



<b>Reference Number</b>	014045
<b>Post</b>	Assistant Professor (Research): La Retraite Fellow in Theology and Spirituality
<b>Department</b>	Theology and Religion
<b>Grade &amp; Salary</b>	Grade 7 £32,548
<b>Term</b>	Three Years Fixed Term contract wef 1 Sept 2018
<b>Opening Date</b>	30 May 2018
<b>Closing Date</b>	29 June 2018 (at 12pm midday)
<b>Working Arrangements</b>	This role is full time but we will consider requests for flexible working arrangements including potential job shares

## Durham University

Durham University is one of the world's top universities with strengths across the Arts and Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. We are home to some of the most talented scholars and researchers from around the world who are tackling global issues and making a difference to people's lives.

The University sits in a beautiful historic city where it shares ownership of a UNESCO World Heritage Site with Durham Cathedral, the greatest Romanesque building in Western Europe. A collegiate University, Durham recruits outstanding students from across the world and offers an unmatched wider student experience.

Less than 3 hours north of London and an hour and a half south of Edinburgh, County Durham is a region steeped in history and natural beauty. The Durham Dales, including the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, are home to breathtaking scenery and attractions. Durham offers an excellent choice of city, suburban and rural residential locations. The University provides a range of benefits including pension and childcare benefits and the University's Relocation Manager can assist with potential schooling requirements.

Durham University seeks to promote and maintain an inclusive and supportive environment for work and study that assists all members of our University community to reach their full potential. Diversity brings strength and we welcome applications from across the international, national and regional communities that we work with and serve.

## The Department

Founded in 1832, Durham's Department of Theology and Religion was recently ranked third in the world in the QS World University Subject rankings. We also came top in the country in the last two UK assessments of research (2008 and 2014). We are home to more than 30 academic staff, and a community of over 100 doctoral students. Teaching and research within the Department is focused on three key areas: Biblical studies, Christian Theology, and the Study of Religion.

**Biblical studies** covers the New Testament, the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible and ancient Judaism, and includes both close engagement with the biblical texts and broader

considerations of their historical, cultural and theological contexts and interpretation. We are one of the few universities to offer the full range of biblical and ancient languages (Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, and Middle Egyptian).

**Christian theology** covers ethical, philosophical and systematic theology, as well as historical theology and church history. We work within a range of Christian traditions – Catholic, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox Studies are particular strengths – but we aren't confined to any of them: our approach is to let each tradition be itself, but also to bring them all into dialogue.

**The study of religion** looks at the anthropological, and sociological aspects of religion in the analysis of mainstream traditions and alternative religious movements, and on the practical study of contemporary religion. Specialist staff interests include Mormonism; death, dying and disposal; shamanism; religion and emotion; religion/faith and globalization; contemporary and post-evangelicalism; religion and generational change; pilgrimage; sacred space; myth analysis; and South Asian Christianities.

The department enjoys many cross-departmental and interdisciplinary links around the University, including with the Institute for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, as well as a strong, collaborative relationship with the theological institutions based in and around Durham (e.g. Cranmer Hall).

With its home in Abbey House, right next to Durham Cathedral, a UNESCO world Heritage site, it is a beautiful and immensely exciting place to study and to research in Theology and Religion.

The department is also home to a number of research centres, the Michael Ramsey Centre for Anglican Studies, the Centre for Death and Life Studies, and the Centre for Catholic Studies (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/ccs/>).

## The Role

This is an opportunity for a first-rank post-doctoral researcher. Applications will be considered both from candidates whose background lies at the intersection of Theology and Spirituality, and from candidates with a background in constructive, systematic, historical or philosophical Theology who wish to undertake a postdoctoral project in the area of Theology and Spirituality in the Catholic tradition. The successful candidate will be expected to submit articles emerging from this research to leading academic journals, and to complete, or to be working towards completion of, a monograph.

As part of the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University, the La Retraite Fellowship is located in what is internationally recognised as the leading Theology Department in the United Kingdom, and one that is currently ranked third in the world. The appointee will be directly responsible to the Head of Department of Theology and Religion, but will work in consultation with the Bede Professor of Catholic Theology, Karen Kilby, who is PI for this project; and with Dr Rik van Nieuwenhove, the Co-Investigator. The appointee will be fully involved in the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS), working in collaboration with the other CCS staff members, associates, and postgraduate community.

She or he will have the opportunity (for career development purposes) to undertake a small amount of teaching, and will have the opportunity, if desired, to contribute to CCS outreach, at local and national level.

Responsibilities:

- To prepare and publish high quality outputs, including a monograph and papers for submission to peer reviewed journals and papers for presentation at conferences and workshops.
- To prepare and deliver presentations on research outputs/activities to audiences which may include: research sponsors and academic and non-academic audiences.
- To participate in the life of the CCS, through such means as attending public lectures, participating in and contribution to research seminars, sharing in CCS planning meetings, and meeting with donors and partners when relevant.

