



Regent's Park College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## **The H.M. King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan Fellowship for the Study of Love in Religion**

### **1. Overview of the post**

Regent's Park College, a Permanent Private Hall within the University of Oxford, welcomes applications for the H.M. King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of Jordan Fellowship for the Study of Love in Religion. The post will include responsibilities for both research and teaching. The Fellowship may be held by a scholar in any area of Christian theology or Islamic Studies which involves the study of love, and will alternate between a Christian and Islamic appointee. Following this pattern of alternation, on this occasion the College seeks to appoint a Christian Scholar, for a period of five years from September 2027. Since the post-holder will be engaged in inter-faith relations and ministerial formation, applicants must have an active commitment to their faith tradition.

### **2. About Regent's Park College**

The University of Oxford comprises 38 Colleges and 4 Permanent Private Halls collectively associated with the University's academic departments and central offices. Regent's Park College is the largest of the Permanent Private Halls, with approximately 230 students comprised of around 130 undergraduate students, predominantly full-time, and 100 postgraduate students, studying on a mix of full- and part-time programmes. The College's students study courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences. It admits undergraduates to study for the BA in: Theology and Religion; Philosophy & Theology; Religion & Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; History; History & Economics; History & English; History & Politics; Human Sciences; English Language and Literature; Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE); Geography; and Law. The post-graduate students work in a wider range of disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences and are enrolled on 1, 2 or 3 year programmes

As a Christian foundation and a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, a core aspect of Regent's Park College's mission is the formation of candidates for Baptist ministry in the United Kingdom and internationally. The College typically has around 35 students enrolled on ministry-related courses. In addition, the College hosts around 15 visiting students each year, who attend for between one and three terms as part of their home degree programmes. The College is supported by approximately 80 staff members who provide academic, administrative, and library services.

The College occupies an historic site in Oxford on the corner of St. Giles and Pusey Street, an advantageously central location between the Ashmolean Museum and the University's Radcliffe Observatory Quarter where the new Schwarzman Humanities Building is located. Regent's Park College is committed to academic excellence and has a reputation as a friendly and supportive community.

Regent's Park College is a Christian foundation in the University of Oxford, which focuses on achieving excellence in undergraduate and graduate studies, ministerial formation and academic research. Our mission is to create an exceptional community of learning and research made up of individuals from a broad range of backgrounds and life experience. The College is concerned to make connections between religious faith and the context of our modern world, opening up the boundaries between theology and other academic disciplines and exploring the relation between religion and culture. One of the ways in which this aim is focused is in the research activities and public programmes of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture (OCRC) which is an integral part of the College.

### **3. Conditions of the Post**

The 'H.M. King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan Fellowship for the Study of Love in Religion' is to be held for a limited period of five (5) years. The preferred start date is 1 September 2027. As a condition of the endowment, tenure of the Fellowship alternates between Christian scholars and Muslim scholars who satisfy the qualifications of the post as outlined in the Person Specification. Persons who have been appointed to the post will be eligible for re-application to the post, but only at the period appropriate for that tradition in rotation. The post is situated at present within a wider Project for the Study of Love in Religion at Regent's Park College, a research programme of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture.

The current holder of the Fellowship is a Muslim scholar and so on this occasion the College will appoint a Christian scholar. The College is offering this post as a career development fellowship, open to individuals at all career stages who would value the opportunity for professional growth.

#### **Person specification**

##### **A. Essential:**

1. Hold a degree at doctoral level in either Islamic Studies or Islamic Sciences, or in Christian Theology;
2. Have an established record in published scholarly research commensurate with the stage of their career, suitable to be considered as potentially eligible for inclusion in any research excellence exercise in which the University of Oxford engages;
3. Have a commitment to the religious tradition to which they belong, and be an active participant in their worshipping community;\*
4. Have an appropriate familiarity with the Scriptures of their religious tradition.\*
5. Be willing to contribute sympathetically to an inter-faith environment and to the development of inter-faith conversation, in the first place between Muslims and Christians but also including other world-religions;
6. Be in sympathy with the ethos and aims of Regent's Park College, Oxford, as expressed in its Statutes;
7. Have skills in listening to others and making inter-personal relations;
8. Be able both to take individual initiatives and to work as part of a team;
9. Be fluent in the English language.

