



Job Description and Selection Criteria

Post	Sekyra and White’s Professorship in Moral Philosophy
Department/Faculty	Faculty of Philosophy
Division	Humanities Division
College	Corpus Christi College

Overview of the post

The Faculty of Philosophy and Corpus Christi College intend to appoint to the Sekyra and White’s Professorship of Moral Philosophy with effect from 1 October 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

This post is a statutory professorship, which is the most senior academic grade at Oxford. Earlier holders of the post include Bernard Williams, R. M. Hare, J. L. Austin and W. D. Ross. Statutory professors have a world-leading research reputation and exercise broad academic leadership across their faculty and college, and more widely in their subject at national and international level. Please see <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/academic-posts-at-oxford> for a description of the different types of academic posts at Oxford.

The Sekyra and White’s Professor will play a leading role in research and teaching in moral philosophy at Oxford. We are looking for a philosopher of the highest international standing, with an outstanding record of research and publication in moral philosophy (broadly construed, to include normative ethics, metaethics, moral psychology, the philosophy of action, the philosophy of value, and history of ethics). The Professor will have a breadth of interests within moral philosophy, and enthusiasm for engaging with those working in other areas of philosophy. They will have the ability to teach and inspire students at all levels, and the ability and readiness to undertake senior administrative roles. They will play a special role in graduate teaching within the Faculty. The Professor will have demonstrated academic leadership of the highest quality, and be ready to represent and promote the interests of moral philosophy in Oxford, and to generate interest in the subject within the academic community and beyond.

Oxford is one of the world’s great centres for philosophy, and the Faculty contains one of the world’s largest philosophical communities. Many members of the Faculty have active research interests in moral philosophy, and the well-known Moral Philosophy Seminar runs fortnightly during term time. Oxford hosts a number of major externally funded research centres in areas of moral philosophy, including the Institute for Ethics in AI and the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics. Moral philosophy forms a central and flourishing part of the Oxford Philosophy Faculty’s undergraduate and graduate programmes.

As part of its commitment to fostering world class research, the University offers a generous sabbatical leave policy, which allows one term to be taken as sabbatical for every six terms worked.

The Sekyra and White’s Professor will be a Professorial Fellow of Corpus Christi College, and will be provided with an office and dining rights in the College.



If you would like to discuss this post, please contact Professor Ursula Coope, Chair of the Philosophy Faculty Board (ursula.coope@philosophy.ox.ac.uk). All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence and will not form part of the selection decision. Candidates may also contact the Senior Tutor of the College, Dr Mark Wormald (mark.wormald@bioch.ox.ac.uk) specifically about the College aspects of the role.

Duties of the post

You will be a member of both the University and the College community. You will be part of a lively and intellectually stimulating research community which performs to the highest international levels in research and publication and will have access to the excellent research facilities which Oxford offers. You will have a role to play in the running of the College as a member of the Governing Body and a trustee of the College.

The main duties of the post are as follows:

Research:

- to undertake and publish research at an international level of excellence in moral philosophy (broadly construed, to include normative ethics, metaethics, moral psychology, the philosophy of action, the philosophy of value, and history of ethics).
- to be active in applying for research funding and other research awards.

Teaching (including graduate supervision):

- to give at least thirty-six hours of lectures or classes per year (across at least two of the three University terms), in one or more fields of moral philosophy to both undergraduate and graduate students; these will typically include lectures to undergraduates, classes for students on the Faculty's two-year masters course (the BPhil), and graduate seminars for more advanced graduate students;
- to supervise graduate students at both masters and doctoral level, on a broad range of topics within moral philosophy.

Academic leadership:

- to lead and encourage the research of other colleagues at all levels, and that of graduate students;
- to foster the intellectual community among faculty and graduate students in moral philosophy, by organising and participating in events that provide occasions for philosophical discussion; for example, by convening or co-convening the Faculty's Moral Philosophy Seminar, a series of invited talks on moral philosophy, held fortnightly during term.
- to promote the long-term development of moral philosophy at Oxford, and to encourage interest in the subject within the academic community and beyond.

Faculty Administration:

- to contribute appropriately to academic administration and leadership within the Faculty, which may include undertaking the role of Faculty Board Chair (i.e. head of department) if asked to do so, taking on other senior leadership roles such as the Director of Graduate Studies or Director of Research, and participating in fundraising or development initiatives.
- to take part, as requested, in the marking (i.e. grading) of examination scripts and submitted work, and to serve on University examination boards, when requested to do so.

College role:

- The Sekyra and White's Professor will be elected to a Professorial Fellowship at Corpus Christi College and will be a member of the Governing Body of the College; they will be expected to participate in the governance and administration of the College as a whole. All Fellows are Trustees of the College, which is a registered charity regulated by the Charity Commission. Further details of the role and responsibilities of a charity trustee are available upon request.

Faculty Board Chair

Every professor who is employed by the University has an obligation to accept headship of the department or faculty in which their post is held, if invited to do so by the divisional board.

Selection criteria

Your application will be judged only against the criteria which are set out below. You should ensure that your application shows clearly how your skills and experience meet these criteria.

