

Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal
 مركز الأمير الوليد بن طلال آل سعود للإسلاميات
Centre of Islamic Studies

Job title	Research Associate
Grade	7
Salary range	£32,296 - £45,163
Staff Group	Academic Unestablished
Department / Institution	HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies

Role-specific information

Role Summary

The Centre of Islamic Studies (CIS) at the University of Cambridge is seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research and Outreach Associate with a research specialism related to Muslims in the UK and Europe. The post is a three-year, fixed-term position which will commence in September 2025. It is full-time and based in the Centre of Islamic Studies, which is located in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

CIS research and outreach posts are distinctive in that postholders are expected to 1) pursue a research project in an area related to Muslims in the UK and Europe and 2) design and run a set of outreach activities that reach beyond the academic community. What form the latter will take will depend on the specialism of the appointee but collaboration with Muslim organisations, public policy stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental organisations and local schools are welcomed. Examples of successful projects with a strong outreach component are Dr Davide Pettinato's [Green\(ing\) British Muslims](#), Dr Ryan William's [Reimagining Citizenship](#) project, and Dr Mehrunisha Suleman's [Perspectives on End of Life Care](#) project.

CIS is one of a network of HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal centres and research and outreach associates are strongly encouraged to collaborate with colleagues at our UK partner institution, the Alwaleed Centre at the University of Edinburgh and with other Alwaleed centres as appropriate. Research and outreach associates are expected to apply for additional external funding for the activities they design if possible.

The postholder may also contribute to the teaching of modern Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies within the Department of Middle Eastern Studies with which CIS has close links.

Candidates will need to demonstrate an upward research trajectory and an ability to develop and carry out research projects of a high academic standard. They will also need to show an interest in and understanding of the remit of the Centre of Islamic Studies and a commitment to outreach beyond academia. Attendance at and participation in CIS weekly seminars and events during term-time, and annual conferences or symposia, is expected. The role requires an ability to work independently but also as part of a team, and native or near native fluency in spoken and written English.

The successful candidate will be expected to have been awarded their PhD by the date their employment commences. CIS Research and Outreach posts are intended primarily for early career researchers. Applications are therefore invited from researchers who have submitted their doctoral thesis for *viva voce* examination no more than four years prior to

the application closing date. Those wishing to make a case for a career break due to maternity leave, family commitments, illness, or other exceptional circumstances should provide relevant details. Please note that time spent working outside academia does not qualify as a career break.

Key Responsibilities

Research and Scholarship	55%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop academic research proposals for single or joint projects. • Conduct an individual and/or collaborative research project(s). • Present and publish research findings. • Advance knowledge and understanding in the relevant field or specialism • Apply advances in one's field to research activity. • Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required. 	
Outreach and Public Education	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and contribute to events, initiatives, and public dissemination of findings in order to spread a critically informed understanding of their topic beyond academic circles. • Build networks with colleagues and stakeholders in Muslim communities and organisations, public policy stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental organisations. • Assist in the preparation of outreach reports, communicating material of a specialist or highly technical nature to the wider public. 	
Teaching and Learning Support	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer some teaching and supervision in courses within the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, or another appropriate department or faculty within the University of Cambridge. • Assist in the development of student research skills. • Plan and deliver lectures or seminars relating to research area. 	
Planning and Organising	5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others as required. • Plan and organise research workshops or conferences. • Contribute to planning and execution of combined research and outreach projects, exhibitions and other events in collaboration with other members of the Centre of Islamic Studies. 	

Person Profile

This section details the knowledge, skills and experience we require for the role.

Education & qualifications	PhD in a research specialism related to Muslims in the UK and Europe. Preference may be given to applicants whose field complements the specialisms of members of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.
Specialist knowledge & skills	Research experience commensurate with career stage. Some curatorial knowledge and skills and knowledge of a Middle Eastern language are desirable.

Interpersonal & communication skills	Proven ability to i) work independently and collaboratively; ii) confidently communicate to a variety of audiences in verbal and written formats; iii) work with people of different cultures and backgrounds; iv) be flexible; v) show initiative and remain calm while organising or managing events.
Relevant experience	Experience of designing research projects and outreach events, and writing policy reports.
Additional requirements	Willingness to travel nationally and internationally to conferences and network events, and for fieldwork as required.

Terms and Conditions

Location	HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA
Hours of work	This role is full time. There are no formal conditions relating to hours and times of work but the postholder will be expected to work regularly in the office during University term and attend regular CIS events such as the four evening talks per term and CIS working lunches. Specific work arrangements should be agreed with the Director of the Centre.
Length of appointment	This is a 3-year fixed-term appointment
Probation period	6 months
Annual leave	Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 6.6 weeks (or 33 days), plus public holidays.
Pension eligibility	Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). Pension scheme details, including information about the legal requirement for the University to automatically enrol its eligible jobholders into a qualifying workplace pension scheme from 1 March 2013, is available at: http://www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/ .
Retirement age	The University does not operate a retirement age for unestablished academic staff.

Screening Check Requirements

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it. If you need further information, you may find the Right to Work page within the 'Applying for a job' section of the University's Job Opportunities pages helpful (please see <http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/right/have/>).

The nature of this role means that the successful candidate will also need to undergo a health assessment.

Application Process

To submit an application for this vacancy, please click on the link in the 'Apply online' section of the advert published on the [University's Job Opportunities page](#). This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already).

Login to complete parts 1 and 3 of a CHRIS 6 Application Form and upload the following supporting documents:

1. A cover letter.
2. A curriculum vitae including a list of publications to date.
3. A research proposal of c. 1000 words.
4. An outreach proposal of c. 1000 words indicating prospective public engagement activities, their target audiences, potential partners, and potential external funders.
5. The names and contact details of two academic referees who may be contacted in the event an applicant is shortlisted.

