



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

**APPOINTMENT OF  
PROFESSOR OF MEDIEVAL STUDIES**

**APPOINTMENT BRIEF  
SEPTEMBER 2019**





## AN INTRODUCTION

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The University of Lincoln is investing in its future. We are looking for the best minds from around the world to join our unique team. At Lincoln we represent a new breed of university, a fast-growing, gold-rated university where staff and students work collaboratively and create world-changing knowledge and research. We represent an academic community of thinkers who challenge the status-quo and who aspire to make a difference to their students, their subject, the region and the world.

The University of Lincoln is a 21st century university which recognises the importance of the medieval heritage of our city, whilst embracing the power of contemporary art to shape our futures and develop a unique sense of place that will also attract more people to the region. We are proud to be home to world-class researchers who are making significant contributions to their subject areas. Our research is on a sharp upward trajectory, having risen significantly in the last REF and as we approach the next assessment research is in good shape for the future with a significant increase in research income, research power and quality of outputs and impact.

The institution is ranked in the top 20 in the Guardian league table and is growing its international reputation in the QS and THE league tables. Lincoln was gold rated in the Teaching Excellence Framework. It is recognised for its pioneering approach to student engagement and working with employers. We are looking for the higher education thinkers who will take us to the next level and join us in our ambition to make a difference in the world. We are a principled institution and believe Universities are places that can produce work to help us understand our world and we seek to put into practice what we learn. Since 2014 the University has undergone a dramatic transformation, both in terms of its resources and its reputation.

Lincoln is surrounded by other major cities of historical interest. The wider city offers excellent opportunities for medieval scholarship. Beneath the cathedral Steep Hill contains many fine examples of 13th century vernacular architecture. In the lower part of the town Lincoln Archives holds further documents from the 11th century onwards including the earliest Episcopal rolls created in England. The University has a strong partnership with the Cathedral's medieval library and scholars from around the world benefit from this partnership having access to the manuscripts and the University as well. Lincoln is one of the world's great small cities, renowned for its striking fusion of old and new. The combination of a vibrant atmosphere and community feel makes Lincoln a great place in which to live and work.

The University has also established a strong partnership with Arts Council England, facilitating projects and investments in the cultural and creative sector locally and beyond at a time of severe government cuts to the arts. The University's cultural offering accounts for around a fifth of all attendances at events held by higher education institutions in the East Midlands, with 122,830 people attending events in Lincoln in 2015/16. More information can be found [here](#).

If you are looking for a university which will believe in you and invest in you and your ideas, and if you want to be somewhere where you can make a difference and play a pivotal role in its future success and in your subject areas – then come to Lincoln and join our excellent academic community. More information on the University's 2016-2021 strategy can be found [here](#).



## THE SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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The School of History and Heritage is part of the College of Arts at the University of Lincoln. Lincoln has been an established centre of learning since the 12th Century and is an ideal location for a medieval scholar. The College is situated in the University's Brayford Pool campus within sight of Lincoln Cathedral. This impressive gothic building, started in 1072, houses one of the three surviving originals of the 1215 Magna Carta plus an original 1217 Charter of the Forest. The Cathedral Library houses 260 medieval manuscripts, many of which have been there since the 11th century. There are also excellent holdings for canon law, chronicles, theology and literature (including a 14th century copy of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales).

The School offers strong subject groupings in History, Conservation, Art History, Classical Studies, Philosophy and American Studies. We believe that a common investment in studying the world across time and space allows a vibrant intellectual community to thrive.

The School hosts a strong team of medievalists in History, Art History and Literature. An interdisciplinary Master's Course launched in 2011 recruits around 20 students each year, many of whom carry on to PhD study. PhD numbers within the School have increased by 50% since 2014. Since our first REF submission in 2008, research in the school has gone from strength to strength. Confirmed grant capture from January 2014 to June 2019 was nearly 2 million, 3,250% higher than for the 2008-2013 period and over 400% higher than our proposed target. In particular, major research grants have been obtained from prestigious award-making bodies, including the AHRC, the British Academy, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Wellcome Trust.

### **Lincoln Conservation**

The School is home to the Lincoln Conservation team who are actively involved in a number of exciting projects. Recent commissions include work on Coventry Cathedral's medieval stained glass and medieval carvings in the quire of Ripon Cathedral.



## MEDIEVAL STUDIES RESEARCH CENTRE

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The University's fast evolving, and ambitious, Medieval Studies Research Centre brings together academics with interdisciplinary interests both in the medieval period itself and in the later interpretation and representation of the medieval past. The Centre houses members from several Schools across the College of Arts, including art historians, literary scholars, as well as colleagues from the School of Film and Media working on medievalisms.

Centre for Medieval Studies, drawing in scholars from across the College with research interests in History, History of Art, Literature and medievalisms, was started in 2016. The new Director will be responsible for further developing the Centre's already internationally renowned work, by – amongst other factors – ensuring a presence for the Centre across the University, the UK and international research circles.

The Centre hosts a visiting scholar annually, with recent highlights including Professor Asa Mittman from California State University, whose masterclasses at the Cathedral in 2018 inspired a Cathedral exhibition on monsters in the marginalia of its manuscripts.

The Centre also fosters academic links beyond the University of Lincoln through hosting external speakers; organising the annual Lincoln medieval lecture; hosting international conferences and contributing to national and international research networks and projects.

