



Job Description and Selection Criteria

Post	Professorship of Poetry
Department/Faculty	Faculty of English Language and Literature
Division	Humanities
College	All Souls, or another college by agreement

Overview of the post

The Professorship of Poetry is due to become vacant in Michaelmas Term 2019, when the current incumbent, Professor Simon Armitage, reaches the end of his term of office. The appointment to re-fill the Chair will be made by election of Convocation in Trinity Term 2019. Convocation consists of all the former student members of the University who have been admitted to a degree (other than an honorary degree) of the University, and of any other persons who are members of Congregation or who have retired having been members of Congregation on the date of their retirement. All members of Convocation are eligible to vote in the election. The elected candidate will hold office for four years from 14 October 2019, the first day of Full Term, Michaelmas Term 2019.

The Professor of Poetry lectures were conceived in 1708, as a result of a bequest by Berkshire landowner Henry Birkhead, who believed ‘the reading of the ancient poets gave keenness and polish to the minds of young men as well as to the advancement of more serious literature both sacred and human’. Matthew Arnold, uniquely elected twice to the Professorship (in 1857 and 1862), created the Professorship in its modern form: Arnold spoke about literary matters of contemporary concern, and was the first Professor to deliver his lectures in English, as opposed to Latin. The appointee will be the 46th Professor of Poetry (a full list of holders of the Chair is available at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/oxford-people/professor-of-poetry>).

The professorship is held in the Faculty of English Language and Literature. The Faculty of English at Oxford University is the largest department of English Literature in the UK and is widely recognised as one of the most eminent in the world. The Chair of Poetry has long been regarded as one of the most prestigious and prominent posts in the field. Previous incumbents have included Seamus Heaney, James Fenton, Paul Muldoon, Christopher Ricks and Geoffrey Hill. The current incumbent is Simon Armitage.

All Souls College is the usual college of association for the chair. However, the University recognises that there may be occasions when for some reason (most obviously, a prior association with another college) the holder of the chair may be offered an association by another college. Under such circumstances, and provided that



all parties are satisfied that an appropriate association will be provided, the Professor of Poetry may be held in association with a college other than All Souls.

Queries about the post should be addressed to the Chair of the Faculty Board, Professor Ros Ballaster, who can be contacted by email at chair@ell.ox.ac.uk.

All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence.

Duties of the post

You will be a member of both the University and the College community. You will be part of a lively and intellectually stimulating research community which performs to the highest international levels in research and publications and will have access to the excellent research facilities which Oxford offers. It is expected that you will participate in the wider intellectual life of the English Faculty to encourage the production and appreciation of poetry.

The main duties of the post are as follows:

- normally to give one public lecture each term on a suitable literary subject (where the term "public lecture" does not include poetry readings or recitals or other such events);
- to deliver an inaugural lecture;
- normally to offer one more event each term (which may include poetry readings, workshops, hosted events, etc.);
- to give the Creweian oration at Encaenia every other year (a duty established by convention);
- each year, to be one of the judges for the Newdigate Prize, the Jon Stallworthy Prize, the Lord Alfred Douglas Prize and the Chancellor's English Essay Prize;
- every third year to help judge the English poem on a sacred subject prize; and
- generally to encourage the art of poetry in the university.

Eligibility criteria

Beyond the requirement that candidates for election must not have previously held the post, and must each have been nominated by 50 members of Convocation (see nomination process below), the single criterion for eligibility is that candidates be of sufficient distinction to be able to fulfil the duties of the post. The professor may hold the post in conjunction with another post within the University or at another University.

Nomination process

This election will be conducted electronically by Electoral Reform Services Ltd (ERS) on behalf of the University of Oxford. To register as a candidate, or to nominate a candidate, please go to www.ersvotes.com/oxfordpoetry19. The deadline for registering as a candidate, and for nominating a candidate, will be **4 p.m. on Thursday, 9 May 2019**. Only those candidates who have been nominated by 50 members of Convocation by that deadline will be eligible to stand for election.

Candidates:

You must register your willingness to stand for election on the ERS website (www.ersvotes.com/oxfordpoetry19). At this stage, you will be asked to provide basic information about yourself (e.g. name(s) for publication, contact details, etc.), to consent for your data to be processed for the purposes of this election, and to confirm your willingness and eligibility to stand for election, if officially nominated as a candidate. If you wish, you may choose a member of Convocation to act as your representative (the “authorised representative”), in which case you will need to provide that person’s name and contact details.

You (and/or your authorised representative) will have access to a secure area on the ERS website where you can draft, save, and upload supporting materials for publication (such as your photo and Candidate Statement). You (or your authorised representative) may submit for publication a written statement, of no more than 500 words, setting out your reasons for standing. The statement may include links to websites, podcasts or other social media. The statement must be uploaded by 4 p.m. on Thursday, 9 May 2019. In the event of a contested election, these statements will be published on-line and in the *University Gazette* following the close of the nomination period.

Once you have registered your intention to stand for election, your name will be published as a Prospective Candidate. This is intended to facilitate the nomination process by informing prospective nominators of your willingness to stand for election. As soon as it has been confirmed that you have been nominated by 50 members of Convocation, your name and (optional) photo will be published in the list of Official Candidates.

The Faculty of English Language and Literature

The Faculty was established in 1894, though the study of English Literature in the university long predated the formal foundation of the Faculty. It has counted some of the most distinguished and influential English literary scholars among its members including many whose contributions to English literature, both as scholars and practitioners, have helped defined the field. The English Faculty counts amongst its past and current members a number of distinguished published poets, including John Fuller, Jane Griffiths, Erica McAlpine, Kate McLoughlin, Lucy Newlyn, Bernard O’Donoghue, Craig Raine and Hannah Sullivan. It is the largest English department in the United Kingdom and one of the biggest anywhere. It has been ranked top in the QS World Rankings in its subject for the last three years.

