Hertford College, Oxford

One-Year Stipendiary Lectureship (6 hours) in Physical Chemistry

Further Particulars

Hertford College intends to appoint a Stipendiary Lecturer in Physical Chemistry to teach for the undergraduate MChem degree course. The appointment is for one year, to cover sabbatical leave for Prof. Claire Vallance, Hertford’s Tutorial Fellow in Physical Chemistry. The successful candidate will have the ability to teach physical chemistry across all three years of the MChem course. However, we would consider splitting the role if two candidates wanted to share the workload. The Lectureship is fixed-term from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020 and is non-renewable. It can be held in conjunction with other similar positions. The successful candidate will work under the direction of Dr Fernanda Duarte, Fellow in Organic Chemistry, and in collaboration with Drs Michael Laidlaw and Sarah Jenkinson, Stipendiary Lecturers in Inorganic and Organic Chemistry, respectively.

The College

Hertford College is heir to the traditions of two medieval Halls, Magdalen Hall (whose alumni include Thomas Hobbes and William Tyndale), and Hart Hall (whose alumni include John Donne and Jonathan Swift). The main site lies in the heart of Oxford, occupied from the later thirteenth century by Hart Hall and, from 1740 until 1816, by the first Hertford College; and then, from 1822, by Magdalen Hall which was refounded in 1874 as the second Hertford College. Academic offices are on the main site, as is accommodation for many students, complemented by further accommodation for both graduates and undergraduates at various other sites around Oxford.

The Fellowship, which has responsibility for the governance of the college, currently consists of just over forty Fellows, and the college is home to roughly 650 students, two-thirds of whom are undergraduates. Around thirty Lecturers supplement undergraduate teaching provision. Fellows, Lecturers and students are drawn from a range of disciplines across the Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. The college has a reputation for being both progressive and friendly. It was one of the first colleges to go mixed, and the ratio of female students to male remains comparatively high. It has championed access for students from schools that have not traditionally encouraged Oxford applications and has a strong academic ethos.
Hertford currently has 18 undergraduates reading for the four-year M.Chem. degree course. Details of this course may be found here: http://teaching.chem.ox.ac.uk/

College Duties

The successful candidate will be required to teach Physical Chemistry across the first three years of the MChem course. Topics covered in the course are thermodynamics, quantum mechanics, kinetics, electrochemistry, states of matter, atomic and molecular spectroscopy (including NMR), statistical mechanics, valence, solids, photochemistry, and soft condensed matter.

The appointee will be required:

(i) to undertake six hours of teaching in Physical Chemistry per week, averaged over the three terms;

(ii) to engage in:

(a) tutorial preparation;
(b) the setting and marking of written work;
(c) the setting, marking and returning of scripts for collections (internal college examinations);
(d) writing and submitting student reports;
(e) organizing and attending review meetings with students;
(f) liaison with other staff on teaching and pastoral matters, as appropriate.

(iii) to assist with the organisation of Chemistry teaching at Hertford College, share in pastoral responsibility for undergraduates reading Chemistry, and to encourage student engagement with their subject.

(iv) to share responsibility for the December 2019 round of undergraduate admissions for Chemistry.

Assessment Criteria

Candidates should have a good first degree and should have, or be close to completing, a doctorate in Physical Chemistry or a related discipline.

Experience of teaching undergraduates, preferably in small groups, would be an advantage, as would experience with Oxford undergraduate admissions. Although this is not a research appointment, the college considers research ability and teaching ability to be related, and so account will therefore be taken of candidates’ research record commensurate with the stage of their career.
Examples of evidence a candidate might wish to draw to the attention of the committee include the following:

(i) the ability or potential to be an effective teacher of Physical Chemistry to students of high ability within a tutorial system, along with the personal qualities needed to foster a high level of achievement in undergraduate students;

(ii) achievement or potential (commensurate with the applicant’s career) in a field of research relevant to the subjects being taught;

(iii) the ability to participate effectively in the administration and development of Chemistry in Hertford College.

Terms and Conditions

The appointment will be from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020.

The salary for the Lectureship will be in the range £13,513 to £15,198 per annum, depending on qualifications and experience, and will be pensionable with USS.

The Lecturer will have the following entitlements:

(i) associate membership of the College’s Senior Common Room (SCR);
(ii) free lunches while undertaking teaching duties in term time and during vacations; and
(iii) two dinners each week during term time (weeks 0–9) without cost.

Application and Appointment Procedure

Applications must include a CV detailing all relevant experience, a covering letter, a college application form (available from the college website) and the names and contact details of two referees. Candidates should state in their applications which topics in the Oxford Physical Chemistry syllabus they are able and/or willing to teach. Candidates wishing to take the role as a job share (50% workload; 3 hours) should also state this on their application.

Applications should be sent to Ms Julia Howe, Deputy Academic Administrator, Hertford College (academic.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk) by noon on Monday 29 April 2019.

Candidates should also arrange for their referees to write to the College by the same date. The College wishes to take this opportunity to thank in advance those referees who write on behalf of candidates.
It is anticipated that interviews will be held in the week commencing Monday 13 May 2019.

Potential candidates are welcome to contact Prof. Claire Vallance (claire.vallance@chem.ox.ac.uk) for further information.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to return the Recruitment Monitoring Form (available for download from the College website - https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/about/vacancies).

Candidates must be eligible to work in the UK, and the appointment will be subject to provision of proof of the right to work in the UK before employment commences. Regrettably, the College is not able to sponsor applicants for a Tier 2 visa for this post.

Any applicant who is already working in the UK under the terms of a visa should check carefully before they apply whether their visa gives them the right to undertake teaching work. (A Tier 2 visa which permits research employment without reference to teaching is unlikely to be satisfactory.)

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we have implemented a privacy notice which explains the types of data we will process about you as part of the application process. We also include within this notice the reasons for this, how long we keep your data for, and your rights regarding your data. This Privacy Notice can be found on our website at this address: https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/privacy.

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