



STIPENDIARY LECTURESHIP IN FRENCH AT MERTON COLLEGE

FURTHER PARTICULARS

1. OVERVIEW

Merton College proposes to appoint a Stipendiary Lecturer in French to teach undergraduates for an average of 12 weighted hours (i.e. approximately 8 contact hours) per week in full term for Hilary and Trinity Terms 2026 (from 5 January until 30 September 2026). This strictly fixed-term appointment is to cover teaching during the sabbatical leave of Professor Ian Maclachlan.

2. MERTON COLLEGE

Merton College was founded in 1264 by Walter de Merton, and is one of the oldest colleges within the University of Oxford. It was the first fully self-governing college in the University and was originally founded for twenty fellows, with undergraduates being formally admitted in the early 1380s. Over the centuries, many eminent scholars and cultural leaders have called Merton home including four Nobel Prize winners and an Abel Prize winner (Professor Sir Andrew Wiles). Merton College has a strong commitment to excellence in research and teaching across a range of subjects in the Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences. The College community currently comprises around 620 students (320 undergraduates and 300 postgraduates), some 70 Fellows, 50 other academic staff and over 100 members of support staff. The College strives to create a diverse, welcoming, inclusive and supportive community in which its students can thrive.

3. MODERN LANGUAGES AT MERTON COLLEGE

Merton College typically admits nine undergraduates a year to read Modern Languages and the associated Joint Schools with Linguistics, Classics, English, History, and Philosophy. Information on the degree courses can be found at:

<http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-studies>

Merton has a sizeable and lively graduate community, including 8 graduates currently reading for higher degrees in Modern Languages.

The postholder will work closely with Dr Christophe Barnabé, Stipendiary Lecturer in French and Alice Laffitte, Lectrice, and also with Merton's Tutor in Spanish, Dr Alice

Brooke. Dr Anja Rekeszus, Professor Guido Bonsaver, Dr Margarita Vaysman, Dr Marcelo Lachat, and Dr Richard Ashdowne teach Merton undergraduates German, Italian, Russian, Portuguese, and Linguistics respectively. In addition, the postholder will be required to liaise with Tutors in the Joint Schools subjects (Classics, English, History, and Philosophy).

Information on the Fellows of Merton can be found at:

<http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/fellows>

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LECTURER

The main responsibilities of the Lecturer will be as follows:

- (a) To share in the organisational responsibility for the undergraduate degrees involving French.
- (b) To plan and provide tutorial teaching for up to an average of twelve weighted¹ hours (approximately eight contact hours, depending on group size) in each week of full term. Teaching will be required for the following courses:
 - French language, specifically French to English translation, at all levels;
 - 1st year: Prelims Papers III (Short Texts) and IV (Narrative Fiction, but not necessarily the prescribed medieval text); and
 - 2nd and 4th year: Final Honour School papers in the modern period (19th century to the present), namely the modern period paper (VIII) and at least some of the authors on the modern prescribed authors paper (XI).

Handbooks for Prelims (first year examinations) and Finals Honours School (final year examinations) in French are available on request.

- (c) To ensure that the students taught receive timely feedback on their work during term, both week by week and in termly reports on the reporting database, and to attend Warden's progress meetings at the end of term for undergraduates reading Modern Languages. Concerns regarding under-performance should be conveyed to the relevant Director of Studies and the Senior Tutor.
- (d) To set and mark internal examinations ('Collections').
- (e) To attend the Warden and Tutors' Committee meetings (held four times each term), as required
- (f) To undertake academic administration (e.g. the planning and organisation of students' subject options; the endorsement of applications made by students for

¹ The weighting system means that hours spent teaching groups larger than one person count for more than one hour.

travel grants and other College assistance; the writing of references; the selection of books for the College Library etc.).

- (g) To provide study skills and examination preparation support for students studying undergraduate degrees involving French.
- (h) To take on the role of Director of Studies for a number of undergraduates studying degrees involving French.
- (i) To undertake pastoral responsibilities in liaison with the Director of Studies and the College Welfare Team.
- (j) To act as College Advisor to current postgraduates in Modern Languages (MSt, MPhil or DPhil students), including providing pastoral support.
- (k) To participate in outreach activities, including Open Days and the College's access schemes, which may fall outside of full term.

