

Assistant Professor in Digital Humanities

Cambridge Digital Humanities/Faculty of English

Closing date: Sunday 2 June 2024
Job Vacancy:GG40906



Assistant Professor

Salary:

£45,585—£57,696

Contract:

Fixed term—5 years

Location:

Central Cambridge

Department:

Cambridge Digital
Humanities

Responsible to:

Head of Department

Working pattern:

Full-time

Cambridge Digital Humanities seeks to recruit a fixed term Assistant Professor in Digital Humanities, to be appointed to the Faculty of English. The appointee will take up the post in September 2024 for a period of five years.

Cambridge Digital Humanities (CDH) is a thriving research centre reaching across multiple faculties in the School of Arts and Humanities and School of Humanities and Social Sciences. We also have strong associations with Cambridge's many museums and collections, work closely with the University Library, and have links to many other research centres.

The successful applicant will be expected to be a committed digital humanities researcher with a specialism in any area of Digital Humanities, which we conceive as an expansive and intrinsically inter-disciplinary field.

We particularly welcome applicants who combine theoretical and practical specialisms, including, for instance, in coding, visual analysis, social network analysis, computer vision and DH, AI, and new DH methodologies.

The successful applicant will conduct original research with international reach and significance. They will publish at the appropriate level and collaborate to attract significant external funding. They will have significant teaching experience and ideally have experience of academic leadership roles.

The primary responsibilities of the role will be to CDH. The successful applicant will have a commitment to Digital Humanities as their interdisciplinary home, and through their research, teaching, and service, they will make a substantial contribution to the range, scope and depth of the work at CDH and will contribute to building its reputation as a centre of excellence for DH research.

They will be an integral member of the CDH research community, working alongside a diverse group of researchers, collaborating in generating and prosecuting research projects, and helping us build our international reputation as leaders in this field.

The successful applicant will contribute to postgraduate teaching and supervision on the MPhil in Digital Humanities, and they will also take on doctoral students in CDH. The role is likely to involve undergraduate teaching in future years as CDH develops. They will be expected to take on course management and other leadership roles on the CDH degrees.

Candidates should have a completed PhD (must have been awarded by the closing date) and have an established or emerging record of exceptional research and publication in a subject area relevant to Digital Humanities. They will have teaching experience at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The successful applicant will support and maintain the University's national and international reputation for excellence in research.

Further information about the CDH research programme is available on our website (<https://www.cdh.cam.ac.uk/>). Information about the School of Arts and Humanities is available at <https://www.csah.cam.ac.uk/>



Key Responsibilities

Research

- Undertaking high-level research and contributing to CDH's research profile through publication;
- Actively investigating funding opportunities within the postholder's area of research, and generating research funding applications individually and collaboratively;
- Participating in CDH research seminars and contributing to its research culture.

Teaching

- Delivering lectures, seminars and classes for the MPhil in Digital Humanities, including core courses and more specialist options;
- Contributing to postgraduate supervision;
- Developing course materials;
- Providing guidance and advice to students;
- Contributing to the further development of the MPhil in Digital Humanities as it expands;
- Delivering undergraduate teaching when resources permit;
- Taking on leadership roles in the MPhil and Doctoral programme as required.

Examinations

- Setting and approving taught postgraduate MPhil assessments;
- Examining for the CDH MPhil programme;
- Writing examination reports for the programme.

Administration

- Serving on CDH committees;
- Undertaking administrative roles within CDH when required;
- Participating in Faculty / School / University committees where appropriate;
- Participating in postgraduate admissions;
- Providing references on behalf of students where appropriate.

External

- Participating in academic and public events in relevant specialist areas, building national and international networks, generating collaborations and funded research projects;
- Participating in external working groups or collaborative projects;
- Providing references on behalf of academic colleagues where appropriate;
- Participating in various forms of peer review.

Other

- Undertaking additional duties as appropriate.

