



**Research Associate (Post-Doctoral) x 2**

<b>Job Title:</b>	Research Associate
<b>Department:</b>	Department of Political Science/School of Public Policy
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 7
<b>Salary:</b>	£32,375- £39,132 per annum (inclusive of London Allowance)
<b>Post/ Hours per week (%FTE):</b>	2 Full-time posts / (at 36.5 hours per week)
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Professor Cécile Laborde, Principal Investigator

**Application process**

Applications for this position must be submitted online at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/vacancies/adverts/job-list.html>. Your application should include:

- a UCL application form;
- a cover letter which should outline your reasons for applying and explain why you think you are a strong candidate for the position
- an outline of your current research and research plans (1,000 words). This should ideally include a synopsis of your PhD thesis and a post-doctoral research proposal connected to one of the RAPT themes.
- details of two academic referees including names, contact details.

Please note that referees will only be contacted if you are shortlisted. Please indicate whether we can contact your referees without further permission from you

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 5pm, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2013**

It is anticipated that interviews will be held in April 2013.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Professor Cécile Laborde [c.laborde@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.laborde@ucl.ac.uk)

**UCL**

University College London (UCL) is a multi-faculty college of the University of London with a population of over 17,000 students, from more than 130 different countries. Degree programmes are provided in Arts and Humanities, Social and Historical Sciences, Architecture, Building, Environmental Design and Planning, Laws, Life Sciences and Clinical Sciences (including Medicine), Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Engineering Sciences. UCL is among the world's top universities, as reflected in performance in a range of rankings and tables. The Department of Political Science is recognised as a centre for excellence in the field, ranked 6th in the UK in the 2008 RAE.

The School of Public Policy was established in 1997 to provide the bridge between UCL's world-class research and the policy-making community in Britain and internationally. In 2005 its core staff and teaching programmes formed a newly created Department of Political Science within the School, and for all practical purposes the two entities are now identical. Britain's only department to specialise in graduate teaching and research, it offers a uniquely stimulating environment for the study of all fields of politics, including international relations, political theory, comparative government and public policy-making and administration.

It has established itself as one of the strongest research centres in legal and political theory in the UK, with 3 Professors (Richard Bellamy, Cécile Laborde and Albert Weale) and 3 Lecturers (Saladin Meckled-Garcia, Laura Valentini, and Emily McTernan) working in the area, as well as post-doctoral and teaching fellows (on average 1-2 a year in each category). They work closely with colleagues in the department of Laws and Philosophy. The Department runs a fortnightly external seminar in Political Theory in Term 1 and the Colloquium in Social and Legal Philosophy is convened by Prof. John Tasioulas (Laws) in Term 2. Laborde is also a member of an inter-departmental network on 'Negotiating Religion' which brings together UCL experts working on the subject of religion more broadly.

## **The Post**

The School of Public Policy, UCL wishes to appoint two full-time post-doctoral Research Associate to work with Professor Cécile Laborde on an ERC (European Research Council)-funded research project entitled 'Is Religion Special? Secularism and Religion in Contemporary Legal and Political Theory'. This 5-year-long project interrogates the special status of religion (ethics, epistemology and practices) in western political and legal theory, and assesses the normative implications of the contemporary shift towards 'post-secular' approaches for the relationship between politics and religion.

The successful candidates will be undertaking research duties in connection with the project; and pursue his/her own research in one of the following areas: (i) the intellectual history of religion and politics (ii) religion in legal theory (iii) secularism in political philosophy.

Please note that one post will be for 2 years and the other for 3 years. These full-time appointments are available from 1st September 2013.

## **Key Requirements**

The posts are intended for researchers who are in the early stages of their careers. Successful candidates are expected to be either graduate students in the latter stages of their research leading to a PhD Degree, or post-doctoral researchers who have recently been awarded their PhD Degree.

Successful candidates will have excellent academic records and the potential to continue their research at the highest level.

To be appointed as a post-doctoral Research Associate the successful candidates must hold (or be near completion of) a PhD in political philosophy, law, intellectual history or a related subject; have a broad knowledge of theories of religion and politics and a distinctive research project in this field; and experience of planning and conducting academic research independently. They must also possess excellent writing, communication and organisational skills.

Candidates who have not yet completed a PhD will be considered. Please note that appointment at Grade 7 is dependent upon having been awarded a PhD; if this is not the case, initial appointment will be at research assistant Grade 6 (salary £28,338 - £29,881 per annum) with payment at Grade 7 being backdated to the date of final submission of the PhD thesis.

The ERC-funded research programme RAPT (*Religion And Political Theory*) aims to offer a comprehensive re-assessment of the conception of religion which underpins contemporary legal and political theory. In western politics and law, religion has a special status. On the one hand, there is supposed to be a unique separation between the state and religion; on the other hand, the state gives special protection to religious beliefs and organizations *qua* religious. The religious neutrality of the state and respect for freedom of religion are the two salient features of the relationship between religion, law and politics. What is rarely recognised by political and legal theorists is that these features rely on a distinctive understanding of religion, born out of the particular trajectory of western secularisation. One upshot of long-standing, protracted struggles between religious and political authorities is that, in western society at least, religion is seen as importantly and relevantly distinct from other spheres of human and social life.

This project aims to re-assess the foundations of the special nature of religion in legal and political theory, by reference to the large and expanding body of multi-disciplinary 'post-secular' literature. This literature points both to the transformations and mutation of religion in contemporary societies and to fundamental ambiguities and contradictions within the secular project itself. While much existing literature tends to rely on a simple dichotomy ('secular' versus 'religious' or 'post-secular'), RAPT sees religion itself as the contested term in the debate between secularism and its critics. While the project, in line with the PI's expertise, is firmly rooted in political philosophy, it is also interdisciplinary and aims to draw on recent research on religion in the areas of intellectual history, law, sociology and anthropology.

The successful candidates will be undertaking research duties in connection with the project; and will pursue their own research in one of the following areas: (i) the intellectual history of politics and religion (ii) religion in law and legal theory (iii) secularism in political philosophy.

### **Key Responsibilities**

The post holders will be expected to undertake research duties in connection with the project as directed by Professor Laborde which include the following:

- a. Write a monograph (or a series of articles) in an area connected to RAPT
- b. Help with bibliographic collection and work on background literature reviews
- c. Co-write papers and reports for the project team
- d. Help organise an international conference at UCL
- e. Coordinate and help deliver dissemination activities
- f. Other tasks as required by the Principal Investigator.

***Job descriptions cannot be exhaustive and so the post holder may be required to undertake other duties which are in line with the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager.***

***As duties and responsibilities change and develop the job description may be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the post holder.***

## **Person Specification**

### **Essential**

- A PhD in political theory or a connected subject
- Good knowledge of the field of politics/law and religion
- Motivation and proven experience of working under own initiative
- Experience of organising and planning own work, and meeting deadlines
- Ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing
- Excellent academic writing skills
- Good organisational skills and a flexible approach to working as part of a team

### **Desirable**

- Experience in presenting papers at academic conferences
- Academic publications

### **Salary**

These full-time appointments are available from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2013. The salary for a PhD holder is Grade 7 of the UCL payscale at point 29 (£32,375 per annum including London Allowance).

Please note, appointment at Grade 7 is dependent upon having been awarded a PhD; if this is not the case, initial appointment will be at research assistant Grade 6 (salary £28,338 - £29,881 per annum) with payment at Grade 7 being backdated to the date of final submission of the PhD thesis.