

It is important to note that this job description is a guide to the work you will initially be required to undertake. It may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances. It does not form part of your contract of employment.

Job description for the post of

Professor of Childhood Studies EHM0137-0512

Reporting to: Head of Department of Social Sciences

Accountable to: Dean of Faculty of Arts & Sciences

Background

The University is seeking to appoint to a Chair in Childhood Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Set on the outskirts of a pleasant market town, with easy access to the nearby cities of Liverpool and Manchester, Edge Hill is one of Britain's fastest growing universities in which teaching and research are equally valued. The student population is around 25,000. Edge Hill was ranked within the top 20 of the Sunday Times' 75 best companies to work for in the public sector. The University has embarked on a long term plan to review and invest in its research base.

The Faculty of Arts & Sciences is the largest in the University with a developing postgraduate portfolio and buoyant applications to its diverse portfolio that includes Biology, Business Studies, Creative Writing, Sport & Exercise Science, English, Environmental Science, Geography, History, IT, Law, Media, Performing Arts, Psychology, Sociology, Childhood and Youth, and Sports Studies.

Candidates for Chairs are expected to have strong research and teaching profiles, a successful track record in research income generation, experience of supervising doctoral students and an ability to contribute to the research mentoring of staff as appropriate across the Faculty. Experience of conducting doctoral vivas and of the external examining of research students is also required.

Professorships are an important part of the University's research and knowledge exchange strategies. Professors are expected to provide leadership within these areas within its departments and across the wider Faculty and University. This broad leadership role will be an essential part of the postholder's activity and it is expected that they will work with colleagues across the University, including those holding Personal Chairs and Readerships, to ensure that Edge Hill delivers its commitment, contained within the Mission Statement, 'to the advancement, dissemination and application of knowledge'.

Professors are expected to provide research mentoring to early career researchers and other staff who request mentoring, with the approval of their line manager, through the appraisal process and to have a full role in the development of the research mentoring process within the Faculty and the wider university. They will have responsibility for developing research income including advising and mentoring staff making applications for external funding.

In addition to providing active support for colleagues in the development of their own research profiles, Professors are expected to contribute to teaching in their specialist area, make a strong contribution to the development and delivery of taught course provision and undertake doctoral supervision.

The post will require an individual with the ability to integrate research and teaching, and with demonstrable experience of close collaborative working with other academics and professionals, evidenced through direct work experience or joint working on funded research and/or knowledge exchange projects. Experience of contributing actively to the further development of their discipline through professional networks will be important.

This post offers an opportunity to lead the development of research and knowledge transfer in a key area within the Faculty's portfolio. Located within the Department of Social Science the appointee will join a team of staff with research strengths in a range of areas, including the law and policy for young children and families; social and developmental psychology; childhood education and care; diversity and equality; safeguarding young children and young people; International perspectives on children and families; youth culture.

The Department of Social Sciences currently comprises 14 full-time staff. All members of the department are committed to the delivery of a high quality teaching and learning experience for our students underpinned by staff research and scholarship, and in supporting students preparedness for a variety of careers. The Social Sciences portfolio of courses offers a choice of well-established, innovative, attractive and vocationally relevant undergraduate and postgraduate degrees including BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies, BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies, BA (Hons) Sociology, a number of Joint honours programmes, and an MA in Youth and Community Work. A new MA in International Childhood Studies is also planned. There are currently over 450 students on undergraduate programmes. The Social Sciences also have a number of doctoral research students.

The Social Sciences team plans to make a strong submission to the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework exercise in 2014.

You will have an established track record of publications in Childhood Studies, and a national and international reputation for research in the field. This post offers you the opportunity to join our lively department with an international outlook and recognised strengths in teaching and developing strengths in research. You will be expected to make a major contribution to developing the research profile of the department and in supporting a group of talented social scientists in developing their research and other aspects of academic performance. You will have excellent

teaching and student support skills and a commitment to developing the Childhood Studies undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum.

Candidates will complete the standard Edge Hill application form and provide a full letter of application and academic curriculum vitae. They will also produce a vision statement for research related to the area of Childhood Studies at Edge Hill University.

In formulating their letter of application, candidates should provide appropriate evidence in the areas of research leadership and professional standing. Particular account will be taken of recent evidence of outstanding achievement. Edge Hill will expect a successful candidate to maintain a high level of achievement in the future, and applicants are asked to indicate in their application the ways in which they place the development of their academic and professional work in the broader institutional context.

Applicants are required to supply names and contact details of two referees who are external to Edge Hill who have a high reputation in the field and who will supply statements to assist with the shortlisting process.

