

Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellow
Faculty of English

Closing Date: 31 January 2025

Job Reference: GG44320



Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellow

Salary:

£46,485 - £58,596

Contract:

Fixed Term

Location:

Central Cambridge

Department:

Faculty of English

Responsible to:

Chair of the Faculty Board

Working pattern:

Full-time

Purpose of the role

The Judith E. Wilson Fellowships, held within the Faculty of English, are designed to enable practising poets, playwrights and theatre practitioners to spend a period as members of the Faculty of English, bringing together the practices of poetry and drama and their academic study. The cost of the Fellowships is met from the Judith E. Wilson Fund, formed from a donation to the Faculty of English by Judith E. Wilson, a life-long friend of Dame Edith Evans.

We are seeking an individual with a strong record as a writer, and potential to make a significant contribution to the research, teaching and cultural life of the Faculty. The Fellowship is available for nine months from 15 September 2025. The Fellow is expected to reside in Cambridge during that period and will be invited to take some part in the work of the Faculty, by arranging workshops or readings (including, in term, three hours of formal contact time for students per week), and to pursue their own projects. The Judith E. Wilson Committee will discuss a possible programme of work with the successful candidate. The Fellow will, it is hoped, be affiliated with a Cambridge College.

Further information, including Faculty reading lists and details of the current teaching provision, is available on our website (www.english.cam.ac.uk/posts).

To access password protected areas, please use the following login details:

Username: applicant

Password: app080722



Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellow

Judith E. Wilson

Judith Ellen Wilson was an Irishwoman from County Limerick; as a cousin of Lord Rothermere she inherited a large fortune when her parents died. She had spent her youth as a dutiful daughter, attending on them, but had always been devoted to the theatre and the arts generally. She founded a lectureship in the University of Cambridge to bring together those interested in the study of drama and poetry and those who were practitioners in these fields. She hoped that the Fellowship would be used also to draw the live theatre and the University closer together. When Edith Evans lost her husband, Judith Wilson provided a beautiful home at Goudhurst and all the support that an artist needs, never obtruding, always putting Evans' art first, providing peace and ability to work as she wished. Judith Wilson died of cancer at a comparatively early age, and she left her money to Edith Evans in trust and afterwards to the University of Cambridge.

On the death of Edith Evans in 1976, the legacy, increased by some valuable works of art, made this fund a unique source of support for work in drama and poetry.

The modern Faculty building, completed in 2004, benefits from a purpose built Drama Studio, a striking double-height space, a large black box, in the basement of the English Faculty building. It has a floor area of approximately 80 square metres, which can seat up to 50 people. A lighting grid is provided and the studio is fitted with audio-visual equipment. The studio has been designed to function as a rehearsal and workshop space for poetry and drama-related events, and as teaching space for both graduate and undergraduate courses.

A Drama Studio Administrator takes responsibility for the day-to-day oversight and management of the Studio and associated equipment, and for organising and supporting a programme of events in the Faculty.



Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Education and Qualifications		
A highly respected practitioner in poetry nationally and/or internationally.	✓	
Specialist Knowledge and Skills		
Willingness to support students' literary and creative activity	✓	
Interpersonal and Communication Skills		
Good interpersonal skills;	✓	
Good communication skills, both oral and written;	✓	
Sufficient administrative skills to manage projects, including financial management;	✓	
Relevant Experience		
Experience of managing own workload;	✓	
Evidence of published work;	✓	
Evidence of ability to outline and pursue an original creative project.	✓	

The Faculty of English



The establishment of the Faculty is currently 49 University Teaching Officers (UTOs), most of whom also have an affiliation to a College; there are also 37 Teaching Officers in English employed by Colleges (CTOs), and 23 Research Fellows and Early Career Researchers, all of whom are also members of the Faculty. In addition, there are currently 12 administrative, secretarial and computing staff. The Faculty currently has around 200 postgraduate students and 600 undergraduates

There is one formally constituted department within the Faculty, with its own head of department: the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic. The Faculty's academic work and teaching programmes are supervised by the Faculty Board of English, which elects a Chair to serve as Head of the Faculty for a minimum of two years. The Faculty is located at 9 West Road in a building opened in October 2004. The building holds a library, teaching and research facilities, offices for University Teaching Officers and a social area.

The Faculty is active in all major areas of Anglophone literature and culture; our research and teaching are cross-disciplinary, historical and international in reach. The Faculty was awarded 58% 4* ('world-leading'), 28% 3*, 13% 2*, and 1% 1* 2021 Research Excellence Framework (a national audit of research quality), and is ranked second in the world in the latest QS University rankings.

