

## FACULTY OF ENGLISH

Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic

### Postdoctoral Research Associate

Applications are invited for a Postdoctoral Research Associate to work on the AHRC-funded project, 'Text and Meaning: Contributions to a Revised Dictionary of Medieval Irish', hosted jointly by the University of Cambridge and Queen's University Belfast. The post holder will be based in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, University of Cambridge from 1 July 2014 to 31 March 2019.

The Royal Irish Academy's Dictionary of the Irish Language (DIL) is the most comprehensive dictionary of Irish in existence, covering the period from the seventh century down to the seventeenth. This project has three main objectives:

- to produce a revised electronic edition of the electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language in order to establish an authoritative foundation for the understanding of medieval Gaelic texts;
- to develop knowledge and understanding of early Irish lexicography in order to enhance the rigour and efficacy of textual scholarship;
- to facilitate the creative use of the Dictionary by modern Gaelic speakers for the enrichment of the lexicon of modern Gaelic languages.

### **Job Description**

The post-holder will initially be responsible for the compilation of a bibliography of primary texts and the selection of words of the day and preparation of other material for the public interface of the project. He/she will then begin to excerpt material from textual editions for inclusion in the database, as well as other material that enters the public domain in journals and edited volumes in the interim. When all the selected material has been collected, the post-holder will begin to draft the dictionary entries.

### **Person Specification**

#### *Essential*

- Educated to PhD level, with extensive research experience in language and/or editorial work in any period of medieval Irish
- Excellent organisational skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Close familiarity with common IT packages including MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Proven ability to work to deadlines without close supervision.

#### *Desirable*

- Experience of using the iLEX content management system, or other content management systems, web authoring packages or experience of programming.

### **Terms and Conditions of Employment**

The appointment will be for 57 months to 31 March 2019. The pensionable scale of stipends for a Research Associate is £28,132 - £ 36,661.

### **Application Procedure**

Candidates are asked to send a completed application form (CHRIS/6, Parts I and III), a full *curriculum vitae*, and a covering letter stating clearly how they meet the requirements of the job description and person specification.

Applications should be sent by email to the Faculty Administrator ([appointments@english.cam.ac.uk](mailto:appointments@english.cam.ac.uk)). Applicants should ask their referees to send reports direct to the same address by the closing date of **14 April 2014**.

**Late applications will not be considered.**

### **Selection Procedure**

Short-listing for this post will take place immediately after the closing date and interviews will be held on 29 / 30 April. Candidates who are short-listed will be contacted immediately; those not short-listed will be informed in the week following the short-listing meeting.

Enquiries concerning the work of the project and the specifics of the job role may be directed to Dr Máire Ní Mhaonaigh, at [mnm21@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mnm21@cam.ac.uk). Enquiries concerning the appointments procedure and related matters may be made to the Faculty Administrator, Vicky Aldred on [administrator@english.cam.ac.uk](mailto:administrator@english.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 335655. Candidates are also advised to visit the Department's Website at [www.asnc.cam.ac.uk](http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk) where more information is available about the Department's staff and activities.

### **Equal opportunities in employment**

The University of Cambridge appoints solely on merit. No applicant for an appointment in the University, or member of staff once appointed, will be treated less favourably than another on the grounds of sex (including gender reassignment), marital or parental status, race, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability (including HIV status), sexual orientation, religion, age or socio-economic factors.

### **If you have a disability**

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. Our recruitment and selection procedures follow best practice and comply with disability legislation.

The University is committed to ensuring that applicants with disabilities receive fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. Adjustments will be made, wherever reasonable to do so, to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability and, if successful, to assist them during their employment.

We encourage applicants to declare their disabilities in order that any special arrangements, particularly for the selection process, can be accommodated. Applicants or employees can declare a disability at any time.

Applicants wishing to discuss with or inform the University of any special arrangements connected with their disability can, at any point in the recruitment process, contact the Faculty Administrator, who is responsible for recruitment to this position, on 01223 335655, by email on [administrator@english.cam.ac.uk](mailto:administrator@english.cam.ac.uk) or by post to 9 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP.

For additional guidance and information, applicants can contact the HR Business Manager responsible for the department they are applying to via [hrenquiries@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:hrenquiries@admin.cam.ac.uk).

### **Further Information**

There is a range of information which you may find helpful on the University's website: [www.cam.ac.uk/jobs/](http://www.cam.ac.uk/jobs/). This includes applying for posts, working at the University, living in Cambridge and details of current vacancies.