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Education		
A good first degree and a doctorate in a subject area relevant to Digital Humanities (the doctorate must have been awarded by the closing date for applications)	✓	
Specialist Knowledge and Skills		
Potential to engage in research of international significance and a developing portfolio of research publications, in the field of Digital Humanities appropriate to career stage.	✓	
Evidence of ability to teach effectively in the field at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and to play an effective role in the life and work of the Centre as a whole	✓	
Evidence of obtaining external research funding or potential to obtain such funding if an Early Career Researcher	✓	
Relevant Experience		
Provision of lectures and seminars for postgraduate students and development of teaching materials	✓	
Assessment and examination at postgraduate level	✓	
Experience of, and/or aptitude for organising and participating in collaborative teaching and research	✓	
Willingness to undertake management and administrative duties	✓	
Evidence of experience of administrative activity in an academic environment		✓
Additional Requirements		
Evidence of ability to work as part of a team	✓	
Evidence of ability to take an inclusive approach towards teaching and working with (or supporting) colleagues	✓	

Cambridge Digital Humanities

Digital Humanities is an area of strategic importance to the University of Cambridge. Cambridge Digital Humanities, established in 2017, is an inter-disciplinary research centre, homed in the School of Arts and Humanities, shared with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and crossing multiple Schools and other units including the University Library, Cambridge collections and other research centres. It is currently hosted by CRASSH, the centre for cultural studies. CDH runs an MPhil degree in Digital Humanities, and a doctoral programme, based in the Faculty of English.

We define Digital Humanities as encompassing work on the cultural, social, and epistemic impacts of digital technologies (around data, on everyday life, in relation to literary, cultural forms, medium studies, including issues of technocratic rationality, power and justice); digital research methodologies; computational humanities; digital libraries and archival-based research; digital performance, and exhibition (including in cultural institutions); and research exploring cultural and social impacts of emerging technologies – notably around data, and AI informed developments in, for example, face recognition, automatic writing and the social/cultural impacts of robotics

CDH collaborates with researchers to generate and develop Digital Humanities scholarship across the arts and humanities. We develop and deliver research projects, explore emerging research areas, and collaborate with international partners. We work with Cambridge University Library, with Cambridge University collections, and with multiple faculties and research centres. We collaborate with a wide range of international partners in Europe and the US and a priority is to develop deeper Global South links. Our aim is to further an expansive form of Digital Humanities that encompasses work with collections, literature as digital humanities, global digital humanities, critical media theorization, digital media, methodological advancement, future and emerging technologies including AI and machine learning.

Alongside our core research programme CDH Learning facilitates the development of digitally informed research through its research learning programmes – including a Methods Fellow programme, short courses, week-long

data schools, and themed workshop series. CDH Labs, based in the Library, supports and collaborates in digital research and learning and provides technical (Research Software Engineer) expertise and infra-structural assistance.

CDH is expanding its operations into new fields. Successful grant capture is enabling diverse research projects, the CDH team and CDH associate list is expanding, and co-operation between CDH and other Cambridge units (faculties, the UL, collections, other research centres) is producing new possibilities for engagement and partnership.

The MPhil in Digital Humanities contributes greatly to the research culture at CDH, and provides a stepping-stone to expanding doctoral level research within the Centre. The course produces postgraduates with a clear understanding of the epistemological, ethical and political stakes of digital culture, and of practical digital humanities work. It gives them a capacity to design projects involving DH tools and provides them with the practical skills to engage with them at introductory levels. This is not an advanced ‘coding’ course. It rather provides critical and practical literacy, the chance to advance an extant specialization by re-contextualizing it in relation to advanced theoretical work, and the chance to develop as a DH scholar. Successful students may stay with DH, return to a ‘home’ discipline for advanced study, or find a career in media and creative arts, GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives and museums), archival, digital or other sectors.

Students on the MPhil and PhD in Digital Humanities are formally registered in the Faculty of English. The CDH-led courses in Digital Humanities are entirely separate to the English courses. Students follow different pathways and are assessed through discrete modes of assessment and processes.

Staff appointed to further the development of CDH and the DH teaching programme are also appointed to a Faculty – in this case English – and there are opportunities to engage with the English research culture, and to supervise. The UTO may also contribute to undergraduate teaching

The School of Arts and Humanities



The School of Arts and Humanities is one of six schools in the University and it is currently comprised of:

- Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Faculty of Architecture and History of Art
- Faculty of Classics
- Faculty of Divinity
- Faculty of English
- Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics
- Faculty of Music
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
- University of Cambridge Language Centre
- Institute for Technology and Humanity
- Cambridge Digital Humanities

Combined, these institutions have a total annual budget in excess of £45million, 700 staff and 3,500 students. The School has recently agreed a new strategic plan, which sets out its overarching vision and objectives.

Vision

The Strategic Vision of the School of Arts and Humanities is to retain its position in the world top five. We see this not as a simple metric but as a challenge for which we must foster a culture and practice of openness: to countries and traditions around the globe, to major themes, to new ways of teaching, to diversity in our student intake and staff recruitment, to inclusiveness in our career development, and to the breaking down of structures that prevent us achieving the ambitious goals we set ourselves.