The University is committed to fairness, consistency and transparency in selection decisions. Members of electoral boards (selection committees) will be aware of the principles of equality of opportunity, fair selection and the risks of bias.

If, for any reason, you have taken a career break or have had an atypical career and wish to disclose this in your application, the electoral board will take this into account, recognising that the quantity of your research may be reduced as a result.

You will demonstrate the following:

- An outstanding record of published research in moral philosophy (broadly construed, to include normative ethics, metaethics, moral psychology, the philosophy of action, the philosophy of value, and history of ethics), with plans for producing further substantial publications of the highest international quality.
- A record of obtaining external funding for research, or evidence of the potential to obtain such funding, and a demonstrated commitment to encouraging and assisting others in making such applications.
- The ambition and ability to take a leading role in major research projects.
- A record of successful graduate supervision and a commitment to graduate level teaching, underpinned by sufficiently wide interests to supervise graduate students on a broad range of areas within moral philosophy.
- Demonstrated leadership ability and a track record of mentoring research students and junior colleagues. Sufficiently broad interests within philosophy to be able to engage in a productive way with colleagues and research students working not only in moral philosophy but also in a range of other areas of the subject.
- Ability to lecture to undergraduate audiences in an interesting and engaging manner, and to foster a high level of achievement in graduate and undergraduate students.
- Strategic vision for the long-term development of moral philosophy at Oxford. Ability to communicate effectively, together with enthusiasm for promoting moral philosophy within the academic community and beyond. Interest in engaging with relevant questions of public policy.
- A commitment to taking on senior leadership and administrative roles within the Philosophy Faculty and the University. Evidence of the energy, strategic thinking and diplomatic skills needed to make a success of such roles.
- Ability and readiness to undertake the full range of duties associated with being a Trustee of Corpus Christi College.
- Professionalism as a colleague, and evidence of interest and effectiveness in fostering a positive, inclusive and productive environment in which to work and study.

How to apply

To apply, visit https://my.corehr.com/pls/uoxrecruit/erq_jobspec_details_form.jobspec?p_id=171478, then click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. Please refer to the "Terms of Use" in the left hand menu bar for information about privacy and data protection. Please provide details of three referees and indicate whether the University may contact them without seeking your permission. Referees should not write directly to the University, but may be contacted at any stage in the recruitment process if the electoral board requests your references.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement should explain how you meet the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in education or employment, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

The University and colleges welcome applications from candidates who have a disability or long-term health condition and is committed to providing long term support. The University's disability advisor can provide support to applicants with a disability, please see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support> for details. Please let us know if you need any adjustments to the recruitment process, including the provision of these documents in large print, audio or other formats. If we invite you for interviews, we will ask whether you require any particular arrangements at the interview. The University Access Guide gives details of physical access to University buildings <https://www.accessguide.ox.ac.uk/>.

Please upload all documents as **PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **12:00 UK time on Tuesday 7 May 2024**.

Please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk should you experience difficulties using the online application system. Further help and support is available from <https://hrsystems.admin.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support>. To return to the online application at any stage, please log back in and click the "My applications" button on the left hand side of the page.

You will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic emails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all emails.

All applications will be considered by the electoral board as soon as possible after the closing date. The electoral board is free to search for other candidates at this or any subsequent stage in its proceedings. You will be kept informed of the progress of your application at each stage, but in some cases there may be a delay while deliberations are ongoing. All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and will be asked to give a short presentation to the electoral board as part of the interview. The composition of the electoral board will be published in the University Gazette (<https://gazette.web.ox.ac.uk/>) when it is finalised.

The Faculty of Philosophy

The Oxford Philosophy Faculty has over 150 academic members, all of whom are undertaking teaching and/or research in Philosophy at Oxford. Of these, around 60 hold permanent posts within the Faculty or the colleges, and many distinguished philosophers hold posts elsewhere in the University. Oxford thus contains the largest group of philosophers in the UK, and one of the largest in the world. The Faculty has a vigorous research culture, and performed outstandingly in the most recent UK Research Excellence Framework, achieving the highest volume of world-leading (4* ranked) philosophy research of any unit in the country.

Each year, many distinguished philosophers from around the world visit Oxford to give lectures and seminars. There are over fourteen hundred students studying Philosophy at undergraduate level, always in

combination with at least one other subject, and around 150 graduate students, about half of whom are studying for the BPhil or the specialist MSt courses in Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Physics and Practical Ethics, and the rest for the DPhil. A list of current Faculty members and their research interests can be found on the Philosophy Faculty website at <http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/faculty-members>.

Further information about the Faculty can be found on its website at <http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk>.

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the following faculties: Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Philosophy; Theology and Religion; the Ruskin School of Art. The Division has over 500 members of academic staff, approximately 4,100 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), 1,000 postgraduate research students and 720 students on postgraduate taught courses.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Libraries, with their 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study. Our faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages. [The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities](#) (TORCH) is the Division's vehicle for promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, international networks, and public engagement with research, with a highly active programme of events, fellowships, and research networks. The current TORCH Director is Professor Christine Gerrard (Professor of English Literature).

