



**Head of Department of Theology and Religious Studies
(SENIOR LECTURER)
Fulltime, Permanent post**

**GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION
Duties and Terms & Conditions of Employment**

1. PREAMBLE

Mary Immaculate College (MIC) 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 proliferate across two impressive campuses, one based in the heart of Limerick City and one in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The diverse student community is made up of more than 5,000 learners, participating in fourteen undergraduate degree programmes and a multiplicity of postgraduate opportunities extending to doctoral level. Academic staff are engaged in a wide range of research interests which underpins all teaching and learning at the College.

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

The post of Head of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, is a full-time, permanent appointment at Senior Lecturer level.

The Head of Department will assume a leadership and management role with responsibility for the wide-ranging work of the Department including the teaching, management, delivery, and as necessary, development of modules and programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

As Head of Department, the appointee will be responsible for the teaching, management and delivery of Theology and Religious Studies modules and programmes and the academic administration of the Department. Experience in delivery and assessment of programmes in Theology/Religious Studies is essential. The appointee must have the ability to work with and direct the work of others in the Department. He/she will report to the Dean of Arts, work closely with the Head of the School of Education in Thurles and will also work collaboratively as a member of the Arts Faculty Management Committee.

The Head of Department shall also be responsible, through the Director of the Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies (IIPS), for departmental management of the strategic development, operations and budgetary resourcing of the Institute, which is located within the Department of Theology & Religious Studies and is subject to oversight by the College Executive Team on behalf of the MIC Governing Authority.

The appointee will have excellent interpersonal skills, strong organisational skills, will be self-reliant, able to motivate and build a team, and will show initiative and creativity in the furtherance of the Faculty's educational agenda.

Essential Qualifications, Experience & Skills

- a) A third-level qualification at doctoral level in an area of Theology or Religious Studies;
- b) A minimum of five years' experience of teaching at third level;
- c) Evidence of administration experience in a higher education environment;
- d) An established research profile;
- e) An in-depth knowledge of contemporary developments in Theology/Religious Studies;
- f) A comprehensive understanding of the higher education system, including policy and practice in the areas of student support and wider participation;
- g) Excellent interpersonal, team-building and leadership skills;
- h) Excellent organisational, prioritisation and time management skills;
- i) A vision for the future development of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies in the context of the College's mission and strategic plan;

It is also desirable that applicants will have:

- j) Demonstrable evidence of leadership in equality and diversity.

Cuirfear fáilte roimh iarratais ó dhaoine go bhfuil dearcadh dearfach acu i leith na Gaeilge. Applications are welcome from people who have a positive outlook on Irish.

3. JOB DESCRIPTION

Reporting Relationship

The appointee is required to carry out the duties attached to the post, under the general direction of the Dean of Arts, to whom he/she reports, and to whom he/she is responsible to for the performance of these duties in the first instance. Given that the Department delivers education on both the Limerick and the Thurles campuses it is essential that a close working relationship is built with the Head of the School of Education in Thurles. The appointee will report through the Dean of Arts to the College President and/or such other College Officers as the President may designate from time to time.

The successful candidate will liaise with the Dean of Arts, the Head of School of Education (Thurles) and other College personnel and with relevant College bodies in carrying out of the duties attaching to this 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 subject to review from time to time, in line with service needs and developments in the College.

Duties and Responsibilities

The appointee will be required to carry out the duties attached to the post and will be accountable for the due performance of these duties to the Dean of Arts and to the College President. In addition to lecturing and tutorial work, the duties will include:

General:

The appointee will be responsible for the effective functioning of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies; for maintaining high standards in the Department; for coordinating the work of the Department and for all administrative duties arising therefrom.

The duties also include leading and managing undergraduate and postgraduate modules, contributing to programmes including the B.A. and B.Ed., Masters and PhD degrees.

The person appointed will contribute to course innovation, design and policy formation, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Programmes:

In consultation with the staff of the Department to be responsible for drawing up new programmes and modules and/or making changes in existing programmes and modules when necessary, for the syllabus content thereof; and for presenting new or modified programmes and modules for approval to the appropriate Course Board, Faculty Board, Academic Programme Appraisal Committee (APAC), to *An Chomhairle Acadúil* (Academic Council) of Mary Immaculate College and such other internal and external committees as may be necessary.

