



Teaching Fellow in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies (Fixed Term – 6 months, 0.5 fte)

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION Duties and Terms & Conditions of Employment

1. PREAMBLE

Mary Immaculate College is an autonomous, university-level, Catholic College of Education and the Liberal Arts. Founded in 1898, and linked academically with the University of Limerick, MIC is the oldest higher education institution in Limerick. Significant expansion in recent decades has seen the College's offerings expand across two modern campuses, one based in Limerick City and one in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The student community consists of more than 5,000 learners, participating in fifteen undergraduate degree programmes and several postgraduate programmes extending to PhD/Doctoral level. Academic staff engage in a wide range of academic research areas, and research underpins all teaching and learning at MIC.

MIC seeks to prepare its students for professional excellence and to nurture their capacity to lead flourishing lives.

2. CANDIDATE PROFILE AND SCOPE OF THE POSITION

Mary Immaculate College wishes to appoint a Teaching Fellow in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies on a fixed term contract to provide substitution for a staff member availing of research leave, with a start date of 15th August 2025 and an end date of 15th February 2026.

The post will be based in MIC, St. Patrick's Campus, Thurles.

Under the direction of the Head of Department of Theology and Religious Studies and the Dean of Arts, the successful candidate will complement a research active department with a well-established academic record, contribute to the teaching and supervision of Theology and Religious Studies for undergraduates and postgraduate students across faculties and contribute to the academic life of the college.

The appointee will be required to participate in the teaching and delivery of assigned modules in the College's undergraduate degree programmes, e.g. the BA in Liberal Arts and Arts modules for BA in Education students in Thurles. In addition, the individual appointed will be required to participate in programme development, and will be assigned administrative duties.

Commitment to high-quality teaching and learning in a student-centred multi-disciplinary environment is essential. The person appointed must exhibit evidence of strong commitment to a multi-disciplinary environment working with other colleagues in the Faculty of Arts and School of Education (Post-Primary). Evidence must be shown of a commitment to excellence in teaching, research and continued scholarly activity.

Essential Qualifications & Skills (i.e. those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. Applications that have not demonstrated clearly that candidates possess the essential requirements will not be shortlisted):

1. A third level qualification, at Masters level or higher, in Theology and/or Religious Studies or a cognate discipline.
2. A minimum of 2 years relevant experience in teaching Theology and/or Religious Studies
3. Excellent interpersonal skills and communication skills
4. Demonstrable commitment to high-quality teaching and learning in a student-centred multi-disciplinary environment
5. Expertise in the field of Theology and/or Religious Studies.

3. JOB DESCRIPTION

Reporting Relationship

The appointee is required to carry out the duties attached to the post, under the general direction of the Head of Department, to whom they report, and to whom they are responsible for the performance of these duties in the first instance. The appointee will report through the Head of Department to the Dean of Arts and to the College President and/or such other College Officers as the President may designate from time to time. The appointee will also report to the Vice-Dean, MIC, St. Patrick's Campus, Thurles.

He/she will liaise with the Heads of Departments and those in leadership/management positions within the Faculty of Arts, with the Vice-Dean and with other College personnel and relevant College bodies in carrying out the duties attaching to the post. In the case of there being a crossover in terms of the duties and responsibilities of other post holders within the College, the College President will adjudicate on same.

The reporting relationship may be amended, in line with service needs and developments in the College.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Teaching and assessment at undergraduate level. Design of programmes/modules, teaching, workshops, assessment work, supervision of research projects
2. Develop teaching and learning strategies
3. Contribute to design and development of syllabi, curricula and programmes
4. Engage in academic administrative duties and participate in Departmental meetings and the work of the Arts Faculty, attend and partake in meetings of the Arts Faculty, the School of Post-Primary Education and other groupings of the College
5. Attend and participate in all Exam Board meetings
6. Consult and engage with students and the wider community
7. Partake in projects and enlist in relevant committees

The duties will also include working on the College's undergraduate programmes as required. In addition, the individual appointed will be required to participate in such programmes as the College will determine in association with the University of Limerick.

The list of duties and responsibilities as detailed is not exhaustive. The performance of the entire range of duties is not necessarily confined to any one individual, as the work requires that staff

function in a flexible manner, and work together as a team. The College retains the right to assign new duties and/or to re-assign staff to other areas of the College, in response to service needs.

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

General

All persons employed will sign an appropriate contract, which will contain terms and conditions of the employment. A job description is given to all applicants for employment and this will form part of the contract documentation.

Place of Work

The appointee's primary place of work will be Mary Immaculate College, St. Patrick's Campus, Thurles. The College reserves the right to require the appointee to work from any other location. It is a requirement of the College that the appointee must reside within a reasonable distance of the College.

