Walter Scott Fixed-Term Fellowship in Physics (£29,176 plus benefits)

The Governing Body of Trinity Hall is seeking to elect an exceptional scholar, with teaching interests and research expertise in any area within the broad field of Physics, to the Walter Scott Fixed-Term Fellowship for four years from 1 September or 1 October 2021 (subject to the successful candidate’s required notice period).

The subject specification attaching to the Walter Scott Fixed-Term Fellowship varies to accommodate different teaching needs within the College: the subject specification from 2021-25 is Physics. This new College post offers an exciting opportunity to contribute to the College’s distinguished tradition of delivering small-group supervision teaching to the very highest standards. A track record of excellence in teaching undergraduate Physics is highly desirable, which could include teaching Physics papers in the Cambridge Natural Sciences Tripos. The successful appointee will be required to act as Director of Studies for specific cohorts of undergraduate students and also expected to undertake admissions interviews for prospective undergraduate students applying to read for the Natural Sciences (Physical) degree. It is expected that the successful applicant will be research active and although this post carries no formal affiliation to the Cavendish Laboratory, once an appointment is made, the College would be very happy to work with the successful appointee to explore potential avenues for further departmental integration and affiliation. The stipend attaching to the Walter Scott Fixed-Term Fellowship is £29,176 p.a.

Further Information

Trinity Hall, or ‘The Master, Fellows and Scholars of the College or Hall of the Holy Trinity in the University of Cambridge’, was founded by Bishop Bateman of Norwich in 1350 for the study of canon and civil law. It is an autonomous, self-governing community of scholars, and one of 31 Colleges within the University of Cambridge, with a Fellowship representing a large and diverse range of academic interests. In accordance with the College’s charitable purpose, set out in its Founding Charter and Statutes, Fellows undertake by oath, at their admission, to ‘observe the [College’s] statutes and endeavour at all times to promote its honour and well-being as a place of education, religion, learning and research’, for the public benefit by the provision, support and maintenance of a College in the University of Cambridge.

The key responsibilities of the Walter Scott Fixed-Term Fellow are to deliver, during term-time, twelve hours of supervision teaching per week to students studying for Parts IA, IB, II and III of the Natural Sciences (Physical) degree and to direct studies for Natural Sciences/Physics students in particular cohorts. The successful appointee will also be expected to undertake undergraduate admissions interviews in Natural Sciences (Physical) each December; to evaluate postgraduate applications in Physics; to attend termly meetings of the College’s Directors of Studies; to assess applications in Physics and Astrophysics for the College’s annual Research Fellowship competition and to participate in recruitment and outreach activities related to STEM or Physics in particular: e.g. hosting information sessions at College Open Days.

The successful appointee will be elected to a Staff Fellowship in Physics, to run coterminalously with the Walter Scott Fixed-Term Fellowship. Staff Fellows are expected to contribute to the College’s communal life at all levels, while also acting as members of the College’s Governing Body and as charitable Trustees of the College as a scholarly institution. In recognition of teaching Fellows’ contributions towards the College community, all Educational Staff Fellows receive an annual
Educational Staff Fellowship payment. In addition, the successful appointee will be separately remunerated as Director of Studies in Natural Sciences. With teaching responsibilities largely confined to University term-time, the terms of the four-year Fellowship will also allow the successful appointee to devote sufficient time to research and publication, as well as to build other pedagogical skills. There is a wide range of relevant professional development courses offered by the University and other institutions, and the successful appointee will be encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. Moreover, the College is keen to encourage the research of its Fellowship and all Staff Fellows have access to an annual Fellowship Allowance to support their academic/professional work. Should it be required, the College is usually able to provide free residential accommodation in a College property for the first three years following a new Staff Fellow’s appointment and, subject to availability, to extend that accommodation for the final year of the fixed-term four year appointment, subject to payment of rent, set at market rate by the College’s property agents. All Staff Fellows are customarily offered exclusive or shared use of an office on the College’s central site. Fellows are eligible for membership of the USS pension scheme and are entitled to generous dining rights.

Application Process

Applications (including a completed application form, curriculum vitae, and a covering letter including a statement of teaching capacity within the Natural Sciences/Physics Tripos) should be sent to Mrs Heather Kilpatrick, Master’s EA, by email (academic-jobs@trinhall.cam.ac.uk). Applications should arrive no later than noon on Friday 4 June 2021. Applications are particularly welcome from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in the University. Candidates should note they are responsible for checking their eligibility to take up the post under UK immigration rules.

Shortlisting will take place in the week commencing 14 June 2021, and interviews will take place via Zoom in the week commencing 28 June 2021 with the successful candidate taking up office on 1 September or 1 October 2021 (subject to the successful candidate’s required notice period). The interviews will involve a 15-minute presentation on a designated subject normally covered within the Part IA Physics course. The appointments committee will comprise Dr Daniel Tyler (Acting Vice-Master, Chair); Dr Clare Jackson (Senior Tutor); Dr Nick Bampos (Staff Fellow in Chemistry); Professor Mike Hobson (Staff Fellow in Physics); Dr Sasha Turchyn (Staff Fellow in Earth Sciences) and Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright, Director, Isaac Physics (isaacphysics.org) at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge.

Clare Jackson
Senior Tutor
6 May 2021