Examinations:

To arrange for the setting and marking of examinations, including repeat examinations, at appropriate times. To arrange and chair departmental examination meetings at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including postgraduate progression panels. To liaise with the external examiner(s) and to attend examination board meetings.

Department Staff:

To lead and manage staff. To motivate, mentor and inspire staff, to set and monitor workloads. To arrange and chair regular staff meetings of the Department to discuss programmes, modules, students records, new initiatives and new approaches to teaching and learning within the Department. To support the professional development of staff. In the absence of lecturers, to inform the Arts Office and students of lecture cancellation, to arrange substitution, re-schedule lectures, or allocate alternative work for students.

Research:

To engage actively in research leading to academic publications. To promote research activity in the Department and to supervise and support the research and scholarship of others. To actively supervise master's and doctoral research theses. To arrange and chair departmental Research and Ethics Committees.

Students:

To be available to students for guidance and advice, to communicate with students and to promote their academic and pastoral well-being. To co-operate with the Vice President Research, the Director of the Graduate School and appropriate Course Leaders in relation to the teaching of postgraduate programmes and the supervision of postgraduate students. To co-operate with the Placement Office in arranging for the placing and supervision of students on extra-collegial study and/or work programmes.

Meetings:

To attend meetings of the following College bodies: *An Chomhairle Acadúil* (Academic Council), Arts Faculty Management Committee and Arts Faculty Board.

To participate in on-going management training programme(s) and to engage in activities to support the development of efficient departmental and Faculty management structures.

Irish Institute of Pastoral Studies:

To be responsible through the Director of the Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies (IIPS), for departmental management of the strategic development, operations and budgetary resourcing of the Institute, which is located within the Department of Theology & Religious Studies and is subject to oversight by the College Executive Team on behalf of the MIC Governing Authority.

The list of the duties pertaining to this post 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, Limerick OR St. Patricks Campus, Thurles. Attendance at the secondary place of work will be on an as-needs basis. 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 9-month probationary period. The probationary period may be extended at the discretion of the College but will not in any case exceed 11 months. Absences during the period of probation will extend the probationary period. Performance and conduct during the probationary period will be monitored 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 or 7.8 hours per day, Monday to Friday. The appointee is expected to be habitually present and available to staff and students alike during normal College hours, Monday to Friday. 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 Salary scale for this position has been approved by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Higher Education Authority in line with Government Policy on Public Sector remuneration. 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.

Please note that current government policy may have implications for the re-employment of applicants who are currently in receipt of a public sector pension.

With effect from 1st February, 2022, the annual salary scale for Senior Lecturer is:

€74,029; €76,967; €79,913; €82,869; €85,795; €88,750; €91,695; €94,640; €97,580 (9 points).

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.

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

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.

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 **three** 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 his/her 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 Education, 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 at Work, Examination Rules & Regulations, Policy on Responsible Computing and Use of Information Technology Facilities. All policies are outlined on the College's Staff Portal for College employees. All employees are required to familiarise themselves with the contents of Policies and Procedures, 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 doctoral level in an area of Theology or Religious Studies;
- A minimum of five years' experience of teaching at third level;
- An established research profile;
- A vision for the future development of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies in the context of the College's mission and strategic plan.

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 appointments to the post of Head of Department of Theology and Religious Studies may be filled during the life of the panel (12 months).

Health Screening

For the purpose of satisfying requirements as to health, successful candidates, before being appointed, may 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 that any costs incurred in this process will be borne by the applicant.

Making of Applications

Applications must be submitted on an official application form in typed format. Application forms for this post may be downloaded from the Mary Immaculate College website. www.mic.ul.ie/about-mic/vacancies. Handwritten or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applications must be submitted by e-mail to recruitment@mic.ul.ie with the subject title **Head of Department of Theology and Religious Studies** no later than:

2pm on Friday, 14th October 2022

Late applications **cannot** 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.

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 his/her 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.

September 2022