



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Lecturer in Studies in Religion
Organisation Unit:	School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry
Position Number:	NEW
Type of Employment:	Full Time - Continuing
Classification:	Academic Level B

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver **knowledge leadership for a better world**.

UQ ranks in the world's top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (60). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index and our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience – the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland's highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia's Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a \$1.8 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of \$11billion+ (see <http://uniquet.com.au/our-track-record>).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

Organisational Environment

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) is a large comprehensive Faculty with a broad academic profile and substantial research achievements. The Faculty Office is based at the St Lucia campus in the iconic Forgan Smith building adjacent to the Great Court of the University. The Executive Dean of the Faculty is Professor Tim Dunne, who continues to be active in his field of political science alongside his leadership role.

The Faculty comprises seven Schools (Communication & Arts; Education; Historical & Philosophical Inquiry; Languages & Cultures; Music; Political Science & International Studies; Social Science), two research Institutes (Institute for Social Science Research; Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities), two museums (Anthropology Museum and the RD Milns Antiquities Museum), a new Faculty Centre for Policy Innovation, and several school-based research centres. It offers a broad range of programs to a large cohort of international and domestic students, with 850 research higher degree students, approximately 1,500 students in postgraduate coursework degrees and close to 8,000 undergraduates.

There are over 300 academic staff across the Faculty. One indicator of our standing in the disciplines that we research is membership in the learned academies, where UQ can proudly claim 33 members of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and 50 members of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Teaching in the Faculty is underpinned by substantial research performance and several specialized fields of research were judged at the highest level (5 ranking) in the most recent Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) evaluation that concluded at the end of 2015. These fields include Specialist Studies in Education; Political Science; Cultural Studies; Literary Studies; History and Philosophy of Specific Fields. Overall, HASS returned outputs to 21 disciplinary field codes, where 90% were rated above (4 ranking) or well above world standard (5 ranking). This is indicative of high quality and capacity in research.

These research achievements internationally are reflected in the 2017 Leiden rankings (based on impact, not reputation), where the Humanities and Social Sciences at UQ ranks 16th in the world on the quantum of publications in ranked journals, placing us first in Australia and in the Oceania region (for the full data-set see <http://www.leidenranking.com>).

The quality of our overall Faculty's performance is also evident in the QS World University Rankings for 2017 which places Social Sciences/Management at UQ at 39th in the world, and Humanities at 50th in the world. This data can be accessed at: <http://www.topuniversities.com/faculty-rankings>.

More information about the Faculty can be accessed at <http://www.hass.uq.edu.au/>.

The **School of Historical & Philosophical Inquiry** is a dynamic team with a reputation for innovative approaches to teaching and research excellence. We consider and explore how human beings have ordered and made sense of their world throughout history, from ancient times through to the present, and how this informs our futures. Our disciplinary groupings of

Classics and Ancient History, Studies in Religion, Philosophy and History are united by this common intellectual quest, and are mutually reinforced and supported by each discipline's distinct approaches, perspectives and methodologies. Through our research, teaching and engagement activities, we seek to further and disseminate knowledge about these aspects of humanity. In doing so, we serve our scholarly communities, our students, and our wider societies. We operate to the highest ethical standards in the way our staff, students and other stakeholders relate to each other. We aspire to quality and best practice in all that we do.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - <http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq>

The University of Queensland [Enterprise Agreement](#) outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The Studies in Religion discipline and the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry seek an appointment in the area of Islamic studies. The successful applicant will be required to teach in undergraduate programs, supervise graduate students, and actively contribute to the research performance of the Studies in Religion discipline. The Studies in Religion discipline at the University of Queensland is a small group of dedicated researchers and lecturers. We are looking for a colleague who is committed to high quality teaching and research, is collaborative, research active, and is prepared to develop the discipline's engagement with the broader community.

The successful applicant's primary area of expertise will be Islam. We are looking for an individual with a strong grasp of the history of Islamic thought and practice, with demonstrable expertise in the primary sources. The successful applicant will be expected to extend this core area of expertise into contemporary contexts, especially when undertaking undergraduate teaching and community engagement.

In addition to this primary area of expertise, the successful applicant will be willing to help develop our teaching and research programs in the academic study of religion. This will require a familiarity with other religious and spiritual traditions, as well as the methods and theories underpinning the academic study of religion.

The successful applicant will have an active plan for applying for research grants, including a willingness to participate in team applications for internal and external research funding. The candidate should have a distinctive vision for how their research will further disciplinary knowledge. The candidate will be expected to assist in fostering a lively and dynamic research environment within the School.

The University of Queensland has a strong agenda for community engagement and research impact beyond the academy. There is much scope to enhance the School's and University's engagement with Brisbane's and Queensland's Muslim community, Australia's second fastest growing community of religious adherents over the last decade. The Studies in Religion discipline is actively considering ways in which to address the University's

research impact agenda, and the successful applicant will be expected to participate in such matters.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Teaching and Learning

- Teach into the undergraduate BA program, including, but not limited to, courses surveying the history of Islam and its contemporary vicissitudes, World Religions, the connections of 'religion' and religions to processes of peace and violence, and method and theory in the study of religion.
- Coordinate courses in Studies in Religion.
- Teach and advise at Higher Degree by Research (HDR) levels as required.
- Consult with students.
- Provide support for other positions as required.

Research

- Maintain a program of research including the publication of relevant books and scholarly papers.
- Provide expert advice to HDR students to advance their research and scholarship.
- Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint research projects.
- Applying for grants.

Service and Engagement

- Foster the School's relations with schools, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Perform administrative functions in the Studies in Religion discipline and School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry as required.
- Participate in discipline and School decision-making.

Other

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:

- the [University's Code of Conduct](#)
- requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related [OH&S responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University or Institute/School
- the adoption sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University [sustainability responsibilities and procedures](#)
- requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related [responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University

Organisational Relationships

The position reports to the Head of the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD in the general area of Studies in Religion, with a focus on Islam.
- Expertise in Islam and at least one other religious tradition.
- Expertise in the methods and theories of the academic study of religion.
- Demonstrated teaching skills at undergraduate levels.
- Preparedness to use alternative modes of teaching, digital technologies, flexible learning options.
- Evidence of a contribution to research and an active research agenda
- Evidence of publication in high quality outlets, and presentation of conference papers.
- Evidence of undergraduate teaching experience in the required areas of expertise.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team.
- Willingness to share discipline and School administrative tasks.
- Willingness to represent the School and the University through external service and engagement, including liaison with the community.
- Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills.

Desirable

- Track record of engagement with the broader community.
- Track record of grant submissions.
- Track record of success in obtaining grants.
- Knowledge of Arabic and demonstrable expertise with Arabic sources.

Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process.

Qualification Verification

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion.

Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For further information please contact our Australian Indigenous Employment Coordinator at: atsi_recruitment@uq.edu.au
Applications are also encouraged from women.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.