Job Description

Lecturer in Space and Planetary Science

Salary: Grade 7
Contract: Full time, fixed term (2 years)
School/Department: (School of Engineering, Mathematics and Physics
Location: Canterbury Campus
Responsible to: Head of School or their nominee

Job purpose

The School of Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics is seeking to appoint a Lecturer in Space and Planetary Science who can help us to deliver an excellent standard of education in our undergraduate programmes and contribute to our internationally recognised research and innovation portfolio. We offer a range of programmes across Physics, Astronomy and Space Science. Our teaching in these areas is research-led with significant amounts of practical laboratory-based work undertaken by our students.

The successful candidate will deliver teaching to achieve the highest standards of student experience in a variety of settings from small tutorial groups to large lectures. They will have responsibility for adapting and developing teaching materials, and for setting and marking assessments providing timely feedback to students in a way that helps them develop their knowledge and skills. As well as a background in Physics and Astronomy, and a broad knowledge of space and planetary science, we are looking to appoint a Lecturer with knowledge and specialism in at least one of the following areas:

- Spacecraft design and operations
- Space utilisation (past, present and future)
- Space exploration

The role is offered on an Education and Research (E&R) contract, appropriate for candidates with a research track record of contributing high-quality outputs in Space and Planetary Science.

Key accountabilities

- Deliver and contribute to the design of high quality, demand-driven and student-centred teaching in a variety of settings, including developing own teaching and learning support materials, methods and approaches to meet the learning objectives and requirements of the programme.
- Assess students' work, monitor progress and provide feedback and guidance.
- Undertake an independent research programme which contributes to the overall research strategy of the University of Kent.
- Disseminate research findings through various means including writing or contributing to internationally excellent papers in high-quality publications and presentations at conferences, furthering the research profile of the School and the external visibility and reputation of the University of Kent.
- Support grant application activity individually or working collaboratively with others to contribute to proposals.
- Collaborate with internal and external contacts, participate in networks and build external relationships to further develop research.
- Act as personal tutor and be responsible for the pastoral care of students within a specified area, provide first line support and refer to services providing further help as appropriate.

- Contribute fully to the School and University, participating in meetings, working groups, committees, and other activities, carrying out administration activities within a supportive and collegial work environment.
- Maintain academic standards and work in accordance with relevant University policies.

Internal & external relationships

Internal: Head of School, Director of Education, Director of Studies, Student Experience Lead, Admissions Officer, Programme and Module Leads, Technical Services and Professional Services staff, Students. The job holder will work with colleagues across the School and wider University as necessary.

External: Relevant external organisations such as collaborative research partners and funding bodies, and individuals such as applicants and their families.

Health, safety & wellbeing considerations

This job involves undertaking duties which include the following health, safety and wellbeing considerations:

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- Working with machinery (use of experimental apparatus)
- Pressure to meet important deadlines such as might be inherent in high profile projects

Person specification

The person specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Applications will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in an application, or cover letter (where applicable), which back-up any assertions made in relation to each criterion.

Essential Criteria:

- PhD in Physics, Astronomy, Space Science, Planetary Science, completed or submitted by interview date (or equivalent qualification/professional experience) (A)
- Broad knowledge of space and planetary science with specialism in spacecraft design and operations, space utilisation and/or space exploration (A,I,T)
- Experience of teaching Physics, Astronomy, Space Science or Planetary Science at higher education level (A)
- An emerging record of international excellence in research and experience of producing high-quality research outputs in Space and Planetary Science (A,I,T)
- Ability to deliver teaching to achieve the highest standards of student experience (I,T)
- Excellent interpersonal and presentation skills to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature and to be effective both orally and in writing at a level appropriate to the activity (I,T)
- Willingness to contribute fully, flexibly and cooperatively as part of the School team (I)
- Willingness to engage in continuous professional development activity (I)
- A firm commitment to fostering a working and learning environment that is respectful, inclusive and values diversity, including diversity of thought, and which enables staff and students from a wide range of backgrounds to thrive (I)

Desirable Criteria:

- A relevant teaching qualification such as a PGCHE (candidates without qualification will be supported to obtain one) (A)
- Experience preparing and delivering lectures in higher education (A,I)

- Experience in designing and supervising undergraduate and/or M.Sc. projects in Physics and Astronomy (A,I)
- Experience teaching Space and Planetary Science content in a HE setting (A,I)
- Evidence of contribution to research grant application activity (A)

Assessment stage: A - Application; I - Interview; T - Test/presentation at interview stage