

## Lecturer in Psychology (quantitative methods)

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### About the Role

Both posts are teaching and research roles. For teaching, the post holder will work in teams that produce and deliver innovative and exciting learning resources across the School of Psychology & Counselling, focusing on the development and teaching of the British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited psychology qualifications. We are particularly keen to hear from candidates with teaching specialisms in mental health and/or social psychology and/or biological psychology and the ability to teach quantitative methods.

The Open University offers distance learning, at scale, with modules being taught via a combination of core textbooks, VLE materials and online and face-to-face tutorials delivered by associate lecturers/tutors. If appointed, you will work as part of teams of fellow academics, editors and producers to create innovative teaching and learning materials using a variety of media. You will also join teams working on existing modules, to oversee delivery of teaching and offer support to students and associate lecturers.

The post-holders will be expected to conduct independent research (appropriate to career stage) and contribute to future REF exercises (or equivalent). They should undertake research that aligns with, or extends, the School's established research profile. Candidates should be able to demonstrate how their research aligns with one or more of the three primary strands within the Open Psychology Research Centre. These are Cultural and Social Psychology (CuSP), Psychology of Health and Wellbeing (PHeW), and Forensic Cognition (FCRG).

The current posts are aimed at strengthening both our research utilising quantitative methods and the teaching of quantitative methods. As such, candidates should have demonstrable experience and a keen interest in contemporary trends, debates and practices in quantitative methods, for example Bayesian analysis, Open Research practices and the use of the latest analysis/data collection software, etc.

### Key Responsibilities

The person appointed will be expected to contribute to the teaching, research and administration of the School, Faculty and University in the following ways:

#### *Teaching*

- Contribute to teams producing, presenting and updating relevant modules and qualifications for the School of Psychology & Counselling.
- Play a leading role in the teaching of quantitative methods across UG and PG curriculum.
- Play a leading role in the teaching of biological and/or mental health and/or social psychology.

- Support teaching and learning activity appropriate to online and distance education and qualifications for The Open University.
- Take an active role in School and Faculty activities and groups developing innovative curricula and pedagogies.
- Contribute to the production and delivery of interdisciplinary curricula involving psychology within The Open University curriculum more broadly.

#### *Research*

- Engage actively in research and produce high quality research outputs that have the potential to be entered in a future REF exercise (or equivalent) for Unit 04 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience.
- Demonstrate a research synergy with, or extension to, areas investigated by members of the School in at least one of the existing three research strands.
- Contribute to research activities and events complementary to on-going research in the School, Faculty and the Open Psychology Research Centre, and take an active role in research communities.
- Engage actively in making external research grant applications.
- Supervise research students.

#### *Academic Management*

- Contribute to academic management within the School, Faculty and University, as required by the Head of School.

## **Skills and Experience**

### **Essential:**

- A PhD or equivalent in psychology or a cognate discipline.
- A developing profile of teaching excellence in psychology.
- Evidence of understanding contemporary issues and trends in quantitative methods and open research practices.
- Evidence of understanding the issues involved in supporting and delivering distance learning in Higher Education.
- Evidence of interest in and/or commitment to online teaching and learning.
- Experience of teaching at a range of levels in psychology.
- Excellent writing skills and the ability to produce written material for students appropriate to their level of study.
- A developing profile of research excellence in an area of psychology complementary to existing strengths of members of staff within the School of Psychology & Counselling <http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/people>
- Evidence of high-quality research outputs appropriate for career stage.
- Evidence of potential for securing research funding.
- Commitment to the value of open and engaged research interacting meaningfully with various stakeholders.
- A track record of being able to work collaboratively with others, and of working successfully in teams.

### **Desirable:**

- Experience of working with and producing distance-teaching materials. Note: This approach differs from delivering lectures/seminars online.
- Experience of using and developing online and multimedia teaching materials.
- Experience of supervising student dissertations and projects.
- Experience of additional research activity (e.g. knowledge exchange, impact activities) appropriate for career stage.
- Research activity with a clearly applied dimension.
- A teaching qualification appropriate to HE.

## **Additional Information**

### About the Unit

#### **The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)**

The Faculty is the largest and most diverse at The Open University, with some 50,000 students studying our modules and consistently outstanding student satisfaction ratings. Rated Gold in our recent TEF submission and noted for the strength of our interdisciplinary approaches, our scholars of international standing teach and research a very wide range of topics and themes in specific subject areas, which has a direct and profound influence on our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

The Faculty is organised into four Schools:

- School of Psychology & Counselling
- School of Social Sciences & Global Studies
- School of Arts & Humanities
- School of Creative Industries

Students are supported by Student Support Teams offering specialist study support to students undertaking our qualifications across the University. Members of academic staff, including regional academics, form part of these teams, working to sustain and improve student progression and retention.

The Faculty works closely with important organisations and institutions in the UK and other parts of the world in a range of validated partnerships and collaborations. Staff are engaged in world-class, agenda setting research tackling the most difficult challenges facing us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with work in numerous subject-based and interdisciplinary research groups and projects. With c.1800 members of staff comprising academics, associate lecturers, professional services and support staff and full-time research students, working across the locations of the University, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is a vibrant and exciting place to study and work combining originality and innovation in research and curriculum.

To find out more about the Faculty's teaching, learning and research, please visit:

<http://fass.open.ac.uk/>

#### **The School of Psychology & Counselling**

The Psychology programme in the School of Psychology & Counselling is Europe's largest provider of university-level education in Psychology, offering undergraduate, postgraduate and research qualifications. The School has a vigorous research culture with strengths in Cultural and Social Psychology (CuSP), Psychology of Health and Wellbeing (PHeW), Forensic Cognition (FCRG) and wide-ranging multidisciplinary collaborations. Our general orientation is specifically multi-perspectival and interdisciplinary. This is reflected in both our teaching and research - our students are trained in methodological concepts and techniques, understand fundamental conceptual and philosophical issues in psychology, and develop a critical understanding of the different ways in which psychological knowledge can be constructed and applied. The School also has a growing curriculum in Counselling at foundation and degree level.

Members of the School also work in close collaboration with psychologists in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS), the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) and the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in research, teaching and curriculum provision.

### **Psychology & Counselling Staff and their Research interests**

For an overview of the School's research approach please visit:

<http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/research>

For information about our research clusters please visit the School's [Open Psychology Research Centre](#)

For individual staff profiles please visit: <http://fass.open.ac.uk/psychology/people>

*The Open University is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion which is reflected in our mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We aim to foster a diverse and inclusive environment so that all in our OU community can reach their potential. We recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and culture, and that this difference brings great strength. We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups. We also aspire to make The Open University a supportive workplace for all through our policies, services and staff networks.*