## **B. Desirable**

10. Have completed research in an area of Islamic or Christian or Inter-Religious Studies appropriate to the post;
11. Have demonstrated skills in teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level;
12. Have a sufficient research record and academic reputation to be eligible to supervise postgraduate students on behalf of the University's Faculty of Theology and Religion should the opportunity arise;
13. Have an established record in engaging in inter-faith relations;

\* These particular requirements form an Occupational Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 (Part 16, Schedule 9, Part 1) arising from the need to fulfil the academic duties of the post, which include engagement in Christian-Muslim dialogue and assistance with a vocational programme for the formation of Christian ministers.

## **4. Duties and responsibilities**

1. The Fellow will engage in research and writing within their field, especially related to the study of love in religion. Although their specialization might be in the study (for example) of Holy Scripture, or in doctrine, historical theology, philosophical theology, sociology of religion, inter-faith studies or the history of religion, they will be expected to pursue the subject of 'love in religion' within that context.
2. The Fellow will be active in raising the profile of the subject of love in religion within the University and in an inter-university context. For example, they will offer lectures and /or seminars to the Faculty of Theology and Religion of the University at least once during their tenure on the subject of love in religion. The postholder may also aim to establish a taught course in the Study of Love in Religion as part of an undergraduate and/or postgraduate degree in Oxford, although it is understood that the achievement of this aim cannot be a condition of the post.
3. The Fellows may choose to nominate the postholder to be an Associate Member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion (or other relevant Faculty, depending upon their academic discipline) of the University.
4. The Fellow will take on teaching responsibilities for students of the college in their own discipline which will be the equivalent of six weighted tutorial hours per week averaged over the year. Most of the teaching will be for students on BA courses and take the form of tutorials and small seminars. There may also be a need to teach visiting students from time to time.
5. The Fellow may be asked by the Faculty of Theology and Religion to supervise master's students or jointly supervise doctoral students within their field of specialization. This would be remunerated separately by the University. The areas of research supervised will not necessarily bear directly on the subject of love in religion, but it is expected that through lecturing and publication the Fellow may attract postgraduate students who do wish to work in this area.
6. The Fellow will participate in the College programme for the formation of candidates for the ordained Baptist ministry. In this engagement with the programme, the postholder will contribute from their professional expertise.

7. The Fellow will be involved in the Project for the Study of Love in Religion in the College, responding to reasonable requests by the Director of the Project for assistance in events and research programmes. This will include participation in seminars and conferences, and contribution to published volumes of the Project. Any issues that arise over time spent in this activity will be resolved by the Principal.
8. The Fellow will encourage study in the subject of love in religion among the wider public, beyond the University, for example through accepting invitations to events organised by churches, mosques or other religious bodies, through taking up opportunities to broadcast or write in the media, and by offering occasional lectures within the *Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture* within College, and at other colleges and universities throughout the world.
9. The Fellow will be active in inter-faith relations, taking up opportunities to engage in inter-religious dialogue, and especially cooperating with the various centres for the study of religion in Oxford, viz. Centres for Christian Studies, Jewish Studies, Hindu Studies, Islamic Studies and Buddhist Studies.
10. The Fellow may be asked, from time to time, to share in or organise conference programmes run by the College during the vacations, and to participate in teaching partnerships overseas.
11. The Fellow reports to the Principal, to whom they are responsible for day-to-day work in College. They are finally accountable to the Governing Body of the College.
12. The Fellow will be expected to discuss the progress of their work in occasional meetings with the Director for Research and the Director for the Project for the Study of Love in Religion.

## **5. Terms of Appointment**

In general, the terms of appointment are shaped by the particular nature of the College and its 'mission', as explained in the first section.

