seeks practical answers to today's social questions in light of Catholic intellectual tradition. Named after the 16th-century Dominican friar and father of modern human rights, Bartolomé de Las Casas, the Institute brings insights to bear on hard and urgent questions facing contemporary society; it engages with policymakers, leaders, and practitioners in the fields of human dignity, climate justice, rethinking economics, peacebuilding, and human rights.

## **The role**

We are seeking a part time Research Assistant to contribute qualitative data collection, analysis, and writing on scientific predictions of the humanitarian consequences of climate change, and emerging policy responses. The tasks will include:

- Examine, analyse and summarise in writing existing literature on the actual and predicted ethical challenges of humanitarian response to climate change;
- Examine, analyse and summarise existing literature on operational and policy trends in the ethics of humanitarian response to climate-related hazards and crisis to date;
- Examine, analyse and summarise existing literature and policy on the ethics of climate finance, loss and damage financing, and how they relate to humanitarian finance;
- Identify a small, diverse and global group of key informants for semi-structured interview and support in setting up and carrying out a series of individual and group interviews on the above topics;
- Other research assistance tasks appropriate to the role, as determined by the Project Lead.

The role will be based at Blackfriars Hall, but remote working in the UK may be possible.

If the postholder is at the relevant late doctoral or post-doctoral stage, they will also be offered an opportunity to apply to the Hall's Moderators to join Blackfriars as a Junior Research Fellow (a separate, non-stipendiary role).

## **Selection criteria**

Applicants will be judged against their ability to demonstrate the following:

### *Essential:*

- High level of competence in qualitative data collection, analysis, and writing in a relevant discipline;
- Masters or PhD qualification in ethics, ideally around climate and environmental studies;
- Good ability to work independently with personal initiative, creativity, and inter-personal skills.

### *Desirable:*

- Experience of contributing to peer-reviewed research publications
- Experience of working in a research team

## **How to apply**

To apply for this role, please submit the items below to the email address: [bursary@bfriars.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bursary@bfriars.ox.ac.uk) by a deadline of 12 noon on **Thursday, 23 February 2023**. Interviews will be held during the week of 6 March 2023.

Please include the following in your application:

1. Your CV;
2. A brief cover note/email (max. 500 words) addressing the selection criteria and why you would like to be involved in this research. Also include any constraints around availability (e.g. term dates, thesis deadlines, future commitments, etc.);
3. An appropriate sample of your recent work in English.

Your application will be judged solely on the way in which it meets the selection criteria stated in the job description.

## **Remuneration and pre-employment screening**

The salary for this post is will be in the range of £30,502 - £36,386 *pro rata*, or an hourly rate of £15.60 - £19.79 (plus any applicable holiday pay).

All offers of employment are made subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post. If you are offered the post, you will be asked to provide proof of your right to work and your identity, and we will contact the referees whom you have nominated.

## **Important information for candidates**

### *Data Privacy*

Please note that any personal data submitted to Blackfriars Hall as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see Blackfriars' data protection and privacy policies:

<https://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/policies/data-protection-and-privacy/>

### *Equality of Opportunity*

Entry into employment at Blackfriars Hall and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. For further information about equality and diversity at Blackfriars, please visit: <https://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/policies/equal-opportunity-policy/>