



Parks College

University of Oxford

Official Fellowships at Parks College

Further particulars for Strategic posts in:

- (1) Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- (2) Environmental Sustainability
- (3) Public Engagement with Research

Introduction

Parks College is Oxford's newest college and this is an unprecedented opportunity to become one of its inaugural Official Fellows and a member of its Governing Body, playing a key role as the College develops its policies and culture ahead of admitting its first 100 graduate students in October 2021.

The vision

An Oxford college is by definition a multi-disciplinary community. The foundation of Parks College offers an exciting opportunity to build a vibrant new centre of academic research and wider interaction, focused on exploring some of the most important questions of the 21st century.

Parks College will provide an environment that stimulates and facilitates interdisciplinary research, while emphasising the qualities of innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship. It will support a community of scholars who embrace opportunities to interact with researchers beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines and to engage with colleagues beyond the realm of academia. The goal is to create a working environment for the active promotion of entrepreneurial thinking, collaborative working and interdisciplinary exchange.

All Fellows will be expected to subscribe proactively to the college ethos and to commit to developing both its intellectual and outreach activities. The College Fellows will together foster a culture of interdisciplinary exchange by organising regular college events that catalyse them, such as seminars, workshops and reading groups.

Official Fellowships in Innovation & Entrepreneurship

The College's Official Fellows in Innovation & Entrepreneurship will lead on developing those skills amongst the graduate students of Parks College. Postholders will either be University academics with research interests in innovation and/or entrepreneurship, or a University knowledge transfer professional, with experience of translating innovations into commercial, non-governmental or policy settings. In either case, postholders will have a passion for helping Parks College students fulfil their entrepreneurial aspirations, either directly or by connecting them with relevant networks within and outside the University.

Official Fellow in Environmental Sustainability

The Official Fellow in Environmental Sustainability will be responsible for leading on the development and delivery of an environmental sustainability strategy for Parks College, working closely with the Environmental Change theme leader and the wider college community. They will also work with colleagues within the University and other Colleges to define and implement best practice in environmental sustainability, ensuring that Parks College is a leader and innovator in this area within the University. They will also engage actively with Parks College's public outreach on this topic.

Official Fellowship in Public Engagement with Research

Public Engagement with Research (PER) is an integral, embedded part of the vision of Parks College. Effective public engagement means that the College (and the University) will be more positively seen by important stakeholders in the city of Oxford and beyond. The Official Fellow will help the development of graduate students and Research Fellows (post-docs) by nurturing a public engagement mind-set as well as giving them highly transferable skills, knowledge and practical experience. The postholder will be a senior member of the University's academic-related staff with an excellent track record of developing public engagement activities. They will foster the PER culture within Parks College by organising and participating in public engagement events, and will be passionate about training graduate students and Research Fellows so that they can take part in these events.

Person specification

All applicants must have a strong commitment to the values of the College.

As active and engaged members of the Governing Body, postholders will develop strategies and policies as the College is established, and begins to thrive. They will also be involved in the recruitment of the College's Research Fellows (post-docs) and graduate students (200 p.a. in a steady-state), and participate in the outreach, engagement and social activities which will help to build a thriving college community. From October 2021 all Fellows will act as adviser to a number of Parks College graduate students.

Benefits

Successful candidates will be elected to a Fellowship on a five-year renewable basis, with a mid-term review, and with renewal dependent on satisfactory performance in college duties. The contract will be coterminous with University employment.

Postholders will receive an annual allowance from 1st October 2020, as well as luncheon and dining rights from October 2021 (exact terms *tbc*). The allowance is likely to be in the region of £3k p.a. and can be paid either directly (and thus will be taxable), or as a research allowance (to support, for example, conferences, events, or research costs).

Eligibility

This is not an employment position and to be eligible applicants must be currently employed by the University in an RSIV, Grade 10, 9 or 8 post.

Candidates with University contracts of less than five years are welcome to apply, with College election then coterminous with that shorter contract. The Selection Committee will however have regard for continuity in the college fellowship, and particular for provision for its graduate students from October 2021. University postholders who do not hold a contract for beyond October 2021 are thus unlikely to be elected.

Those who already have a Governing Body Fellowship with another college or society will not be eligible.

Selection criteria

In the early days of the college, when the Fellowship is small and the College's policies and procedures are being established, all Fellows may be required to turn their hand to a variety of tasks. This will require a degree of flexibility and problem solving not normally associated with a college fellowship.

In its steady state, the following are the requirements of the fellowship:

- commitment to the vision and approach of Parks College
- enthusiasm for working with colleagues from other Departments and Divisions, including the Gardens, Libraries and Museums, as well as researchers from centres of excellence outside the University, in the setting up and delivery of interdisciplinary activities within the college (for example seminar series, workshops and reading groups)
- willingness and capacity to act as the college advisor for Parks College graduate students
- ability to work effectively as part of a small, collaborative team, to influence and to build consensus
- strong communication skills, both written and oral
- ability to build relationships at all levels, to network effectively and to inspire confidence in students and colleagues
- as appropriate, a commitment to outreach, knowledge exchange, public engagement, and promoting innovation.

In selecting the fellows the Committees will have regard for promoting a diversity of perspectives and approaches, and candidates will thus be assessed in relation both to the stated person specification, and the College's need for intellectual diversity.

Applications

To apply, please send a (maximum) 10-page CV to the Senior Tutor, Dr Caroline Mawson (senior.tutor@parkscollege.ox.ac.uk) by noon on Tuesday 28th January, clearly specifying the post for which you are applying. This CV, attached as a pdf, should include any publications list (or selection thereof), and a supporting statement (a) specifying your relevant skills and experience and explaining how you meet the selection criteria for the post; and (b) describing how you would be able to contribute to the college:

Please include contact details for two referees, one of whom should be your current Head of Department or equivalent. Referees will be contacted for shortlisted candidates only – please confirm if you consent for them to be contacted at that time. Applicants are also asked to complete an [equality form](#) for monitoring purposes only; these forms will not be viewed by members of the Selection Committees.

If you have any questions about your eligibility, please contact the Parks College President, Professor Lionel Tarassenko CBE FEng FMedSci (president@parkscollege.ox.ac.uk).

Parks College will be a diverse and inclusive community and encourages applications from candidates of all backgrounds.

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