

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	43561/AS/SPEIR/20221207
Post Title:	Professor (Politics and International Relations)
Grade:	Grade 9
School/Department:	School of Politics, Economics & International Relations (SPEIR)/Department of Politics & International Relations (PIR)
Reports to:	Dr Adam Humphreys, Head of Department for PIR
Responsible for:	N/A

Purpose

The post-holder will conduct high-class research and deliver inspiring teaching in their sub-field. They will also provide leadership in research engagement and impact activities and help to develop the public profile of the Department and University, in keeping with the [University's strategic focus on becoming a more 'Engaged University'](#).

We are open to applications from any sub-field of Politics and International Relations, but we particularly welcome applications from established scholars with strengths in international security, public policy, or the functioning of democracy.

We strongly welcome applications from women and racialised minorities, who are currently under-represented in the department.

The Department of Politics and International Relations

We are a dynamic department with established strengths in Comparative Politics, Political Theory, International Relations, and Strategy (see www.reading.ac.uk/politics). We were scored 6th highest in the UK for research outputs in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (Politics and International Studies Unit of Assessment, when scoring by Output GPA) and were scored 18th highest overall (by Overall GPA), despite being the smallest unit in the top half (measured by FTE submitted).

We offer two single Honours undergraduate programmes (Politics and International Relations; War, Peace, and International Relations), a range of Joint Honours programmes (with Economics, History, Philosophy, English Literature, and Modern Languages), and five taught MA programmes in the areas of International Relations and Public Policy. We also have a thriving PhD community and participate in both ESRC and AHRC Doctoral Training Partnerships. In addition, we partner with Henley Business School to deliver the British Army's Higher Education Pathway, providing bespoke online BSc and MSc degrees in Leadership and Strategic Studies to early-career Army officers.

We host an active research community comprising both staff and PhD students and run regular research seminars across our teaching terms. We encourage and support inter-disciplinary research and members collaborate regularly with colleagues from across the university and around the world. The Politics and International Relations research division is one of eleven which fall under the

University of Reading's [Prosperity and Resilience research theme](#); this supports research on the institutions and practices that help societies to prosper and build resilience against economic, social, political and environmental shocks.

We have schemes that support workload relief for impact work and for major funding applications; the role of 'Impact Lead' also comes with workload relief. Financial support for impact and engagement activities is also provided through a dedicated University-level fund.

The Department of Politics & International Relations is one of two departments which make up the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations. The School was awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze Award in May 2021 and has recently conducted its own Race Equality Review. We welcome applications for flexible working and offer a range of support and mentoring schemes for staff.

Information on wellbeing, inclusion, diversity and equality in the School is available at

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/speir/wellbeing-inclusion-diversity-and-equality>.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Pursue an exciting, ambitious, and innovative research agenda and contribute actively to the department's research environment
- Engage with media, policymakers, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to disseminate research, develop networks, and generate pathways to research impact, with the aim of producing a case study appropriate for submission to the next REF
- Provide leadership in research engagement and impact activities, including through sharing experience and expertise with colleagues
- Produce high-quality research outputs (of at least REF 3* level) and pursue opportunities, both independently and collaboratively, to attract research funding
- Deliver teaching of the highest quality across a range of topics and levels, including convening a research-led module and supervising students on projects, dissertations, field trips or placements
- Inspire students by employing engaging and effective teaching methods and assessment techniques, recognising cultural, equality, and diversity challenges
- Support and encourage students' academic, personal, and professional development and participate enthusiastically in activities that contribute to student recruitment, outreach, and the widening participation agenda
- Contribute actively to the life of the Department of Politics and International Relations, including by mentoring junior colleagues and by taking on administrative roles as appropriate to level of seniority
- Undertake Continuing Professional Development in relation to research, teaching, and academic citizenship

Context

The post holder will report to the Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations and will also receive general guidance from the Head of School, Research Division Leader, and School and Departmental Directors of Teaching and Learning.

Terms and conditions

This is a full time, permanent post.

This document outlines the main duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: 18 January 2023

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Professor	SPEIR/PIR

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD or equivalent in Politics, International Relations, or a related field • An exciting and ambitious research agenda that complements existing strengths within the Department of Politics and International Relations • A collection of publications at REF 3* level or above • A track record of developing networks and engaging with external stakeholders to generate research impact • Clear potential to develop further impact in future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An impact case study submitted to a previous REF • Previous experience working with or for key stakeholders • A track record of securing research funding • Advance HE qualification or equivalent
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the research engagement and impact landscape in UK HE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound knowledge of teaching methods, informed by best practice • Understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion issues in an HE context
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of delivering high-quality teaching in Politics and/or International Relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of media engagement • Experience of teaching a diverse student body • Experience of supervising PhD students • Experience of academic administration
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivated to take a leadership role in developing a strong and sustainable culture of dissemination, engagement, and impact • Personable in dealings with students, colleagues, and external stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to student experience • Support for diversity and inclusion initiatives • Willingness to mentor junior colleagues and take on administrative roles, as required
Completed by: Adam Humphreys		Date: 23 January 2023