

Job opening for Part-time Research Assistant

Job Type: Part-time Fixed Term

Research Assistant Salary range: £32K-£36K pro rata

Hours: 4hrs per week (0.1FTE)

Contract type: 3 months

Vacancy Reference: BCC 005

BCC is a training institution for Christian Ministry and Mission where men and women are modelled to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in the church, society, and the marketplace. Situated on the Selly Oak Campus of Birmingham University, BCC has former students serving all over the world. With roots in the Evangelical and Pentecostal/Charismatic movements, it welcomes students from all church, ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds. BCC has a missional approach to all aspects of Christian service and is investing a great deal of resources to train non-Western missionaries in Europe to partner with local churches to reach out to both the local and various diaspora communities. Drawing students from many countries around the world, we are one of the most internationally diverse theological colleges in the UK. Our mission is to develop tomorrow's global Christian Leaders.

This is an immensely exciting opportunity to join the Saltley Trust project team based in the Faculty of Applied Theology and Missions, Birmingham Christian College as a Research Assistant. The Faculty has received funding from The Saltley Trust as part of its two fold objectives: (1) to develop quality, theological educational resources on eco-theology in the form of an online booklet. This will be aimed at lay Christians, with a particular emphasis on the role of the Holy Spirit in eco-theology which will resonate with Pentecostal/Charismatic churches, and (2) trialling these resources through workshops with local churches in order to educate, equip and create connections between grassroots Christian communities. These workshops and the feedback of those who take part in them will help to shape and finalise the resources for wider distribution.

The collaborative project is led by Saltley Trust and involves experts at the College and partner organisations.

The post holder will work with Dr Grace Milton to explore the beliefs and teachings of Pentecostal/Charismatic Christians, and to gather information from local communities on their current experiences of eco-theology in their teaching, preaching and activities. This would be undertaken on half a day (4 hours) per week for a period of 3 months from the start of February until the start of May 2024.

Full details of the duties and selection criteria for this role can be found in the full job description below.

Under the guidance of the Academic Dean and the Director of Postgraduate studies, the successful post holder will work closely with Postdoctoral Research Associates, so an ability to work collaboratively within a team is essential. The successful post holder will be based in Birmingham but will expect to work remotely on prior arrangement with the line manager.

Fixed-term: The funds for this post are available until Friday 3rd May 2024 in the first instance with a possible extension.

Our goal is to foster and celebrate a diverse and inclusive workplace with a sense of belonging; we are committed to building a team that reflects a wide variety of skills, perspectives, and backgrounds.

This post would suit those who are passionate about Research into environmental stewardship.

For informal inquiries, please contact Dr Grace Milton at grace.milton@bccoll.uk

How to apply

Please provide a cover letter outlining why you are suitable for the role, referencing your skills and experience against the Job Description along with a current CV.

Please send your cover letter and CV to the Registrar, Mrs Briony Seymour briony.seymour@bccoll.uk

Closing Date: Monday 22nd January 2024 at 12 Midnight

Interviews: Week commencing 29th January 2024

Full Job Description

Job Title: Part-time Research Assistant (Fixed Term)

- Grade: Research Assistant
- Line Manager Title: Director of Postgraduate Studies

The main Job Purpose is to assist the project team in producing quality, theological educational resources on eco-theology by carrying out empirical studies, and the tasks to support such data collections, and are as follows:

1. Assist in conducting reviews of literature relevant to empirical studies in eco-theology topics
2. Assist in building databases of stimuli; collecting data in online, field such as Pentecostal and diaspora churches;
3. Performing data-entry tasks; contributing to statistical analyses of the data collected; contributing to writing up the research findings in journal articles;
4. Assist in organising and running an interdisciplinary workshop within the project life cycle;
5. Supervising final year undergraduate mini-projects related to the project, if needed;
6. Assist the Director of Postgraduate studies and the Academic Dean with administrative duties.
7. To undertake any training that is essential to completing the role.
8. To seek to implement the College's Health and Safety Policy and give due regard to the health and safety of themselves and others when carrying out duties.
9. Actively seek to implement the College's Equal Opportunities Policy and promote equality of opportunity in relation to the duties of the post.
10. To undertake any other duties that may reasonably be requested appropriate to the grade and responsibilities of the post.

Qualification & Experience

The successful post holder will need to hold an Undergraduate degree in any discipline (preferably applied theology) by the start date of the post. A Masters in research or doctorate degree is desirable. They should have a strong interest in Eco-theology, particularly environmental theological literacy, confidence and collaboration in local Christian communities.

The successful post holder will have previous experience in conducting online and field studies using highly controlled research designs, and paradigms typically used in environmental theology (though not essential). Both qualitative and quantitative skills, including an ability to process and analyse data, using SPSS and/or R, would be an advantage, or the post holder should have a willingness to acquire such skills, if needed. The successful post holder will need to be able to quickly acquire the ability to use stimulus presentation software such as PsychoPy, E-Prime, Qualtrics, and/or SurveyMonkey, if such expertise is not already present.

The successful post holder will need to have strong interpersonal and written skills, including the ability to work effectively and sensitively with researchers from different disciplines, stakeholders in the applied theology, and research participants. The successful post holder will need to have excellent organisation and time-management skills and be conscientious and detail-oriented.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Education		
Undergraduate Degree by the start date.	✓	
MPhil/MA		✓
Specialist knowledge & skills		
Ability to conduct field, and online experiments.	✓	
Ability to complete tasks associated with different kinds of experiments, such as stimulus development, preparation of experimental materials, data collection, and data entry.	✓	
Ability to use stimulus presentation software (e.g., PsychoPy, Presentation, Qualtrics, Survey Monkey), and engage with online data collection platforms (e.g., Prolific), and/or ability to carry out data analysis (using standard statistical packages, such as SPSS and/or R).	✓	
Ability to organise events effectively.	✓	
Knowledge of the Eco-theology, particularly environmental theological literacy, confidence and collaboration in local Christian communities.		✓
Interpersonal & communication skills		
Strong interpersonal skills, including leadership skills	✓	
Ability to work sensitively as part of an interdisciplinary team, and with research participants	✓	
Strong written communication, presentation and organisation skills, and an eye for detail.	✓	
Relevant experience		
Experience in designing and conducting field, and online experiments on Eco-theology, particularly environmental		✓

theological literacy, confidence and collaboration in local Christian communities.		
Experience in working with partners in Churches or theological sector.		✓
Experience of working as part of a team of interdisciplinary researchers, and of working effectively with undergraduate students.		✓

Terms of Appointment

Tenure and probation: Appointments will be made on a fixed-term basis until 3rd May 2024. Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a six-week probationary period.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern: The hours of work for the position are Part-time, 4 hours a week, flexible as agreed between Monday to Friday.

Annual leave: Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 28 days inclusive of public holidays. For new part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

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.

Equality and Diversity: We particularly encourage women and /or candidates from a White, Asian and Majority Ethnic background to apply for this vacancy as they are currently underrepresented at this level within our College.

Information if you have a disability: The College 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.