There are at present nine statutory professorships as well as 30 other professors, and 36 associate professors holding University appointments: the total membership of the Faculty – including research appointments and college tutors – numbers more than 160. The English Faculty’s teaching and research covers literature in English from works in Old English of the 7th century to the current period of what has been called global English. The spread of historical expertise places the Faculty in a unique position to speak authoritatively about the long history of the literatures and languages of the British Isles, as well as the diaspora and interchange of literatures and languages that emerged from them. Students have opportunities to trace the development of literature from early manuscripts to current digital and hybrid forms; they benefit from a distinctive experience of close personal supervision with leading academics, in turn developing their own communities and identities as critics and researchers.

The university’s resources are unrivalled. The Bodleian Library, one of the great libraries of the world, has a continuous history reaching back to the late sixteenth century. Its historical collections are outstanding, second in size only to the British Library. Among other libraries in the University, the Taylorian Library (Modern

Languages) offers extensive holdings in continental printed books; and there are specialist libraries for Classics, the History of Art, and other subjects.

The English Faculty also has its own library with over 100,000 volumes, including several specialist collections. Every college also has its own library, many of which (such as Balliol, Christ Church, Magdalen, Merton, New College, and St John's) have important holdings of manuscripts and rare printed books, which are normally open to scholars.

The English Faculty is housed in the St Cross Building in central Oxford. The St Cross building contains lecture theatres, seminar rooms and administrative offices, as well as the English Faculty Library.

Teaching activities of the Faculty

The Oxford English Faculty has the largest graduate school in the country. It admits about 90 students a year to work in all areas of English Studies.

The colleges, which control undergraduate admissions and undergraduate tutorial teaching, admit a total of around 250 students a year to read for degree courses in English Language and Literature and its Joint Schools with Classics, Modern Languages, and History.

More information about the faculty may be found at: www.english.ox.ac.uk.

The Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the faculties of Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Oriental Studies; Philosophy; and Theology and Religion, as well as the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. The division has responsibility for over 500 members of academic staff, for over 4,000 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), and for about 1,600 postgraduate students.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Library, with its 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study.

The Division's faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

For more information please visit: www.humanities.ox.ac.uk

About the University of Oxford

Oxford's departments and colleges aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

Oxford's self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows and over 2,500 other University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary

activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues. The current strategic plan can be found at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/strategic-plan.

Oxford's strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, Oxford aspires to build a truly inclusive community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding), and is ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off companies created to date. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body which now numbers over 10,000. Postgraduates are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world's greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

University Benefits, Terms and Conditions

Salary

The Professor receives a stipend of £12,710 per annum which is increased in line with the annual cost-of-living increases for academic and related staff, plus £40 for each Creweian Oration.

Pension

The University offers generous pension provision. You will be offered membership of the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

Details are available at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/epp/pensions/schemes/uss/.

Membership of Congregation

Oxford's community of scholars governs itself through Congregation which is its "parliament". You will be a voting member of Congregation.

See www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance and www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/781-121.shtml for further details.

Residence

There is no residence requirement for the Professor of Poetry.

Family support

The University offers generous family leave arrangements, such as maternity, adoption, paternity and shared parental leave. Details are available at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/during/family/. You will have considerable flexibility in the day-to-day organisation of your duties. Requests for flexible working patterns will be accommodated as far as possible.

You will be eligible to apply to use the University nurseries (subject to availability of places). For details of the nurseries and how to apply for places, please see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare/.

The University subscribes to My Family Care, a benefit which allows staff to register for emergency back-up childcare and adultcare services, a 'speak to an expert' phone line and a wide range of guides and webinars through a website called the Work + Family Space.

For more details, please see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/.

The Oxford University Newcomers' Club is run by volunteers, whose aim is to help the newly-arrived partners of visiting scholars, of graduate students and of newly appointed academic and administrative members of the University to settle in and to give them opportunities to meet people in Oxford. Further information is available at www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/.

Welcome for International Staff

One of Oxford's great strengths is its truly international body of research and teaching staff from over 140 countries, and we welcome applications from academics across the world. We can help international staff and partners/families make the transition to Oxford. Information about relocation, living and working in the UK and Oxford is available at welcome.ox.ac.uk.

If you require a visa, we have a dedicated team to support successful applicants through the Tier 1 visa process. Further information is available at www.gov.uk/tier-1-exceptional-talent.

Promoting diversity

The University is committed to recruiting and retaining the best people, whoever they are, to ensure equality of opportunity. The Vice Chancellor's Diversity Fund provides resources for innovative projects to promote diversity.

The Equality and Diversity Unit promotes good practice across the University by developing policies and offering training, and runs a range of support networks for staff. It works closely with Colleges, the Oxford University Student Union and external campaign groups.

Please see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/ for details.

Other benefits and discounts for University employees

The University has a range of facilities and benefits for its staff, including discounted health insurance, sustainable travel schemes, and discounts in local shops and restaurants. Details are available at:

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/discountsforstaff/services/
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/

Pre-employment screening

Your appointment would be subject to the University's standard pre-employment screening. This will include right-to-work, proof of identity, references, a pre-employment health declaration, and any other checks as applicable to the post. We advise you to read the notes for applicants at www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.

Length of appointment

The Professorship of Poetry is tenable for four years.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. From 1 October 2017, the University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69th birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at grade 8 and above. The justification for this is explained at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/. As an academic post the Professorship of Poetry is subject to the EJRA.

For existing employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/.

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of this process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University's Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/.

The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/.