Exclusivity of Service and Outside Work

The person appointed will be required to devote their full-time attention and abilities to their duties during their working hours in the College and to act in the best interest of the College at all times. Therefore, for as long as the successful applicant is working in the College, they may not, without the prior written consent of the College, be actively engaged or concerned in any way, either directly or indirectly, in any other business or undertaking where this is or is likely to be in conflict with the College's interests or the performance of the duties that the person has been employed for.

Apart from the occasional giving of lectures elsewhere, the writing of books and occasional literary materials, the appointee will not, during their tenure of office, undertake paid outside work unless they have received the permission of Vice President Academic Affairs (VPAA) to undertake such work on the terms and conditions as agreed for the particular undertaking in question. In every case, it is the duty of the appointee to seek in writing the prior permission of the VPAA. It is also the duty, in every case, of the appointee to inform the person or body for whom the work is being undertaken, that the work is being conducted in a private capacity and that the College cannot in any circumstances be responsible for such work.

Probationary Period

The appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of the standard 6-month probationary period. The probationary period may be extended at the discretion of the College but will not in any case exceed 11 months. In the event that your employment is for a period that is less than the standard probationary period, then probation will apply for the full period of your employment. Absences during the period of probation will extend the probationary period. Performance and conduct during the probationary period will be reviewed through a process of assessment meetings. Termination of employment during the probationary period, for any reason or no reason, will be at the discretion of the College. The disciplinary procedure will not apply to a dismissal during probation where the probationary employee has been employed by MIC for less than 12 months.

Hours of Attendance

The normal working week is 39 hours per week.

The appointee will work 19.5 hours per week and is expected to be habitually present and available to staff and students alike during their working hours. The appointee may be required to work occasional evenings and weekends.

Academic staff members are required to supply students with an MIC e-mail address at which they can be contacted. They must also provide the College Authorities with a telephone number at which he/she may be contacted during non-semester times. However, under no circumstances will contact telephone numbers be given to students by College Authorities.

Salary

The appointment will be made on the salary scale at a point in line with current Government Pay Policy. In keeping with all other branches of the Civil and Public Service, individual bargaining for salary increases is not allowed. New entrants to the Civil or Public Sector, as defined in Circular 18/2010, will commence on the first point of the salary scale. Additional increments may be awarded for relevant experience in a public sector setting in the European Union.

With effect from 1st March 2025, the annual salary scale for Teaching Fellow is:

€38,008; €40,126; €41,060; €42,945; €44,130; €45,464; €46,716; €47,978; €48,948; €51,427

Increments are awarded in line with national pay agreements.

Salary will be paid on a monthly basis on the 25th of each month, or the previous Friday if 25th falls on a weekend, using the Paypath facility. Payment of salaries and wages are subject to statutory deductions, i.e. Income Tax (PAYE), Superannuation Contributions, Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) and Universal Social Charge (USC).

Superannuation

New entrants appointed will be required to participate in the Single Public Service Pension Scheme and pay Superannuation contributions at the appropriate rates in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act, 2012. Details of this scheme can be obtained from the College's website.

All other eligible appointees are automatically included in the Colleges' of Education Pension Scheme on taking up appointment. In compliance with the Colleges of Education Pension Scheme, deductions amounting to 6.5% are made from salary. Details of the regulations concerning the Colleges' of Education Pension Scheme may be obtained from the College's Human Resources Office.

Appointees who commenced employment in the public service between 1st April 2004 and 31st December 2012 and have not had a break in employment of greater than 6 months will have no mandatory retirement age. All other appointees will have a mandatory retirement age of 70.

The appointee will be required to pay Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) under the provision of Public Service and Pensions Act 2017.

Pension Abatement

If an appointee has previously been employed in the Civil or Public Service and that appointee is entitled to or in receipt of a pension from the Civil or Public Service or where a Civil/Public Service pension comes into payment during the appointee's re-employment that pension will be subject to abatement in accordance with Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012.

Please note: In applying for this position the applicant is acknowledging that they understand that the abatement provisions, where relevant, will apply. It is not envisaged that the College will support an application for an abatement waiver in respect of appointments to this position.

Annual Leave

In addition to Public Holidays, a minimum of 20 working days will be allowed per annum. Annual leave should be taken when students are off campus and the taking of leave must have the prior approval of the relevant Line Manager.

Public Holidays are granted in accordance with the provisions of the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997.

Sick Leave

Employees who have a minimum 3 months continuous employment with the College may be granted sick pay subject to the terms of the Public Service Sick Leave Scheme. Sick pay is contingent on full cooperation and compliance with the Colleges absence management procedures.

Termination of Employment

At least one calendar months written notice is required to resign this post. On the termination of employment but before departing from the College, staff members are required to return to the College all books, reports, memoranda, correspondence, papers, records, reports, files including data held on electronic files, computer disks, electronically recorded discs, and any other documentation, and all other property, including office keys, belonging to the College or relating to its business or affairs which are in the possession of a staff member or under their control when the employment is terminated.