## **The Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic**

The Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, in the University of Cambridge, is a formally constituted department in the Faculty of English. The Department of ASNC has an established complement of eight University Teaching Officers (UTOs), each of whom is required to give at least 48 hours of lectures and/or classes per year (32 for UTOs in their first three years of appointment and 40 in the fourth and fifth years), and to examine in the ASNC Tripos as necessary. The Department currently has about 70 undergraduates (spread over three years), and about 30 graduate students (M.Phil. and Ph.D.).

The Faculty of English is located in a modern building at 9 West Road. Several other Arts and Humanities Faculty buildings, including the main lecture buildings, are located on the same site. The University Library (a copyright deposit library) is nearby. Provision in the new faculty building for the Department of ASNC consists of an administrative office, eight offices for the teaching staff, an office for research staff, and a common room or meeting room, with access to all other facilities. The Faculty and Departmental libraries are also housed in the building.

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercises (RAE), the Department was rated in the highest terms (having also received 5\* ratings in the assessments carried out in 1996 and 2001). It was the highest ranked Department assessed under Celtic Studies nationally and was also one of the highest-ranking departments and faculties in the University of Cambridge. The Department received a mark of 23 (out of 24) in an inspection of its teaching practices by the Quality Assurance Agency in February 2001.

The course of study pursued in the Department of ASNC is distinctive in three respects. First, it is *cross-cultural*, covering the history, languages and literatures of various peoples active in different parts of northern Europe in the early Middle Ages, separately and in relation to each other. Secondly, it is *inter-disciplinary*, providing students with an opportunity to acquire, develop and apply expertise in a number of complementary disciplines, including language and literature, history (including some archaeology, numismatics, and place-name studies), and manuscript studies (including palaeography). Thirdly, it is *source-based*, in the sense that particular importance is attached to the study and use of primary sources, both in their original languages and in translation.

The **ASNC Tripos** consists of a **two-year Part I**, for which undergraduates are required to offer a selection of six papers from a choice of fifteen (comprising four 'historical' options, five 'linguistic and literary' options, a paper on palaeography and codicology, a dissertation, and five papers on related subjects 'borrowed' from other Triposes), and a **one-year Part II**, for which undergraduates are required to offer a selection of four papers from a choice of fifteen (comprising twelve advanced options taught within the Department, and three papers 'borrowed' from other Triposes), and a compulsory dissertation.

The ground covered by the Department can be expressed in terms of its main subject areas: Old English language and literature, Old Norse language and literature, Medieval Welsh language and literature, Medieval Irish language and literature, Insular Latin language and literature, Anglo-Saxon history and culture, the history and culture of the Gaelic- and Brittonic-speaking peoples, the history and culture of the Scandinavian peoples in the viking age, and palaeography and codicology. Needless to say, there is much scope for overlap and interaction between these areas; and the Department depends for its success on the ability of each of its senior members to cover more of the ground than the one area for which he or she has primary responsibility. In addition to these assessed courses, students are encouraged to develop their expertise in the relevant modern languages. Modern Icelandic teaching has been offered for some time and thanks to a generous grant from the Irish government Modern Irish teaching has been offered in the Department since 2006.

The Department is responsible for the provision of teaching in the form of lectures, classes, and seminars, and for examining in the ASNC Tripos. Other matters, such as admission to the University, and the provision of 'supervisions' (i.e. tutorials) for undergraduates, are handled by the separate colleges.

Further information on the Department, including a *Guide to the ASNC Tripos*, brief descriptions of the courses currently taught, and a list of the senior members of the Department is available on the Department's website: <http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk>

(Data Protection Act, 1998)

**Reference Coversheet.**

The University of Cambridge places great value on the provision of detailed references when considering applications for the promotion of its staff. As a result, when requests are made for the release of references to applicants, the University seeks to ensure that the views of referees are taken into account, within the terms of the UK Data Protection Act 1998 (UK).

You are invited therefore to indicate whether you are agreeable for your reference being released to the applicant should s/he request it. If you are prepared to release the reference, please sign and attach this coversheet, and your reference will be automatically disclosed to the applicant should s/he request this.

If however, there are strong reasons for protecting confidentiality, please state them in your letter. The University will then give these reasons careful consideration, should any request be received from the applicant for release of your reference.

Should you not wish to release your reference fully, please note that under the Data Protection Act 1998 (UK), as the University is a public authority, the applicant would normally have access to the information you provide. As a result, should the applicant make a "Subject Access Request", the University would contact you again. Then, as it is obliged under the Act to communicate as much of the requested information as is possible, it would do so in such a way (e.g. by the omission of names or identifying particulars or by otherwise anonymising sections of the reference) so as to protect your identity.

Signed .....

Date .....