Research

1. Undertake individual and collaborative research of the highest quality, consistent with the Department's objective of developing its national and international research profile.
2. Publish research and disseminate the results of research and scholarship in peer-reviewed journals or other appropriate outlets of recognised international quality.
3. Secure external sources of funding to support research, either individually or in partnership with colleagues within and outside the University, that will result in outputs of international excellence.
4. Advance their position in research and scholarship, evidenced by publications and other appropriate forms of public output
5. Contribute to the support, and when appropriate lead, a group of talented criminologists in their research performance.
6. Contribute fully to the research plans developed in the Department, including providing such information as may be required to monitor the progress of each member of the Childhood Studies team's research programme.
7. Consistent with the research resources available and with other obligations, to attend and present research findings and papers at academic and professional conferences and to contribute to the external visibility of the Department.
8. Ensure that all research activities undertaken are in compliance with the University's Research Ethics Code of Conduct.

Teaching

1. Design and be responsible for, the contents and specific areas of teaching and learning within the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
2. Work with colleagues in the continuous review and development of the curriculum, and in the design and validation of new degrees or other academic awards where appropriate.
3. Teach and support learning on appropriate modules as required by teaching obligations.
4. Act as personal tutor to undergraduate and postgraduate students and research students.
5. Ensure that student feedback on teaching is responded to constructively and in a timely manner.
6. Maintain a broad knowledge of up-to-date research and scholarship in relevant fields to ensure that teaching meets the highest standards.
7. Undertake academic duties required to sustain the delivery of high quality teaching.
8. Support and comply with the University's and Department's teaching quality assurance standards and procedures.

Administration

1. Undertake such specific roles and management functions within the Department as may be required by the Head of Department or such other person to whom responsibility may have been delegated.
2. Attend Departmental meetings and participate in other committees and working groups within the Department, the Faculty, and in the wider University to which the post holder is elected or appointed.
3. Participate in relevant professional activities.
4. Develop and manage resources in support of major research and teaching activities.
5. Ensure compliance with health and safety requirements in all aspects of work.
6. Engage in continuous professional development, for example through participation in relevant staff development programmes.

Corporate responsibilities

The post-holder will:

1. Participate in Edge Hill University's decision-making process
2. Contribute to and serve as appropriate on internal committees, working and advisory groups
3. Contribute to the fulfilment of Edge Hill University's Mission Statement, Research Vision 2015, and Strategic Plan by implementing agreed Edge Hill Policy
4. Encourage and promote the generation of income including the provision of research and consultancy
5. Promote and implement the University's equal opportunities policies.

In addition to the above all Edge Hill University staff are required to:

- a) Adhere to all Edge Hill's policies and procedures, including Equality and Diversity and Health and Safety
- b) Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons
- c) Undertake appropriate training and development as required
- d) Participate in Edge Hill's Performance Review and Development Scheme
- e) Adhere to Edge Hill University's environmental policy and guidelines and undertake tasks in a sustainable manner

Salary: Negotiable

Hours: Full Time

Candidates should note that they will be shortlisted based on information provided on the application form with regard to the applicant's ability to meet the criteria outlined in the Person Specification form attached.

Completed application forms to be sent via www.edgehill.ac.uk/jobs or returned to Human Resources, Edge Hill, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 4QP, **to arrive no later than 20 June 2012.**

PERSON SPECIFICATION

**Professor of Childhood Studies
EHM0137-0512**

CRITERIA

Applicants should be able to provide evidence of their ability to meet the following criteria.

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
1 Excellent undergraduate and postgraduate degree in Social Sciences or related discipline, preferably a doctorate	*	
2 An established national or international reputation as a scholar in the areas of Childhood and/or Youth Studies	*	
3 Evidence of high levels of understanding of knowledge transfer agendas and their relevance to the applicant's work	*	
4 Demonstrated ability to publish at attainable levels of international excellence	*	
5 Demonstrated ability to generate external funding to support research projects	*	
6 Demonstrated ability to provide academic leadership in research	*	
7 Engagement in academic and professional networks through active membership of associations, societies and professional bodies etc., preferably at an executive level	*	
8 Demonstrated ability to attract and supervise research students to successful completion of doctoral degrees	*	
9 Demonstrated ability to teach at undergraduate and postgraduate levels	*	
10 Evidence of a commitment to excellence in teaching	*	

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| 11 | Demonstrated ability to provide academic leadership in teaching | * | |
| 12 | Existing Professorship | | * |
| 13 | Demonstrated ability to initiate new and innovative developments in the curriculum | | * |
| 14 | Willingness to work with others | * | |
| 15 | Excellent verbal and written communication skills | * | |
| 16 | Good interpersonal skills | * | |
| 17 | Evidence of competence and experience in administrative duties | * | |
| 18 | Good ICT competency | * | |
| 19 | Contribution to the wider furtherance of the discipline as evidenced by esteem and/or impact factors | * | |
| 20 | Ability to contribute to the assurance of academic quality and standards | * | |
| 21 | Evidence of the ability to undertake strategic planning | * | |
| 22 | Experience of line management | * | |
| 23 | Ability to work effectively with proactivity and creativity | * | |
| 24 | Ability to support research activities by setting and monitoring objectives | * | |
| 25 | Ability to reflect on own skills and knowledge, and to seek opportunities for professional and personal development | * | |

26 Willingness to participate in the Performance
Review & Development Scheme

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