If you upload any additional documents which have not been requested, we will not consider them as part of your application. The deadline for applications Friday 31 January 2025. The deadline for receipt of academic references from shortlisted candidates is 17 February 2025. It is expected that interviews will take place in late February. They make take place in-person or online, depending on applicant and interviewer availability.

General Information

The University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful Universities, with an outstanding reputation for academic achievement and research. It was ranked first in the 2011 QS World University Rankings and its graduates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other university in the world. The University comprises more than 150 departments, faculties, schools and other institutions, plus a central administration and 31 independent and autonomous colleges.

The University and the Colleges are linked in a complex historical relationship. The Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. They admit students, provide student accommodation and deliver small group teaching (supervisions). The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students, determine the syllabi for teaching and conduct research.

There is much more information about the University at <http://www.cam.ac.uk/univ/works/index.html> which we hope you will find helpful.

The Centre of Islamic Studies

The Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge aims to promote a constructive and critical understanding of the role of Islam and Muslims in wider society, with a focus on the UK and Europe. We aspire, through world-class research and dynamic public education, to disseminate knowledge and facilitate informed discussion between academics, policy-makers, the media, the public, business, the third sector and other institutions with an interest in Islam in the contemporary world.

The Centre of Islamic Studies currently has the following members of staff: Director, Assistant Director, Project Manager, Administrator, 5 Research and Outreach Associates, 1 Outreach and Teaching Co-ordinator. The CIS also has a number of Visiting Scholars and Affiliated Researchers who are an important part of its intellectual community.

What the University can offer you

One of our core values at the University of Cambridge is to recognise and reward our staff as our greatest asset. We realise that it's our people who have built our outstanding reputation and that we will only maintain our leading position in the academic world by continuing to attract and retain talented and motivated people. If you choose to come and work with us, you will find that we offer:

- **Excellent benefits** – You will be eligible for a wide range of competitive benefits and services, including numerous discounts on shopping, health care, financial services and public transport. We also offer defined benefits pension schemes and tax-efficient bicycle, car lease and charity-giving schemes.

We will help you balance your home and work life by providing you with generous annual leave entitlement and procedures for requesting a career break or flexible working arrangements if you need them. You will also have access to a range of well-being support services, including in-house Occupational Health and Counselling services. If you have childcare responsibilities, you may also benefit from the enhanced maternity/adoption pay, two nurseries and a holiday play scheme that we provide.

We are keen to welcome new employees from other parts of the UK and other countries to Cambridge. If you will be relocating to Cambridge on a centrally funded appointment of two years or more, you may be eligible for our relocation expenses scheme. The University Accommodation Service (<http://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>) will also be available to help you find suitable rented accommodation and to provide advice on renting arrangements and local facilities, if required. In addition, certain academic and academic-related appointments are eligible for the Shared Equity Scheme which offers financial assistance with the purchase of living accommodation.

- **A welcoming and inclusive environment** - We will help you settle into your new role and working environment through a central University induction event, local induction activities and our online induction package. Where appropriate to your role, you will have a probation period to provide a supportive framework for reviewing your progress and discussing your training and development needs.

If you are relocating to Cambridge, you and your family will be welcome to attend the Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group, which provides an opportunity to find out more about Cambridge and meet other people new to the area.

- **Extensive development opportunities** - The encouragement of career development for staff is one of the University's core values. We put this into practice through various services and initiatives, including:
 - A wide-range of training courses and online learning packages.
 - The Staff Review and Development (SRD) Scheme, which is designed to enhance work effectiveness and facilitate career development post-probation.
 - Leave for career and personal development, including long-term study leave for assistant staff and sabbatical leave for academic staff.
 - The CareerStart@Cam programme, which supports assistant staff roles without higher education qualifications to develop their skills, experience and qualifications. Assistant staff may also apply for financial assistance for study which results in a qualification.
 - Reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses.
 - The opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions.
 - Policies and processes dedicated to the career development of researchers and the implementation of the principles of the Concordat, which have led to the University being recognised with an HR Excellence in Research Award by the European Commission.

You can find further details of the benefits, services and opportunities we offer can be found in our CAMBens Employee Benefits web pages at <http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/pay-benefits/cambens-employee-benefits>. A range of information about living and working in Cambridge is also available to you within the University's web pages at <http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/> and <http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-staff/information-staff>.

Equality of Opportunity at the University

We are committed to a proactive approach to equality, which includes supporting and encouraging all under-represented groups, promoting an inclusive culture and valuing diversity. We make selection decisions based on personal merit and an objective assessment against the criteria required for the post. We do not treat job applicants or members of staff less favourably than one another on the grounds of sex (including gender reassignment), marital or parental status, race, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability (including HIV status), sexual orientation, religion, age or socio-economic factors.

We have various diversity networks to help us progress equality; these include the Women's Staff Network, the Disabled Staff Network, the Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Staff Network. In addition, we were ranked in the top 100 employers for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) staff in Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index 2013 and we hold an Athena SWAN silver award at organisation level for promoting women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine.

We are supportive of staff with caring responsibilities, such as through our flexible working, career break and returning carers schemes. We encourage individuals to include details of any breaks in employment due to caring responsibilities in applications for employment so that these can be taken into consideration in assessments made, where appropriate.

Information if you have a Disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities and we are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so, and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>.

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact Professor Amira K. Bennison via email at admin@cis.cam.ac.uk. Alternatively, you may contact the HR Business Manager responsible for the department you are applying to via hrenquiries@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Please note the University's policy on handling your personal data: <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-staff/hr-data/applicant-data>.