The English Undergraduate course consists of two incrementally structured parts: a two-year Part Ia/b, which introduces undergraduates to a range of British and world literature from 1300 to the present day, along with a wide range of critical methods and practices; and a one- (or in some cases two-) year Part II, which offers an extensive choice of options in addition to compulsory papers on Tragedy and Practical Criticism/Critical Practice and a dissertation on a topic of choice. Most of the Faculty's papers are capacious and inclusive, enabling students to study many kinds of text and artefact and to develop a wide range of critical and theoretical approaches.

The Faculty of English continued

Teaching for both parts of the English Undergraduate course is conducted through lectures and classes, which are the responsibility of the Faculty, and supervisions (that is, small-group teaching), which are mostly organised through the colleges.

The Faculty teaching programme is co-ordinated by the Faculty Director of Undergraduate Studies in collaboration with the appropriate UTOs and CTOs. At postgraduate level, the supervision of MPhil and PhD students is undertaken by many members of the Faculty and colleges.

Our MPhil in English Studies is a flexible, overarching and inclusive MPhil structure that nevertheless allows students who wish to specialise to do so. The areas of research interests of individual members of the Faculty together with information on the Faculty's current activities may be found on the Faculty's website:

<http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/>

The University, the faculties, departments and the colleges are linked in a historical relationship that is mutually beneficial, but complicated in some respects.

Students (both postgraduate and undergraduate) are admitted by one of the 31 colleges, although in the case of postgraduate students the faculties and departments determine admissions before the colleges are involved. Almost all undergraduates, and many postgraduate students, live in a college. The teaching of undergraduate students is shared between the colleges and the faculties and departments, with the colleges arranging small group teaching and supervisions and the faculties and departments providing lecturing, laboratory classes, and advanced supervisions.

Most academic staff will also be invited to join a college. College teaching is remunerated separately from University teaching, and appointment to a college is a separate matter from a University appointment. Membership of a college adds an important social and intellectual dimension for many of the academic staff. The Chair of the Faculty or senior colleagues can give more advice.

The School of Arts and Humanities



The School of Arts and Humanities is one of six schools in the University and it is currently comprised of:

- Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Faculty of Architecture and History of Art
- Faculty of Classics
- Faculty of Divinity
- Faculty of English
- Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics
- Faculty of Music
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Centre for Research into the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
- University of Cambridge Language Centre
- Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence

Combined, these institutions have a total annual budget in excess of £35million, 650 staff and 3,500 students.

The School has recently agreed a new strategic plan, which sets out its overarching vision and objectives.

Vision

Our vision is to preserve the excellence of the School of Arts and Humanities in research, and undergraduate and graduate teaching and supervision, while enhancing our capacity to undertake world-leading and lifechanging innovative, interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Strategic Objectives

1. To uphold the Cambridge tradition of undertaking research and teaching across a wide breadth and diversity of Arts and Humanities disciplines to the highest possible standard.
2. Relevant, problem-solving interdisciplinary work must be grounded in disciplinary excellence
3. Enhance our research excellence across the disciplinary spectrum, underpinned by effective support.
4. Expand capacity in our academic disciplines in a way that is modest, selective and designed imaginatively to build incentives for innovative and cross-disciplinary work.
5. Improve the efficiency of our governance structures by streamlining and optimising operations and procedures.

Terms of appointment

Tenure and probation

The appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis for a period of nine months (limited funding). The appointment will be subject to satisfactory completion of a three month probationary period.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The appointment is full-time.

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a defined benefits pension scheme. If you are already a member of the NHS pension scheme, you may be eligible to continue in the scheme and should contact the Pensions section of the University.

For further information please visit:

www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk

Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 6.6 weeks (or 33 days for those working full-time) plus public holidays.

General information Pre-employment checks

Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us.

If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

Health declaration

Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

References

Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities.

We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time. If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact, the Department Administrator, who is responsible for recruitment to this position. Alternatively, you may contact the HR Business Manager responsible for the department you are applying to via hadmin@admin.cam.ac.uk.