Attendance is strongly encouraged at College events to which Lecturers are invited.

A more detailed guide to tutorial responsibilities and other information, entitled a *Handbook for Fellows and Lecturers*, will be communicated to the successful candidate by the Senior Tutor following appointment.

The Lecturer will be subject to the College's Statutes and Bylaws in force from time to time.

5. CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENT

To be successful, candidates will need to show that they meet the following selection criteria:

Essential

- (i) A strong research background in modern literary studies in French (1789-present) as evidenced by having completed or being close to completion of a doctorate in this period. Candidates will preferably have formally submitted their doctoral thesis before the commencement of the post.
- (ii) Proven ability to provide excellent small-group and class teaching for the papers specified in 4 (b) above.
- (iii) Ability to be an effective and inspiring teacher of French, including in understanding and responding to the learning needs of undergraduates of high ability in a tutorial system.

- (iv) To have the potential to discharge competently the full range of academic administrative duties, besides teaching, upon which the effective operation of French as a subject within the College depends.
- (v) Excellent communication skills and the ability to contribute to the work of the team of academic staff in Modern Language and Joint Schools at Merton College.
- (vi) To be able to contribute to the work of the team of academic staff in joint schools involving French.

6. REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF THE STIPENDIARY LECTURESHIP

The stipend for the Lectureship will be £24,892 (current rate) for the period of the appointment (i.e. 5 January to 30 September 2026). The Lecturer will also be entitled during the appointment to:

- Enrolment in the Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS').
- Free meals at the Common Table of the Warden and Fellows when the kitchen is open, with certain designated exceptions.
- Membership of the Senior Common Room.
- A teaching room, although not necessarily for the Lecturer's exclusive use.

The appointment will be conditional on verification of the successful candidate's availability for employment in this country.

7. RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UK

The appointment will be conditional on satisfactory provision of proof of the right to work in the UK.

8. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT

Applications

Those wishing to apply for this post should complete the online application form at <https://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/vacancies> and email the following documents as a **single PDF document to vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk** named in the format '**Last Name First Name SL in French Application**' and in this exact order:

- a curriculum vitae incorporating details of any publications; and
- a statement of teaching range and experience in relation to the selection criteria and needs of the College, as specified above.

Please put your **last name and SL in French** in the subject of the email.

The closing date for applications is 9.00 am (GMT) on Thursday 20 November 2025.

It is anticipated that interviews will be held in the week commencing 1 December 2025.

Candidates are encouraged to complete the Equal Opportunities Recruitment Monitoring form at the end of the Application form. The information collected on the Equal Opportunities Recruitment Monitoring form does not form part of the selection process and will not be circulated to the selection panel. It will be used solely to monitor the effectiveness of the College's equality policy which is published at <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/college-policies>

Any enquiries related to these Further Particulars should be directed in the first instance to the Senior Tutor, Dr Jane Gover (e-mail: vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk).

To view our Privacy notice please see here
<https://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/privacy-notices-and-ropas>

References

Applicants should arrange for two referees to write directly to the College by **9.00 am (GMT) on Thursday 20 November 2025**. References should be sent electronically to vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk. Hard copy signed references will be required for the successful candidate.

Applicants are responsible for requesting references from their referees and for ensuring that that references arrive by 9.00 am (GMT) on the closing date of Thursday 20 November 2025. They should give referees enough time to write in their support. The College will not request references directly from referees.

Applicants are requested to inform their referees that, under the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act 2018, the references they provide will be regarded as disclosable to the subject of the reference unless it is clear that the reference has been given in confidence. The College asks that a reference given in confidence should be marked "**strictly confidential**" on the letter of reference itself. Referees should also be asked to note that even where a reference is marked "strictly confidential" it could still be disclosed to the subject of the reference if that subject so requested and the College's Data Protection Officer deemed it appropriate.

9. Equal Opportunities

Merton College is an equal opportunities employer.

The policy and practice of Merton College require that all staff are afforded equal opportunities within employment. Entry into employment with the College and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of

criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.