Terms of appointment

Tenure and probation

Appointment will be made on a temporary basis, for 5 years to provide cover during the absence of another member of staff.

Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a probationary period which will be set dependant on the length of tenure.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The appointment is full-time, working Monday—Friday.

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a defined benefits pension scheme. If you are already a member of the NHS Pension scheme, you may be eligible to continue in the scheme and should contact the Pensions section of the University. For further information please visit: www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk

Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 41 days inclusive of public holidays. For new part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

General information

Pre-employment checks

Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

Health declaration

Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

References

Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

Equality and Diversity

We particularly encourage women and /or candidates from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background to apply for this vacancy as they are currently under-represented at this level within our University.

Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact the Schools HR team who are responsible for recruitment to this position on sahhr@admin.cam.ac.uk

The University

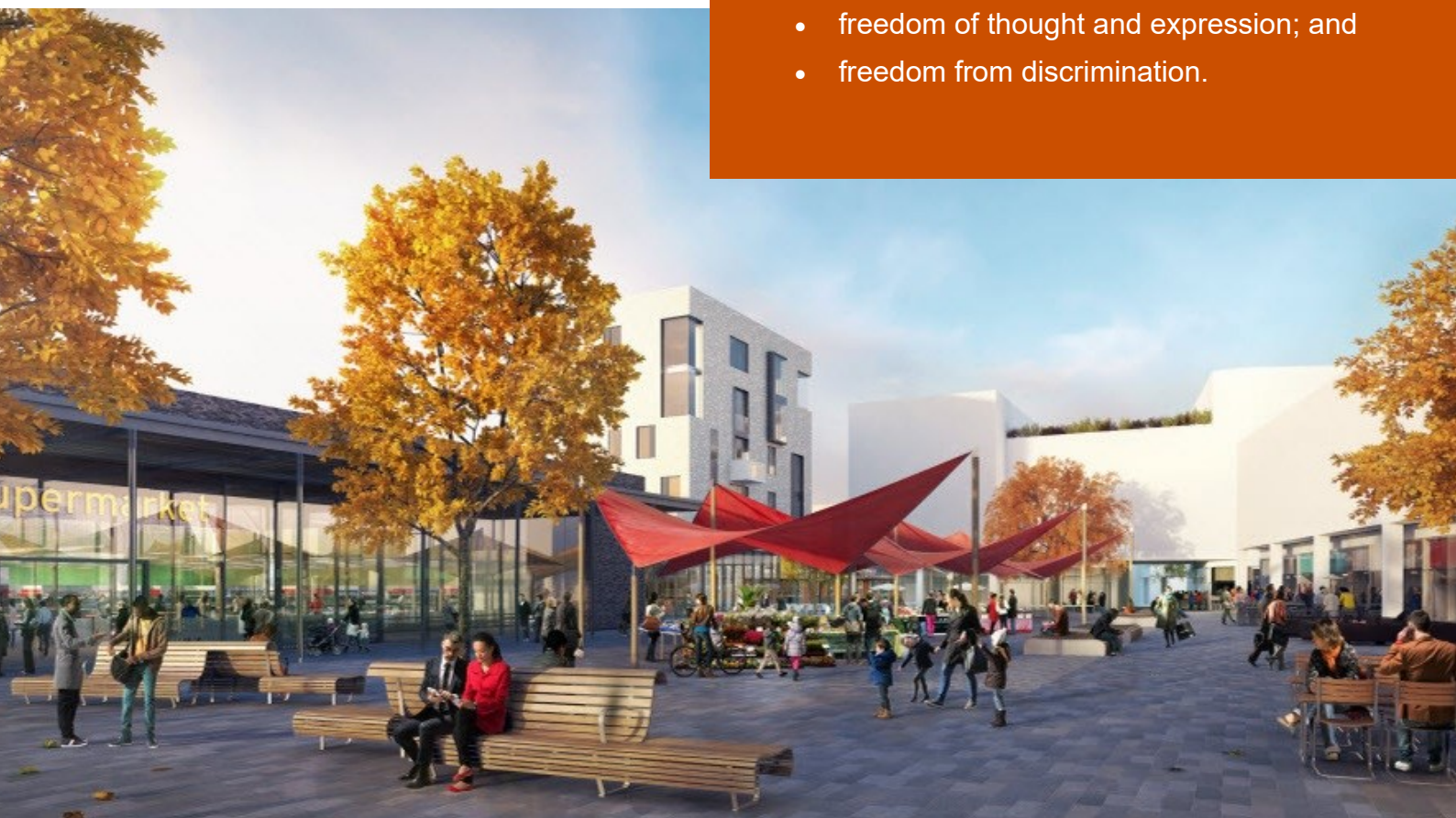
The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of world-leading teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people.