The Centre aims to:

- Support colleagues across disciplines in the production of high-quality, innovative research by using peer review to encourage publication of monographs, scholarly texts and articles in internationally-recognised journals.
- Develop the impact of research by supporting opportunities to explain and use their research outside Higher Education to the widest possible range of audiences and user groups.
- Increase income from research activities by encouraging research grant bidding activity through collaborative projects, within the group and with national and international partners, encouraging inter-disciplinary research.
- Increasing participation in external research networks and collaborations to further enhance research profile.
- Supporting the career progression of PGR students by integrating them into national and international research networks, and encouraging appropriate publication.

# THE ROLE

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Following the departure of the Centre's founding Director, Professor Philippa Hoskin, to take up the post of Director of the Parker Library, we now wish to appoint a Chair in Medieval Studies to lead the centre to become a world-leading site for medieval research. The ideal candidate will have an international reputation in a relevant area of Medieval Studies, with a proven track record of high-quality publication and successful grant applications. Candidates with a research interest in the history of late medieval England/Northern Europe who are able to make use of our rich local holdings in their research are particularly welcome.

Professors are involved in University service beyond the School and College, making a major contribution to the work of the University. Professors demonstrate continuing academic attainment and achievement, as well as providing academic leadership through active contribution to their discipline.

Professors have established and sustained a profile as an expert within their field, making an outstanding impact in a significant area, either in research or in teaching and learning that maintains, enhances and improves the University's national and international reputation in their academic field.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

### Research

The Professor primary role will be to lead and develop the Centre for Medieval Studies and will contribute to research leadership in the School of history and Heritage and in the College of Arts, including:

- Maintaining an internationally excellent track record of their own providing a leading personal submission to the REF;
- Effectively leading on aspects of the development of research particularly:
  - As Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies and
  - Coordinating research in Medieval Studies
- Attracting external, significant and sustained research funding from various resources, including research councils, charities, government-funded bodies and European Union and overseas bodies, to support and develop research;
- Providing supervision and mentoring to academic and research staff, supporting them in developing a funding profile, the development of their personal research track record and research impact.
- Acting as PI on large-sized research grants;
- Supporting the School's international development, including forging international research links;
- Attracting and supervising postgraduate research students;
- Developing research through "impact" activities;
- Enhancing the research environment of the University through wider engagement at College/University level, chairing external bodies, organising conferences and senior engagement with learned societies or major stakeholders; and

## Teaching

Professors are expected to contribute towards teaching delivery and the creation of an engaging and innovative teaching environment that supports effective student learning and a high quality student experience.

Professors are expected to contribute to the subject portfolio of programmes, including postgraduate/research degrees by:

- Undertaking teaching at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels and carrying out all related activities, achieving sustained levels of student progression and feedback;
- Leading on research-engaged teaching in subjects and areas related to the post-holder's research and developing initiatives based on feedback which evidences impact;
- Leading on improved approaches to teaching and learning, informed by pedagogic research and engagement with practice, within their own subject area(s), across the Department/School and ideally beyond the University;
- Collaborating with colleagues in curriculum development and the advancement of the discipline within the University and disseminate best practice in teaching and learning;
- Conducting academic administration, including contribution to programme and/or unit management duties as appropriate;
- Contributing to the development and implementation of learning and teaching strategies within the School and across the College/University; and
- Supporting students undertaking doctoral research in their subject and supervising them to completion.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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### Qualifications

- PhD in relevant discipline or equivalent demonstrated research record of achievement (normally by publication but where appropriate through professional achievement)
- Ideally HE teaching qualification or recognition (PGCE(HE) or HEA Associate Fellow) OR a commitment to complete one within an agreed timescale

### Experience

- Proven track record of internationally excellent and world leading research outputs
- A track record of leading activities that have significant impact within or beyond the University
- Broad teaching experience at undergraduate and taught postgraduate level
- Proven track record of sustained income generation to support research work
- Experience of leading a research team and educational projects
- Experience of leadership and administrative management in HE
- Experience of supervising research students to completion and/or supervision of research staff
- Experience of efficient administration and management of research and/or teaching programmes
- Significant experience of enhancing teaching quality and improving the student experience
- Sustained national / international reputation for research/teaching/pedagogy
- Responsibility for academic quality and standards assurance

- Educational leadership beyond own School

## **Skills and Knowledge**

- Ability to develop and lead a portfolio of research/ educational projects
- Ability to lead and motivate others
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Extensive knowledge of the HE sector
- Ability to develop and maintain an effective professional network and engagement with key agencies
- Excellent organisational skills
- Ability to build effective working relationships with a wide range of staff and external agencies

## **Competencies**

- Flexibility and adaptability
- Initiative and independence in thinking/approach
- Commitment to the subject area and the drive to improve

## **Business Requirements**

- Ability and willingness to travel on School, College or University business, including overseas

# TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

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The post holder is required to work such reasonable additional hours as the needs of the post demands, which includes attendance at evening and weekends when necessary.

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with the level of this post.

## HOW TO APPLY

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Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the **University of Lincoln** on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at **[www.saxbam.com/appointments](http://www.saxbam.com/appointments)**, using code **KJXI**

Click on the '**apply**' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities form \*.

The closing date for applications is midnight on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019**.

### GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please **do not** include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

*\*The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.*