The University

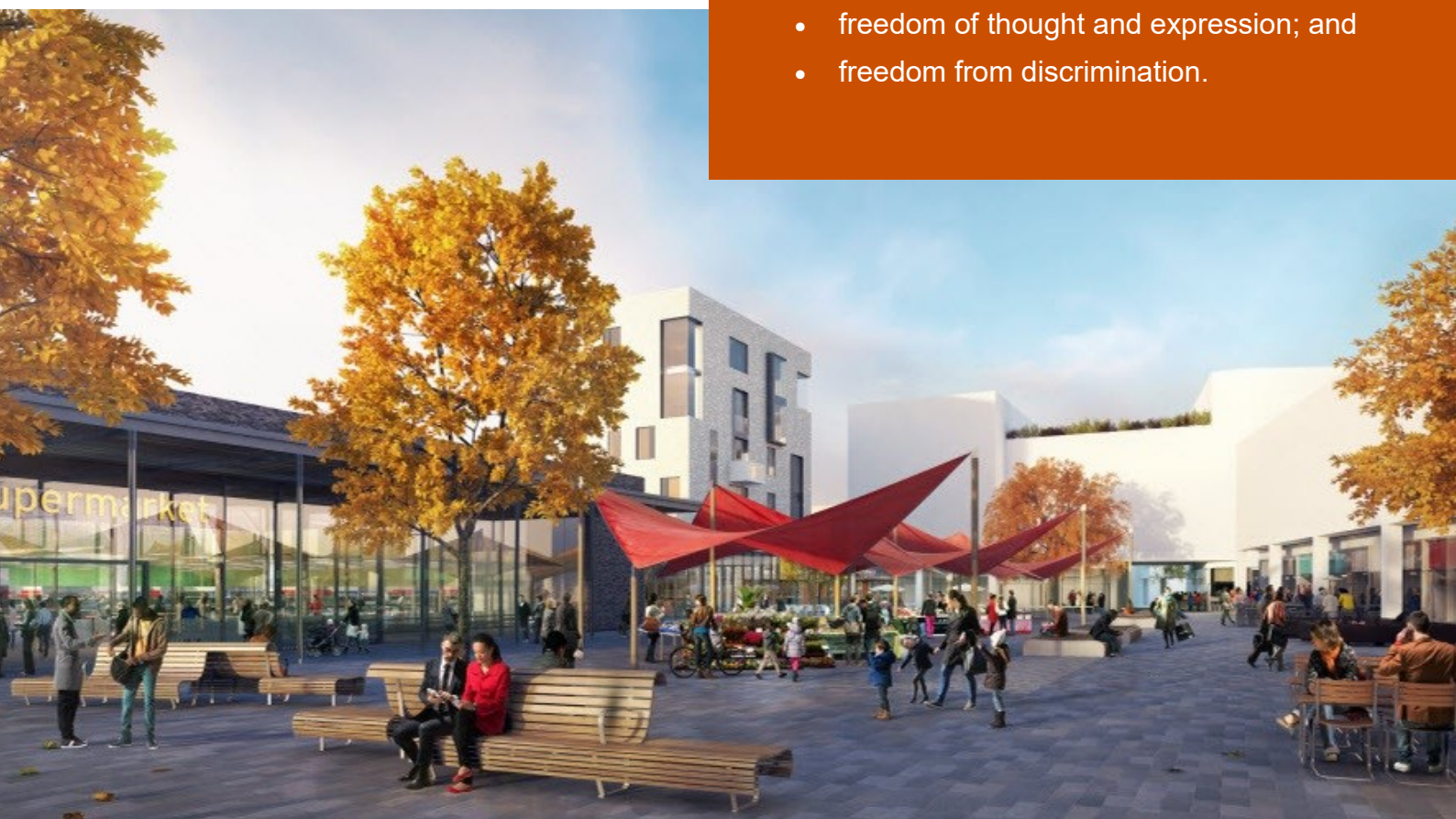
The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of first-class teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people.

Our capital investment projects include the West Cambridge site, the North West Cambridge development and the growth of the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. The North West Cambridge development includes the opening of a primary school – the first in the UK to be managed by a University. So we are deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future.

Our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Our core values are:

- freedom of thought and expression; and
- freedom from discrimination.



About us

The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.

The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit students, provide student accommodation and deliver small group teaching.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching and conducting research.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

“Cambridge graduates and researchers have made – and continue to make – a colossal contribution to human knowledge and the understanding of the world around us. Their work touches on the lives and livelihoods of everyone from patients diagnosed with life-threatening diseases, to residents of areas critically affected by climate change, to children growing up in conflict zones. It has a lasting impact on our society, our economy and our culture: the world is truly a better place thanks to their efforts.”

