

DISCIPLINE PROFILE - ANCIENT HISTORY

NATURE OF DISCIPLINE

Preamble, as per P.M.H. 22.06.06

a) Level and type of qualification:

Associate Lecturers and Lecturers are expected to have Hons BA level I or II/1, or MA Hons degrees, with PhD work in progress. Completed PhD degrees are preferred. Senior Lecturers and above are expected to have completed PhDs or equivalent.

b) Ways in which knowledge is advanced:

Staff of all ranks primarily advance knowledge by single author refereed publications in recognized scholarly presses and journals. Additionally they publish anthologies and editions of each other's works, present conference and seminar papers as in other humanities, and convey findings in undergraduate and postgraduate classes. Some publish for the general reader.

Time taken to publish individual research is commonly measured in years. Book length monographs often require a minimum of four or five years but maxima of 10 or more years are not unusual. Major articles may take two years or more. Accelerated output commonly reflects the development and elaboration of a more or less narrowly defined theme or the publication of new evidence (e.g. archaeological material).

Associate Lecturers and Lecturers are expected to produce articles, and conference and seminar papers are considered useful. No general minima are followed. Some lecturers produce books. They tend to be promoted quickly, but not always.

Senior Lecturers are expected to produce books, substantial numbers of articles of high national and/or international standard, or, preferably, both. A few high quality works equal a larger volume of average efforts.

Publication expectations for Associate Professors and Professors are similar to those for Senior Lecturers, except that there is either a larger output or some work which has won international recognition. Otherwise no rigid formulae apply.

c) Special features:

Refereed publication in leading presses and journals is the major determinant of promotion, despite efforts to upgrade the importance of teaching and administrative contribution. Individual as opposed to joint publication predominates. Most leading reputations derive from a single

famous work, though quantity of output can also make the difference in rank and status.

Teaching Contributions, as per P.M.H. 22.06.07

a) Teaching styles and loads:

All ranks above Associate Lecturer give lectures, tutorials and seminars at undergraduate and postgraduate level in their fields (Associate Lecturers would not normally be responsible for postgraduate units). Senior Lecturers and above take more upper level classes, though not in every instance. The normal load is eight class-hours per week. In undergraduate units the pattern is two one-hour lectures and one hour tutorial per student, and two-hour seminars for honours and postgraduate students. Field of study can determine teaching load more than rank; some areas attract many more students than others, and these popularities change.

b) Postgraduate teaching:

Honours and postgraduate enrolments are a few per cent of undergraduate numbers and fall across the range of teaching expertise in Greek, Roman and ancient Near Eastern history. Responsibility for supervision of postgraduate research (MA Hons, PhD) falls to senior staff members, Senior Lecturers and above, but occasionally also to Lecturers.

c) Curriculum and course/unit innovation:

Innovations in curriculum development and unit design are encouraged as they are essential to a living discipline. Such innovation is receiving growing emphasis as fashions change. The creation of new fields of study, the redefinition of old fields, the amalgamation of fields, comparative approaches, inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches, and initiatives in team-teaching and assessment and class restructuring are all encouraged.

Research and Scholarship, as per P.M.H. 22.06.08

a) Forms of dissemination:

The forms in which scholarship and research are disseminated are by refereed publication, as in 'Nature of Discipline' above, as well as by conference and seminar papers, teaching, public lectures, community classes, radio and television talks, and so forth. For scholarly publications the audience is mostly fellow academics and postgraduate students. For textbooks and popular works the audience includes undergraduates and the general community. Good professional history can attract wide community readership. Works of history often feature in popular best-seller lists, though not all of these are produced by scholarly historians.

b) Quantification of publications:

The number, frequency, and length of publications vary widely from individual to individual, with senior ranks tending to produce more and better known efforts, as suggested in 'Nature of Discipline' section above. Joint authorship, usually in the form of a two-person collaboration on a book, does exist, but it is rare. Most scholarly authorship is individual. There are, on the other hand, textbooks with joint authors and a select number of large collaborative multi-volume national histories and reference works; they tend, however, to be viewed as collections of individual contributions.

c) Place of various types of publications:

Members of the discipline publish in the full range of journals from daily newspapers to internationally esteemed scholarly journals. Most credit goes to refereed works in high standard journals or presses. Review is by fellow academics of established eminence in relevant fields.

d) Place of other contributions:

Purely creative works have no particular standing in the discipline, although valued according to their merit. Published reports, case notes, film, and case histories are rare, but published conference proceedings and researches in areas of documentary, oral, audio, film, or art history are well regarded. They tend, however, to be seen as supplementary to refereed publications.

