

## Job Description

### Professor of Faith, Culture and the Arts (Michael Ramsey Chair)

<b>Salary:</b>	Professorial scale
<b>Contract:</b>	term (3 years) and part-time 0.2 FTE
<b>School/Department:</b>	Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries (iCCi)
<b>Location:</b>	Canterbury/Medway Campus
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Director of iCCi

### Job Purpose and Background

The University has an impressive history of supporting arts and culture in the region, in particular through the work of the Gulbenkian Arts Centre and more recently the Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries (iCCi). iCCi was set up as a catalyst for culture and creativity, enabling new ways of teaching and researching, and playing a key role in the region's innovative and fast-moving industries. The Institute is distinctive in design, outward-facing and working closely with industry, regional communities, and national bodies. Fully engaged in research, civic and business engagement, and skills development, it is home to the Medway Docking Station, Creative Estuary, extra-curricular music and the Gulbenkian Arts Centre, the latter a live lab for cultural and creative industries (CCI) research and innovation, with a national reputation for its work with children and young people.

iCCi is a unique entity within UK HE, bringing together various areas of activity in CCI in order to open up new funding streams and audiences and thereby bringing significant benefits for our institutional profile and reputation. It makes a substantial contribution to the University's public profile and provides regional cultural leadership. In order to supply sector advice and grow relationships for our research and education offer, it is embedded in the regional creative industries ecosystem of SMEs, publicly funded arts practice, Council Arts and Culture teams, Cultural Compacts and national bodies representing the industry such as Arts Council England and Creative UK.

iCCi builds on the University's strengths in design, media, digital arts, and human-computer interaction to equip students with the necessary skills to support the development of the CCI in the region, be at the forefront of building the talent pipeline, and develop research and innovation capacity in this field. iCCi brings together a diverse and exciting community of academics and students, embedding business, digital and arts and humanities innovation to equip students with essential skills, engage communities and help small creative businesses to thrive.

Canterbury Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the mother church of the Anglican Communion (80 million worldwide), with origins in the sixth century. It is a community that has celebrated the arts, including stewarding a world-class collection of glass, sculpture and architecture as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the twentieth century this included commissioning playwrights, poets, musicians and makers to produce contemporary responses to the Christian faith and story of the Cathedral which has local, national and international significance. The modern-day tradition develops that further, especially through educational opportunities, commissioning new work, hosting exhibitions, lectures and seminars seeking to innovate, including through technology and new media.

The new Cathedral Strategic Plan commits to enabling more music, art, drama and debate to flourish, including exploring the richness of diverse talents and the challenging issues we face, not least our legacy of contested history and seeking to embed good responses to climate change in these areas. This plan also looks to the creation of a new School of Hadrian and Theodore, which will reimagine the educational opportunities of the cathedral.

The Michael Ramsay Chair was originally established in 1991 in memory of Michael Ramsey (1904–1988), who was the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury (1961–1974) and previously Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge.

The Chair was created after his death in 1988 through a one-off endowment payment donated by the Church of England, Kent County Council, Canterbury Cathedral and the wider Anglican Communion. The choice of the University of Kent was significant in so far as it reflected a desire to build a link between the worldwide Anglican community, the Canterbury locality and a leading research-intensive University. In addition to an annual income from the endowment for the Chair to contribute to salary costs for the role-holder, the Chair is also able to request some financial support for their activities on an annual basis from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Charitable Foundation.

Since its establishment, the Chair has been held by two Professors, Robin Gill (1991–2010) and Gordon Lynch (2011–2024). The focus of the role has previously been on the interdisciplinary study of theology and religion, with a particular emphasis on contemporary issues of ethics and social justice.

Following Professor Lynch's departure from the University, a decision has been taken further to consolidate the focus of this role on public engagement work that has demonstrable cultural and social benefits. In line with the University's 2030 Strategy, the role will therefore be primarily concerned with work that fulfils the institution's ambition to deliver on its civic mission, regionally, nationally and internationally. In particular, this role will operate as a key point of contact between the University and Canterbury Cathedral in the development and delivery of major projects and programmes in culture and the arts. This reflects both the University's established strengths in this field, most recently through the work of its Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries, as well as future ambitions for the Cathedral.

The role-holder will be based in the Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries and will work closely with colleagues across the University, the Cathedral and other relevant external stakeholders for the delivery of their work. The role is offered on a fractional basis, although the fractional appointment may be increased by agreement dependent on further external funding secured by the role-holder.

## **Key accountabilities**

- Work with colleagues at the University and the Cathedral to develop and deliver projects and programmes in culture and the arts that will have demonstrable public benefits;
- Provide intellectual and professional leadership in exploring issues in the intersection between faith, spirituality, culture and the arts, in ways that deepen a creative and critical engagement with religious heritages and traditions, create inclusive opportunities for reflection, experience and practice for people from any faith tradition or none, and open up new ways of thinking and forms of practice in this field;
- Identify relevant external funders for agreed projects, lead on the development of funding applications for these and manage projects when funding is secured;
- Engage actively with the wider programme and work of the Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries to promote opportunities to engage with issues of faith, spirituality, culture and the arts, and work with colleagues across the University to stimulate engagement and collaborations in this field;
- Actively maintain and develop their existing profile and leadership in faith, spirituality, culture and the arts.

## **Health, safety & wellbeing considerations**

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

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- 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:

- An undergraduate or postgraduate qualification, or equivalent experience, relevant to arts, culture and the cultural and creative industries (A)
- An established track record of successful project and programme leadership in culture and the arts, gained either as a creative practitioner, institutional director or manager, consultant or other relevant role (A)
- A track record of successful capture of funding to develop and deliver projects in culture and the arts (A)
- Experience of working in multidisciplinary teams, and of working successfully with networks of organisations, stakeholders and publics (A,I)
- Experience of delivering projects and programmes with demonstrable public benefit (A,I)
- The ability to work effectively and collaboratively with colleagues across a wide range of settings, including across the University and the Cathedral (A,I)
- The ability to plan and deliver projects and programmes of activities successfully (A,I)
- The ability to develop high-quality proposals for projects for external funding and to manage these projects when funding is awarded (A,I)
- The ability to think creatively and constructively about the intersections between faith, spirituality, culture and the arts across a range of media and forms of practice (I)
- A clear commitment and ability to think about, and to undertake, their work in ways that promote inclusivity, well-being and social justice (I)
- The ability to work thoughtfully and creatively with religious heritages (I)
- The ability to provide wider public leadership in the field of faith, spirituality, culture and the arts (I)
- The ability to work constructively with the Cathedral to identify and deliver projects appropriate to the Cathedral's wider context and mission (I)
- Firm commitment to achieving the University's vision and values, with a passion for a transformative student experience and multidisciplinary, impactful research (I)
- Commitment to deliver and promote equality, diversity and inclusivity in the day to day work of the role (I)

### Desirable Criteria:

- An established public profile as either a creative practitioner or leader in faith, spirituality, culture and the arts (A)

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