Stephen Toope, Vice Chancellor 2019



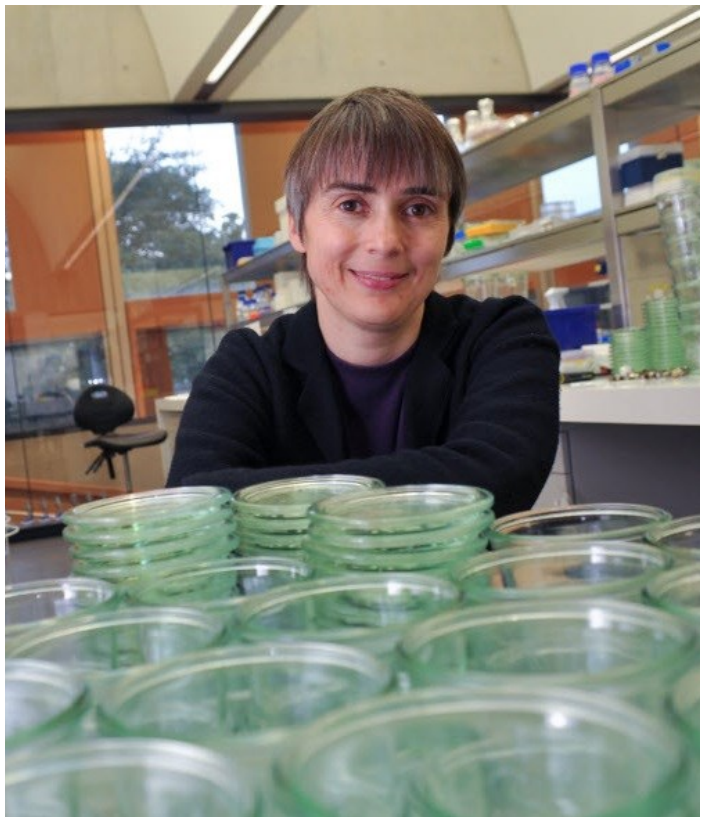
Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 18,000 students and over 16,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a new science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is now expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.



Equality & diversity

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity networks for women, black and minority ethnic and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's Athena SWAN award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women.

Living in Cambridge

Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances At the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the [Visit Cambridge](#) website.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45 minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Relocation Support

The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the costs of relocating to Cambridge.

Accommodation Service

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>



What Cambridge can offer

We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a career break scheme for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings. Payroll giving is also a simple, tax-efficient way for employees to make monthly donations to charity.



CAMbens employee benefits

We offer a CAMbens scheme for University employees, providing access to online and in-store shopping discounts and cashback. With more than 2,000 participating retailers, employees can save money on a wide range of household expenses, from groceries and clothes, to holidays and insurance and much more. A range of local discounts are also available, helping employees to save money whilst also supporting local Cambridge businesses and a CAMbens Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme is also available, which enables employees to save money on transport costs. A 10% discount rate on the purchase of train season tickets, bulk buy tickets and an interest free travel to work loan are also available for staff of the University.



What Cambridge can offer

Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay and emergency family care support via My Family Care.

Other family-friendly support includes: Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high quality holiday Playscheme may be available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here:

<https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people. The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available here: <https://www.opda.cam.ac.uk/>

Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. There are many societies in Cambridge catering for almost every taste and interest. Whether you want to take part in a sport, participate in music or drama, pursue a hobby, or join a political group, you will almost certainly find that a society exists for this purpose. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Science Festival](#) and [Cambridge Festival of Ideas](#), as well as [Open Cambridge](#) weekend, which together attract over 50,000 visitors per year. The festivals are a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities. The encouragement of career development for all staff is one of the University's values and we put this into practice through various services and initiatives. Our Personal and Professional Development Department provides development opportunities and courses for all University employees. These include face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. Employees may also apply for financial support to undertake training that will lead to a qualification. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. The CareerStart@Cam programme also supports employees in assistant staff roles who do not hold higher education qualifications to develop their skills, experience and qualifications.



How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page www.jobs.cam.ac.uk by clicking “Apply online” in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Please ensure that you upload the following documents to your online application:

- A covering letter;
- Your Curriculum Vitae, including a full list of publications;
- 10 pages of written work, together with a project proposal of no more than 1000 words including an indication of how you would support students.
- The names of two referees.

If you upload any additional documents which have not been requested, we will not be able to consider these as part of your application.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to: Professor Drew Milne, Chair of the Judith E. Wilson Committee (agm33@cam.ac.uk). Queries regarding the application process should be directed to: Ms Vicky Aldred, Assistant Faculty Administrator, (administrator@english.cam.ac.uk).

The closing date for applications is Friday 31st January 2025.

Interviews will be held on Monday 10th March 2025.



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