Contribution to the University and Community, as per P.M.H. 22.06.09

a) Administration:

All ranks but especially Senior Lecturers and above are expected to take turns in School and discipline administration. Some carry University duties. These burdens often fall rather unevenly.

b) Consultancies, etc.:

Occasionally, members of the discipline perform educational, artistic, cultural, or other community or official consultancy work, both paid and unpaid. Sometimes this lies outside the individual's principal field of expertise. On rare occasions some publications, especially for non-scholarly audiences or institutional or commercial publicity, are commissioned.

c) Professional associations, etc.:

Participation in conferences (international, national and local) is usual, but there is a variety of other roles which senior members may play in

connection with professional associations, such as journal editing, reading manuscripts submitted to international (or other) journals, refereeing applications for fellowships and the like. Wider community work may also take a variety of forms: e.g., membership of HSC syllabus and examination committees; TV, film or other media work.

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Discipline Profile for Promotion to the Level of LECTURER

in ANCIENT HISTORY

Credentials A completed PhD is normally expected nowadays, but exceptionally PhD work may still be in progress.

Research and Publications Demonstrated capacity and a clearly planned program for research is essential, and an active interest in scholarly exchange beyond the classroom. This may take the form (for example) of presentation of papers at academic conferences, or of submission of articles to refereed journals. Already published articles would be a distinct advantage.

Teaching Demonstrated success in the class-room at tutorial level is essential; the candidate should be an effective communicator. In addition he or she should have displayed some capacity to lecture to a larger audience, and to present seminars at an advanced level.

Administration A willingness and some ability to administer is essential. At Associate Lecturer level this might be manifested, in addition to efficient organisation of one's teaching, by work on school or discipline committees or efficient completion of ad hoc tasks within the school or discipline.

Summary A successful applicant should have demonstrated the potential for productive research, some flair in teaching, and some capacity for organisation.

Discipline Profile for Promotion to the Level of SENIOR LECTURER in ANCIENT HISTORY

Credentials Should hold a PhD (or equivalent).

Research and Publications A candidate should have made (or have started to make) a significant impact in his or her field. This should be reflected in a growing list of substantial articles in refereed journals and papers and seminars delivered at international or national conferences and meetings, inter alia. A published monograph would be a distinct advantage, but not essential. The candidate's status in the profession might be starting to be reflected by (for example) requests to examine theses for other universities, or to serve on academic bodies outside the university, or the like.

Teaching The candidate should have demonstrated a capacity to teach successfully at every level from first year undergraduate lectures and tutorials to honours and post-graduate seminars. He or she should have displayed an ability to innovate in this area – e.g. by devising courses of a new kind or with an individual stamp. His or her teaching materials should reflect a thorough mastery of the subject and awareness of the state of scholarship in the relevant areas.

Administration Talent in this area may fluctuate, but a candidate should have displayed a real willingness to do his or her share of administrative work, either more publicly (for example on school or university committees) or behind the scenes. Some flair for organisation or capacity to provide leadership (for example as discipline, honours or postgraduate convener) would be a distinct advantage, but is not essential if the candidate's research or teaching record is outstanding.

Summary A successful applicant will have demonstrated success in research and publication, skill in teaching, and some competence in administration. In any case the candidate should be winning some recognition in the broader academic community for his or her scholarship.

Discipline Profile for Promotion to the Level of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

in ANCIENT HISTORY

Credentials Should hold a PhD (or equivalent).

Research and Publications A candidate should have demonstrated a high standard of activity in research, with considerable and significant publications. Normally the latter would include a major monograph or book which has won (or is likely to win) wide international recognition, but they may be headed by a group of lesser but related publications (shorter monographs; substantial articles in refereed journals of high international reputation, or the like) which establishes the candidate's claim to pre-eminence in a particular field. The candidate should have a substantial international reputation in his or her field through such scholarly publications. In addition to having published an array of articles in refereed journals he or she will have presented papers and seminars at a variety of international conferences and meetings and be sought after as a thesis examiner, reader of manuscripts submitted to refereed journals, and the like.

Teaching The candidate should have demonstrated a capacity to teach successfully at every level. Ideally he or she should have made a particular mark somewhere in this area, either as an inspiring undergraduate teacher, or as a post-graduate teacher or supervisor who has attracted worthy students and launched them on their careers. Nevertheless it will be true that some applicants will have stronger claims as research scholars than teachers, and vice versa, so some allowance ought to be made in either area.

Administration It should be taken for granted that an applicant will have shouldered a fair share of administrative work at a significant level of responsibility, usually both within the school and outside it, although it ought to be recognised that opportunities for the latter are not always afforded to capable individuals. That said, a case for promotion to Associate Professor would rest primarily on the grounds of research and teaching.

Summary A successful applicant will have an outstanding record in research, with significant publications which establish his or her pre-eminence in a recognised field, and at least a good reputation as a teacher and supervisor, and a competence in administration at a senior level. He or she should be an adornment to the university and the discipline in the eyes of peers.