1. This is a fixed-term full-time appointment for five years.
2. The appointment has a probationary period of six months.
3. The salary for this post is £43, 482. The particular nature of the College is reflected in the fact that there is no graduated salary scale, but the salary is reviewed annually for cost of living increase.
4. The College will pay the required percentage of the Fellow's salary into the Universities Superannuation Scheme.
5. The Fellow will be provided with a shared office furnished with appropriate equipment on or near the main College site which will be considered their normal place of work.
6. The Fellow will have the right to dine in College when meals are available to staff, up to five lunches and five dinners per week. The Fellow will be a member of the Senior Common Room
7. The holiday entitlement is 30 days plus 8 bank holidays a year. Holiday is not normally permitted during term time.

8. All members of staff are expected to meet at least once every two years with their line manager for a performance and development review. This is an opportunity to discuss their role and professional development.

## **6. Application procedure**

Persons considering applying who would like an informal conversation about the focus of their research should in the first instance contact Professor Paul Fiddes at [paul.fiddes@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:paul.fiddes@regents.ox.ac.uk) or for questions about the wider role contact Dr Helen Cameron at [helen.cameorn@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:helen.cameorn@regents.ox.ac.uk)

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 26 May 2026 (9am)** and interviews for short-listed candidates will take place on **Tuesday 30 June 2026**.

Applicants are required to send:

- (i) A full *curriculum vitae*;
- (ii) A letter explaining why they think they are suitable to hold the post;
- (iii) A proposal for one or more research projects in the area of love in religion and the academic outputs that might result;
- (iv) Subjects they would be able to offer in undergraduate and taught post-graduate courses.
- (v) The names and contact details of three referees. Candidates invited for interview will be asked to ensure their letters of reference reach the college by 22 June.

Applications should be addressed to the Principal and submitted in one file by email to Human Resources [human.resources@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:human.resources@regents.ox.ac.uk). Applicants will be asked to complete an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form which will be sent to them upon application.

The preferred starting date for the post will be **1 September 2027**.

## **7. Selection Process**

Applications for this post will be considered by a selection committee including representation from the College Fellows, the College Governing Body and the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

The interview process will include making a presentation, information to be provided, and the opportunity for an informal conversation with the Director of the Love in Religion Project, Professor Paul Fiddes.

The selection panel is responsible for conducting all aspects of the recruitment and selection process, and will be authorised by the College's Governing Body to make the appointment. No offer of appointment will be valid until and unless a formal contractual offer has been made.

The offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide proof of your right to work in the UK and proof of your identity. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can inform us of any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make reasonable adjustments.

## **8. Equal Opportunities Statement**

Regent's Park College is committed to equal opportunity and to being an inclusive institution where everyone belongs and is supported to succeed. We recognise how the diversity of our community enriches our ability to deliver on our academic mission. We welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds, including those under-represented within higher education. No applicant or member of staff shall be unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. Recruitment, progression within employment and retention will be determined according to personal merit and the duties and requirements of the post. In all cases, the primary consideration will be the ability to perform the job. Our commitment to equality goes hand in hand with our commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech.

## **9. Eligibility to work in the UK**

All successful candidates will be required to provide evidence of their [right to work in the UK](#) in accordance with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. We are open to providing visa sponsorship for the right candidate, subject to meeting eligibility requirements.

## **10. Additional note: The College and the University**

The College is committed to enabling all students who so desire to make connections between faith and their academic interests, and also adheres to the University's academic values of free, critical, and open academic enquiry. The College's academic and its student body reflects the diversity of the University community. The nature of the College means that it is interested in developing an inter-disciplinary approaches to academic study, including theology. The statutes of the College state that: 'All persons to be appointed to Official Fellowships or Research Fellowships in academic disciplines other than theology must be able to demonstrate an interest in exploring the relationship between their subject and Christian theology and ethics, a commitment to engaging in some academic research into aspects of that relationship, and a willingness to work on inter-disciplinary projects with the Tutors in theology.'