Confidentiality

In the course of working in Mary Immaculate College, the person appointed may have access to or hear information concerning staff and/or students and/or the functioning and the business of the College. Such information acquired in the course of employment with the College, including any aspect of the College's responsibilities or operations, is considered to be confidential information. On no account must information concerning students, staff or other College business be divulged or discussed except in the performance of normal duties and, unless authorised to do so, this information shall not be communicated to a third party. In addition records must never be left in a manner that unauthorised persons can obtain access to them and must be kept in safe custody when no longer required.

Health & Safety

Mary Immaculate College attaches the highest regard to the safety, health and welfare of its employees. It is the duty of each employee to take reasonable care to protect the health and safety of themselves and of other people in the workplace. Each employee must comply with all health and safety policies and procedures in operation in Mary Immaculate College and familiarise him/herself with the Safety Statement.

Employees are obliged to wear any PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) that they may be provided with and no person shall intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse any appliance, protective clothing or other equipment provided in the workplace for health and safety purposes. Employees are statutorily/legally obliged to ensure that any accidents/incidents which may occur are reported promptly to the Health and Safety Officer on the MIC Accident/Incident Report Form.

College Policies, Rules and Regulations

The College is a Public Sector employer and is bound by National Agreements. It is also bound by regulations, circulars and directives issued on behalf of Government by the Department of Finance, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Higher Education Authority.

Employees are at all times subject to the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Staff, College policies, rules and regulations. These policies include but are not confined to Disciplinary & Grievance Policies, Dignity and Respect at Work, Examination Rules & Regulations, Policy on Responsible Computing and Use of Information Technology Facilities. All employees are required to familiarise themselves with the contents of Policies and Procedures, available on the College's Staff Portal.

5. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Method of Selection for Recommendation

Shortlisting

An expert group will convene to conduct shortlisting of applicants, measured against pre-determined criteria.

The criteria that will be used to shortlist candidates for this appointment are:

- A third level qualification, at Masters level or higher, in Theology and/or Religious Studies or a cognate discipline.
- A minimum of 2 years relevant experience in teaching Theology and/or Religious Studies
- Expertise in the field of Theology and/or Religious Studies.
- Demonstrable commitment to high-quality teaching and learning in a student-centred multi-disciplinary environment

Normally the number of applications received for a position exceeds that required to fill the position. While a candidate may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the position are such that it would not be practical to interview everyone, the College may decide that a limited number will be called to interview. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable to undertake the job, rather that there are some candidates, based on their application, appear to be better qualified and/or have more relevant experience. It is incumbent, therefore upon the applicant, to ensure that all relevant information is included in their application and that they clearly identify how they meet the specified candidate criteria.

Interview

A recommendation for appointment will be made by an Interview Board. The appointment will be based on this recommendation, except where considerations of health or an unsuitable record in previous employment warrants a departure. A panel will be formed from which temporary appointments to the position of Teaching Fellow in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies may be filled during the life of the panel (24 months).

Candidates must produce satisfactory documentary evidence of all training and experience claimed by them, if required.

Medical Examination

For the purpose of satisfying requirements as to health, successful candidates, before being appointed, will be required to undergo pre-employment health screening.

Garda Vetting

Successful applicants may be required to participate in Garda vetting. Specific instruction on this process will be given at the appropriate time. Applicants who do not comply with the College's requirements in this regard will be excluded from consideration for appointment. Applicants who have resided outside Ireland for a cumulative period of 36 months or more over the age of 18 years must furnish a Foreign Police Clearance (FPC) from the country or countries of residence. Please note; any costs incurred in this process will be borne by the applicant.

Applicants from Outside the European Economic Area (EEA)

Mary Immaculate College welcomes applications from candidates from outside the EEA, however such applicants should familiarise themselves with relevant Government policy before making an application. Further information from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is available here: Economic migration policy - DETE (enterprise.gov.ie)

Making of Applications

Applications must be submitted in typed format. Handwritten or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applications will be acknowledged within 2 working days of submission. Please be sure to check Spam and Junk folders as it may be redirected here by your account preferences. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 2 working days of submitting your application please contact the HR Office by emailing hr@mic.ul.ie.

Application forms for this post may be downloaded from the Mary Immaculate College website. www.mic.ul.ie/about-mic/vacancies. Applications must be submitted by e-mail to recruitment@mic.ul.ie with the subject title **Teaching Fellow in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies** no later than:

2pm on Tuesday, 22nd April 2025

Late applications **cannot** be accepted.

The College will not be responsible for any expenses, including travelling expenses, which candidates may incur in connection with their candidature.

Canvassing will disqualify. Any attempt by a candidate either personally or through any other person, on their behalf, to canvass or otherwise influence the outcome of the selection/interview process in their favour will lead to disqualification from the competition. Any representations made on behalf of a candidate, without their knowledge will be ignored.

Mary Immaculate College is an equal opportunities employer. Mary Immaculate College holds an Athena SWAN Bronze Institution award in recognition of our commitment to advancing equality and opportunity for all in higher education.

March 2025