

**Job Description**

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| **Job Title:** Lecturer in Buddhist Languages and Cultures |
| **Department / School:** School of Divinity |
| **Reports To:** Head of School |

**Job Purpose**

We are seeking to hire a three-year Lecturer in Buddhist Languages and Cultures responsible for delivering a portfolio of courses in Sanskrit and another classical language, as well as in an area of Buddhist culture such as literature, visual/material culture, history, or anthropology.

This post is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of Buddhist Studies at the University of Edinburgh, through teaching, research and leadership. In particular, the post, which is part-funded by the Khyentse Foundation, is to trial new ways of teaching classical Buddhist languages in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

The post will sit within the School of Divinity (a department of Theology and Religious Studies), which is part of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The post-holder will also be a member of the Edinburgh Buddhist Studies (EBS) steering committee, which draws together staff from five different Schools in the College.

**Main responsibilities**

# Teaching (40%)

* Design and deliver undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Sanskrit, another Buddhist language, and Buddhist Studies more broadly.
* Develop online and/or summer school language options for an audience both internal and external to the University of Edinburgh.
* Supervise honours dissertations and postgraduate students, including as second-supervisor for PhD projects where appropriate.

# Research (40%)

# Contribute to the research culture of the School and University by means of peer-reviewed publications, grant applications, and local, national and international partnerships.

# Play a central role in the academic and outreach activities of the Edinburgh Buddhist Studies network.

# Citizenship (20%)

# Contribute to the administration of teaching, research and management of the School as directed by the Head of School.

# Coordinate the practicalities of summer school teaching including through arranging provision of additional languages where appropriate.

**Key contacts / Relationships**

* Your line manager will be the Head of School, Professor Helen Bond.
* All academic and professional services staff in the School of Divinity.
* Directors and steering committee of the Edinburgh Buddhist Studies network.
* Staff members in other parts of the University with interest in the provision of classical Buddhist languages, especially Classics, Linguistics and Asian Studies.
* Current and prospective students, including those for online and summer school options.
* External networks and contacts as appropriate, to engage effectively with the wider academic and professional community and with the wider public through knowledge exchange and public outreach.

**Planning & Organising**

* Plan and lead the development of language provision and develop innovative approaches to teaching and learning that strengthen interest in the subject.
* Plan and lead high-quality research and external grant capture, and, as appropriate, project manage that research activity.
* Play appropriate roles in planning and leadership of the Edinburgh Buddhist Studies network, as a member of the steering committee.
* Plan and organise own activities to meet all deadlines of the academic cycle and/or research funder requirements.

**Problem Solving**

* Expected to resolve most problems using accumulated experience, with only the more challenging, non-standard issues reported to the line manager for assistance.
* Initial discussions of the problem of sustainable and inclusive language provision will be supported closely by the Edinburgh Buddhist Studies steering committee and Divinity colleagues with experience in language delivery, though the post-holder will be expected to use their own initiative in taking ideas forward.

**Decision Making**

* Expected to work independently and take decisions needed for the fulfilment of specific administrative roles within the Edinburgh Buddhist Studies network and School of Divinity.
* Take the lead in the trial of methods of language provision and in the organisation of its modes of delivery.
* Take responsibility for the effective management of resources allocated for additional language provision.

**Knowledge Skills and Experience**

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| **Attribute** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Education, Qualifications & Training** | * Doctorate in Buddhist Studies or a closely related field, conferred by the date of agreed employment * Sanskrit expertise at advanced level, and competence in another classical Buddhist language (such as Tibetan, Chinese or Pali) | * Teaching qualification that provides fellowship of the Higher Education Academy, or equivalent |
| **Knowledge & Experience** | * Demonstrated commitment to – and potential for – excellence in teaching * A positive and inclusive approach to teaching classical languages * Evidence of a high quality and growing research portfolio in any area of Buddhist Studies, commensurate with career stage * Commitment to an inclusive, sustainable, and multi-disciplinary vision of Buddhist Studies * Excellent communication skills * Honest, reliable, highly motivated, adhering to high academic standards, and cooperative with academic and administrative colleagues | * Experience of teaching languages including in online or summer school formats * Excellent IT skills relating to teaching and research * Early evidence of fund-raising activity, commensurate with career stage * Contribution to relevant international academic conferences * Demonstrated commitment to continued professional development * An interest in communicating ideas to the wider public |

**Dimensions**

The Edinburgh Buddhist Studies network was founded in 2019 and is supported by the Khyentse Foundation, who are part-funding this post. We are working to raise the profile of Buddhist Studies in Scotland and the north of the UK, through academic and outreach events. This post is part of a move to grow provision of Buddhism courses at the University, through trialling ways to make the provision of classical Buddhist languages sustainable. The steering committee comprises seven academic staff at the University of Edinburgh, while the wider network includes many more scholars. Further information can be found here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/buddhist-studies> The EBS is administered through the School of Divinity, though it is a cross-college network.

The School of Divinity comprises around 45 academic staff, 17 professional services and technical staff, around 300 undergraduate students and 150 graduate students. From January 2021, the School has been operating over two sites, New College and Roxburgh Street, whilst work is carried out to the New College campus.

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact HR by email at HRHelpline@ed.ac.uk or by telephone on 0131 651 5151.

For further details, please contact Dr Naomi Appleton at naomi.appleton@ed.ac.uk