Our capital investment projects include academic and commercial growth at both the West Cambridge Innovation District, and the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. Eddington, in North West Cambridge, is a mixed-use development including key worker housing for staff, a community centre and a new primary school, managed by the University. Through these projects, the University is deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future.

Our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Our core values are:

- freedom of thought and expression; and
- freedom from discrimination.



About us

The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.

The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit undergraduate students, provide student accommodation and pastoral support and deliver small group teaching for undergraduates.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

“Cambridge graduates and researchers have made – and continue to make – a colossal contribution to human knowledge and the understanding of the world around us. Their work touches on the lives and livelihoods of everyone from patients diagnosed with life-threatening diseases, to residents of areas critically affected by climate change, to children growing up in conflict zones. It has a lasting impact on our society, our economy and our culture: the world is truly a better place thanks to their efforts.”

Stephen Toope, Vice Chancellor 2019



Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 23,000 students and over 16,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a new science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is now expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.



Equality & diversity

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity groups, including the Women's Staff Network, Race Equality Network and LGBT+ Staff Network. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with a framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's silver Athena swan award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting gender equality.

Living in Cambridge

Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances at the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the [Visit Cambridge](#) website.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45 minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.



Relocation Support

The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/RelocationService/>. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the costs of relocating to Cambridge. For staff who require a Skilled Worker Visa, Global Talent Visa or Settlement (known as indefinite leave to remain) to take up employment with the University, we offer an interest free [visa loan scheme](#) for current and prospective staff (and their dependants), to help meeting the cost of obtaining a visa.

Accommodation Service

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>

What Cambridge can offer

We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a [career break scheme](#) for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings.



CAMbens employee benefits

The University offers employees a wide range of competitive benefits, known as CAMbens. CAMbens offers something for everyone across a range of categories, including:

- Financial Benefits, including shopping discounts (both local and national) and a Payroll Giving scheme;
- Relocation and Accommodation Benefits, including relocation assistance and interest-free Rental Deposit Loans;
- Travel Benefits, including Cycle to Work, discounts on train season tickets and interest-free Travel to Work loans;
- Family Friendly and Lifestyle Benefits, including support with childcare and family friendly policies;
- Health and Wellbeing Benefits, including a University Staff Counselling Service, discounts at the University Sports Centre, and other local gyms, and healthcare schemes.



What Cambridge can offer

Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay, and paid emergency leave for parents and carers.

Other family-friendly support includes:

Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high quality holiday Playscheme may be available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here: <https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people. The Postdoc Academy supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available here: <https://www.postdocacademy.cam.ac.uk/>

Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. The University delivers The Festival of Wellbeing annually, which is a programme of stimulating talks and activities, which aim to promote wellbeing and good mental and physical health. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Festival](#), which is a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities as well as supporting their professional and career development on an ongoing basis. Our Personal and Professional Development (PPD) team provide development opportunities for all University employees, including face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. All employees also have unlimited access to LinkedIn Learning to support their development. Both new and existing employees can undertake funded Apprenticeships, which lead to a range of vocational and professional qualifications. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. A range of University training providers also offer specialist learning and development in their own areas e.g. teaching and learning, digital literacy, finance, health and wellbeing, safety.



How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page www.jobs.cam.ac.uk by clicking “Apply online” in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Please ensure that you upload the following documents to your online application:

- a covering letter (maximum of one page);
- your Curriculum Vitae, including a full list of publications (maximum of four pages);
- a document describing your main teaching and research interests, and an indication of the teaching you would hope to offer if appointed to the post (maximum of two pages);
- a sample of your writing. Please supply max 6,000 words (or an extract from an longer piece with 6,000 word section clearly marked). Please note that anything over the word count will be discounted.

If you upload any additional documents which have not been requested, we will not be able to consider these as part of your application.

Three references are required, and applicants should ask their referees to send their reports to: recruitment@cdh.cam.ac.uk by the closing date.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to: Professor Caroline Bassett, CDH Director (Email: recruitment@cdh.cam.ac.uk). If you have any queries regarding the application process please contact the Schools HR team (Email: sahhr@admin.cam.ac.uk)

The closing date for applications is midnight (GMT) on Sunday 2 June 2024 and Interviews are planned for late June in Cambridge, subject to change.