This post is considered to be independent and research and will be focused on research on the University's 'Research Track' career path, which provides clearly defined opportunities for progression against defined criteria.

Successful applicants will, ideally, be in post by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

### **The Requirements**

Applicants must demonstrate research excellence in some aspects of the relationship between theology and spirituality, with the ability to fully engage in the services, citizenship and values of the University.

The University provides a working, research and teaching environment which is inclusive and welcoming and where everyone is treated fairly with dignity and respect. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate these key principles as part of the assessment process.

Candidates will have recently completed or be concluding their PhD and while they may have limited direct experience of the requirements for the post, they must outline their experience, skills and achievements to date which demonstrate that they meet or that they have the potential to achieve the essential criteria.

### Research

Candidates must have capacity for and be progressing towards the independent development of internationally excellent research that produces high-quality outcomes, including some work that is recognised as world class.

The essential research criteria for this post are:

<b>Essential Research Criteria</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>
<b>1. Qualifications</b>	A good first degree and a PhD in an appropriate subject (which may be completed or under examination)
<b>2. Outputs</b>	Evidence of high quality outputs, some of which have the potential to be (or are) world class
<b>3. Personal Research Plan</b>	A personal research plan which supports and enhances the department's research strategy. This will be evidenced in an application mainly by the requested synopsis of the research project to be pursued while holding the fellowship (see below).

The desirable research criteria for this post (for which candidates should provide evidence of some if not all criteria) are:

<b>Desirable Research Criteria</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>
<b>A. Income generation</b>	Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to develop successful research project proposals
<b>B. PhD supervision</b>	Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to provide excellent supervision for PhD students
<b>C. Research Leadership</b> Candidates may choose to include information about research group leadership, mentoring of research colleagues, invitations to and engagement with external events, and/or involvement with international networks or projects.	Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to contribute to the leadership of research groups and the mentoring of early career researchers
<b>D. Research impact</b>	Experiences, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to evidence research impact beyond the institution

Services, Citizenship and Values

This post is focused on research but candidates may be required to actively engage in the administrative requirements of the Department, notably related to their research, and/or the research and research environment of the department.

Candidates must positively contribute to fostering a collegial environment; as well as demonstrating their commitment to equality diversity and inclusion.

The essential services, citizenship and values criteria for this role are:

<p>Essential Services, Citizenship and Values Criteria</p>	<p>Grade 7</p>
<p><b>1. Collegial Contribution</b> Candidates may choose to evidence departmental or university committee roles, mentoring activity, engagement with widening participation and membership, involvement with equality and diversity initiatives or engagement with external bodies.</p>	<p>Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to participate in the collegial/administrative activities of an academic department notably related to their research and/or the research and research environment of the department</p>
<p><b>2. Communication</b></p>	<p>Candidates must have excellent oral and written communication skills with the ability to engage with a range of students and colleagues across a variety of forums</p>

The desirable services, citizenship and values criteria for this role are:

<p>Desirable Services, Citizenship and Values Criteria</p>	<p>Grade 7</p>
<p><b>E. Leadership</b></p>	<p>Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to engage in the administrative functioning of the candidate’s academic department and/or discipline including any leadership or other responsibilities in an academic/research context</p>

## How to Apply

For informal enquiries please contact Prof. Karen Kilby ([karen.kilby@durham.ac.uk](mailto:karen.kilby@durham.ac.uk)) or Dr Rik van Nieuwenhove ([rik.van-nieuwenhove@durham.ac.uk](mailto:rik.van-nieuwenhove@durham.ac.uk)).

All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

We prefer to receive applications online via the Durham University Vacancies Site. <https://www.dur.ac.uk/jobs/>

Applications are particularly welcome from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in the University.

## What to Submit

All applicants are asked to submit:

- A CV and covering letter which details your experience, strengths and potential in the requirements set out above;
- A 1000-1500 word proposal for a three year research project in the field of Theology and Spirituality in the Catholic Tradition.

## Referees

You should provide details of 3 academic/research referees and the details of your current line manager so that we may seek an employment reference (if they are not listed as an academic referee). Please note:

- We shall seek the academic/research references during the application process. Academic/research referees should not (if possible) include your PhD supervisor(s) and a majority should be from a University other than your own. We would ask that you alert your academic/research referees to this application as soon as possible so that we can quickly obtain references. If you do not wish (some or all) of your referees to be approached during the recruitment process; you must clearly indicate this to us at the time of your application.
- We will seek a reference from your current line-manager if we make you an offer of employment (albeit you may have also nominated your line manager as an academic referee). Please clearly indicate which referee is your current line-manager and please let us know if we should only approach them once an offer has been made.

## Next Steps

All applications will be considered.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to the University and will have the opportunity to meet with key members of the Department. The assessment for the post will include a research presentation and interview. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted as soon as possible.