The Humanities Division has embarked on a major building project on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, following the recent announcement of the £175 million gift to create the [Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities](#). The Schwarzman Centre will serve as a dynamic hub dedicated to the Humanities. The building will bring together seven Humanities faculties, the Humanities Divisional Office, a new library and significant cultural and public engagement spaces in a space designed to encourage experiential learning and bold experimentation through cross-disciplinary and collaborative study. The Schwarzman Centre's public and performance spaces will also host the new [Cultural Programme](#), working with outstanding artists, writers and thinkers from around the world to create and present world-class arts and culture in collaboration with university, local, national and international partners. The Faculty of Philosophy will move to the Schwarzman Centre upon the completion of the project.

For more information on the Humanities Division please visit: www.ox.ac.uk/divisions/humanities.html

Corpus Christi College

There are 39 self-governing and independent colleges at Oxford, giving both Fellows and students the benefits of belonging to a small, interdisciplinary community as well as to a large, internationally-renowned institution. The collegiate system fosters a strong sense of community, bringing together leading academics and students across subjects, and from different cultures and countries.

Corpus Christi College was founded in 1517. It occupies historic buildings and is situated in the centre of Oxford. The College is governed by its President, Professor Helen Moore, and a Governing Body of 37 Fellows. Philosophy is a strong and prominent subject in Corpus. Other fellows in the subject are: Professor Mark Wrathall, Tutor in Philosophy, Professor Marion Durand, Tutor in Ancient Philosophy, and Professor Mike Martin, Wilde Professor of Mental Philosophy. The College regularly hosts a number of postdoctoral and

research fellows in Philosophy. The College has a lively Philosophy Society. Corpus has a strong tradition in Philosophy and in Classics. As a result, the college's beautiful library is especially well stocked with books in these fields.

There are approximately 110 graduate students and 280 undergraduates studying across a wide variety of disciplines. Corpus accepts seven undergraduates each year to read PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics), the majority of whom take Philosophy beyond the first year of study. On average, the College accepts a further twelve undergraduates to read subjects involving Philosophy: nine a year for Classics, plus smaller numbers for Philosophy and Psychology and Mathematics and Philosophy. The College typically accepts three or four graduate students a year in Philosophy. Most of these start out by studying either for the BPhil or for the MSt in Ancient Philosophy; many then continue into the doctoral programme. The Sekyra and White's Professor is not expected to give any undergraduate teaching within College but is expected to act as a Graduate Adviser to graduate students in Philosophy or cognate subjects.

Further information about the College can be found on its website at <http://www.ccc.ox.ac.uk>.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford's departments and colleges aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

Oxford's self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows and a large number University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues. The current strategic plan can be found at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/strategic-plan-2018-23>.

Oxford's strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, Oxford aspires to build a truly inclusive community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding), and regularly creates spinout companies based on academic research generated within and owned by the University. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body who are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world's greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

University Benefits, Terms and Conditions

Standard duties

The Professor shall undertake research, lecture and give instruction in moral philosophy.

It is expected that professors will generally participate in the business and affairs of the relevant faculty or department.

Salary

Your salary will be determined after appropriate consultation. There is an annual 'cost-of-living' review. In addition you will be eligible for consideration, in regular reviews, for Professorial Merit Pay.

An additional pensionable allowance will be payable in respect of any period during which you are Head of Department/Faculty Board Chair. (Any allowance payable for a period of less than three years will not, however, be pensionable.)

Details of University policy in the following areas can be found at the links provided.

Salary

<https://hr.web.ox.ac.uk/academic-staff-pay>

Pension

<https://finance.web.ox.ac.uk/uss>

Sabbatical leave

<https://governance.web.ox.ac.uk/legislation/council-regulations-4-of-2004>

Outside commitments

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/holding-outside-appointments>.

Intellectual Property

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/council-regulations-7-of-2002>

Managing conflicts of interest

<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/integrity>

Membership of Congregation

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance>

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/statute-iv-congregation>

Family support

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/family-leave-for-academic-staff>

<https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care>

<https://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk>

Welcome for International Staff

<https://welcome.ox.ac.uk>

<https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk>

Relocation

<https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/relocation-scheme-arrangements#collapse1094916>

Promoting diversity

<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>

Other benefits and discounts for University employees

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/discounts>

Pre-employment screening

<https://jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>.

Length of appointment

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/academic-posts-at-oxford#collapse1532056>

Retirement

The University operates an employer justified retirement age for academic posts of 30 September immediately preceding the 70th birthday. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>

Data Privacy

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>

College Benefits

As a Professorial Fellow of Corpus Christi College, you will be entitled to the following benefits:

- Full membership of the Senior Common Room (for which a small subscription is payable)
- Free lunch and dinner in College whenever the kitchens are open (closed last two weeks in August)
- Hospitality authority for the entertainment of academic guests in College (£524p.a.)
- Membership of the College's private health care scheme at the Fellow's own expense
- Eligibility to submit bids of up to £7,000 to the College's Small Grant Research Fund