Graduate Teaching Scholarships
Department of Philosophy

University of York

Closing date: 15th June 2018

Background

As part of its continuing development, the Department of Philosophy at the University of York wishes to maintain its team of Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) by offering two scholarships to support students taking a postgraduate research degree in the Department, providing teaching experience for those intending to pursue an academic career. The Department especially welcomes applications from suitably qualified women and persons from ethnic minorities.

The holders of these scholarships must be enrolled for a research degree in the Department of Philosophy. Alongside their own research they will teach and examine in the first-year undergraduate programme under the supervision of experienced academics, gaining useful and relevant experience in preparation for an academic career while also financially supporting their studies. There may be opportunities for advanced postgraduates to undertake further teaching in their research area.

Training in tutorial work is provided by the University, and practical support and mentoring is given by the Department—this includes an annual ‘away day’ at the start of the Autumn term for all its teaching assistants, which offers an opportunity to reflect on best practice and develop teaching and supervisory skills.

These scholarships are to support full-time research students at York. Any potential candidate who has not already applied to the Department’s research postgraduate programme must do so separately before the closing date for these scholarships. (See www.york.ac.uk/philosophy/postgraduates/.) Members of the Department have an unusually wide range of research interests. You can read more about our staff at http://www.york.ac.uk/philosophy/staff/.

Terms and Conditions

The successful candidate(s) will receive a scholarship starting at £7,500 p.a., paid quarterly, to support their studies at York, and a fee waiver at the home rate, currently worth £4,260 p.a. The candidate’s Continuation Fee going into their writing up period will also be paid by the Department (current value £315). The scholarships will start on 1 October 2018 and, subject to satisfactory performance as a teaching assistant and satisfactory academic progress, last for up to three years (but not beyond the thesis submission date, or at most the end of the September immediately following submission of a PhD thesis).

Successful candidates will be required to complete training in seminar teaching and marking (delivered by York’s Researcher Development Team) at the earliest opportunity, and to participate in the training offered within the department (this will include an away day in York in late September).

Job Description

Scholarship holders are expected to maintain satisfactory progress on their own research while undertaking the following duties:

• The GTA will teach on average 4-6 hours of seminars per week during term-time. This teaching will normally be delivered to first-year undergraduates.
• The GTA will be expected to teach on several first year modules. The current list of first year modules includes: Early Modern Philosophy, Ethics, Metaphysics, Ancient Philosophy, Reason & Argument (elementary logic and some philosophy of language) and Knowledge & Perception.
• The GTA will record student attendance and report unexcused absences to the student’s supervisor and the Director of the First Year Programme, in accordance with the Department’s policy.
• The GTA will keep an office hour during term-time to meet with students.
• The GTA will respond to e-mail and other queries from students or staff in an appropriate and timely fashion.
• The GTA will provide appropriate and timely feedback on work produced by students in his or her seminar and tutorial groups, in writing and in one-to-one tutorials.
• The GTA will mark the work produced by students in his or her groups in line with the Department’s mark scale by the specified deadlines, and assist in moderating marks.
• The GTA will attend confidential meetings to discuss and monitor the academic progress of individual students.
• The GTA will be expected to attend training and other meetings as reasonably required by the University and the Department.

Person Specification

Essential

• Enrolled full time for a research degree in the Philosophy Department at York
• Master’s or Bachelor’s degree with a substantial Philosophy element
• Able to lead a seminar group effectively, and give clear explanations of difficult material
• Able to maintain confidentiality
• Able to work independently with minimum supervision
• Knowledge of at least three areas covered by first year modules, and the willingness to develop knowledge of unfamiliar areas of philosophy
• Reliable, with good time-keeping
• Committed to teaching philosophy, and with the potential to succeed in an academic career

Desirable

• Previous experience of teaching
• Previous experience of assessment
• Knowledge of the areas covered by more than three first-year modules
• Research expertise in one or more areas covered by first-year modules

How to apply

To apply for a Teaching Scholarship, you should write (by e-mail) specifically indicating how you meet the person specification above and enclosing a curriculum vitae detailing your education and relevant experience to Dr David Worsley (Director of First Year Programme) at david.worsley@york.ac.uk, to arrive no later than Friday 15th June 2018. Please include ‘Graduate Teaching Scholarship’ in the subject heading of your email. Please ask two referees to write directly to Dr David Worsley as above before this date.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified of an interview date as soon as possible after the deadline; we expect to interview in the period from 9th to 13th July 2018 (subject to confirmation). Shortlisted candidates invited to interview will be asked to give a short teaching presentation in which they should explain a philosophical idea or a passage from a philosophical text which will be sent to them in advance. More details of this element of the interview will be sent to those shortlisted when they are notified of the date of their interview.