

Frequently Asked Questions

Job Vacancies 2023

Dept. Philosophy & Religious Studies

Utrecht University

Updated March 8, 2023

Applications are no longer being accepted for these positions.

1. Job vacancies at Utrecht University (closing dates 2023-02-26 or, for #4 & #13, 2023-03-01)

1. Assistant Professor Liberal Arts and Sciences
2. Associate Professor of Ethics or Political Philosophy of Technology
3. Assistant Professor of Ethics or Political Philosophy of Technology
4. Assistant Professor of Moral, Political, or Social Philosophy
5. Assistant Professor of Theories of Practical Reasoning
6. Assistant Professor of Philosophy of Science
7. Assistant Professor of Philosophy of AI
8. Assistant Professor of Modern European Philosophy
9. Assistant Professor of History of Islamic and European Philosophy
10. Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
11. Assistant Professor of Religious Heritage and Interdisciplinarity
12. Assistant Professor of Persian Studies and/or Turkish/Ottoman Studies
13. Ass't Prof. in Philosophy - PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)

2. How can I find out more about the research and collaborations of the different groups in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies?

The [Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies](#) (one of four departments in the [Faculty of Humanities](#)) comprises the following groups:

- [History of Philosophy](#) (one of the groups in [philosophy](#))
- [Ethics Institute](#) (one of the groups in [philosophy](#))
- [Theoretical Philosophy](#) (one of the groups in [philosophy](#))
- [Islam and Arabic Studies](#) (one of the groups in [the study of religion](#))
- [Religious Studies](#) (one of the groups in [the study of religion](#))
- The [School of Liberal Arts](#), whose staff are involved in the research initiative [Subjects in Interdisciplinary Learning & Teaching \(SILT\)](#)

3. How can I find out more about the degree programmes in the department, in which successful candidates will be teaching?

Links to degree programmes:

- [Bachelor Filosofie](#)
- [Bachelor Islam en Arabisch](#)
- [Bachelor Religiewetenschappen](#)
- [Bachelor Kunstmatige Intelligentie](#)
- [Bachelor Philosophy, Politics and Economics](#)
- [Bachelor Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- [Master Applied Ethics](#)
- [Research Master Philosophy](#)
- [Master Religie en Samenleving](#)
- [Research Master Religious Studies](#)
- [Master Artificial Intelligence](#)

- [Master History and Philosophy of Science](#)

You can also read more about [unprecedented expansion of academic staff in Humanities at Utrecht University](#).

4. Do I need to submit separate applications if I'm interested in multiple positions?

Yes. Please submit your materials for all the positions for which you wish to be considered. We realize that this is an inconvenience, but the logistics of this search are particularly complex. You may submit identical dossiers to multiple vacancies, or you may tailor your materials to each specific vacancy (e.g., by including different writing samples.)

- The exception here is this: if you are applying for the Associate Professorship in Ethics or Political Philosophy of Technology, you do not also need to apply to the Assistant Professorship in that same field; if the committee judges that you don't fully qualify for appointment *Universitaire Hoofddocent* (roughly, "Associate Professor") but that you are a suitable candidate for the *Universitaire Docent* (Assistant Professor) position, the committee will contact you to see if you are interested in being considered.

5. Will letters of reference be required?

We do not ask for letters of reference at this point, and please do not send them. You may wish to include a list of references – people the committees can contact in case of questions. If, at a later stage in the process, a committee wished to consider letters of recommendation, you will be informed as early as possible. (We understand that it takes time to request letters and that alternative arrangements may need to be made.)

6. What is the teaching load?

Very roughly, the teaching load is approximately four courses per year, plus thesis supervision. The number of contact hours per week varies from 3 for graduate seminars to 6 or 8 hours for undergraduate courses (with two seminar groups). The academic year consists of 4 terms, running from September until June. Often, staff teach in 3 of the 4 terms (each of which has 7 weeks of teaching). Co-teaching of courses is common. To ensure fairness amidst all this variation, the Faculty of Humanities has developed a set of measures to make sure that you aren't given more teaching and committee assignments than your budget of hours allows.

More information on the educational model can be found [here](#)

7. What are the expectations regarding teaching in Dutch?

Competence in the Dutch language is not required at the time of application. We are a very international department, with colleagues from several different countries. In many contexts, English is the common language for communicating (particularly in research contexts), and several of our degree programmes are entirely in English. At the same time, it is crucial to our teaching and societal role that our staff can communicate and teach effectively in Dutch. International candidates will be helped to acquire Dutch language skills in the first two years of their appointment.

8. What does the position of "Universitair Docent (UD)" involve, and how is it different from an "Assistant Professor" position in other countries?

Although "Assistant Professor" is a commonly used translation for "universitair docent," this can lead to misunderstandings. To begin with, after a successful probational year, this is a permanent position. This means that there is no tenure-track-like construction involved. Utrecht University works with the TRIPLE model with regard to any further promotions (e.g. to associate professor ("Universitair hoofddocent"). This makes it possible to recognise and value multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary teaching and research. The model also embraces job diversification and dynamic career paths: there is room to develop your own strengths and look at how you complement and strengthen the team as a whole. These promotion

processes will have to be discussed with the line manager and the departmental board. All members of the department share responsibility for the running of the department; this means that all members, also assistant professors, will be able, and will to some extent be expected to, take part in committee work and administration.

9. What should I include as a writing sample? (added February 17, 2023)

Most of the ads ask for a “key publication”. However, in some cases, it will make more sense to include an unpublished essay with your application. What is most important is that your writing sample illustrates the quality of the work you are capable of, particularly in the area(s) of specialization central to the position in question. If you apply to more than one job vacancy, you may include different writing samples. Note, also, that if your writing sample is not single-authored, it will be important to explain the extent of your contribution to the paper, either in your motivation letter or (preferably) in an additional cover-page added the PDF of your co-authored writing sample.

A general note about inquiries regarding whether you are a good “fit” for any over these positions:

Many of these searches are particularly complex, often with a variety of areas of expertise. The committees will be open to a wide range of ways in which you approach these issues and ways in which you understand, for example, what counts as “heritage” or what is related to digital technologies. Approaches that fit closely with our existing approaches are welcome, as are approaches that complement and expand our current expertise. Beyond saying that, pointing to the answers to the FAQs given below, and directing you to the text of the advertisement itself, there is not much more any of us can – or, in fairness to other candidates, ought to – say in advance about whether you would be suitable for the position. Of course, for specific questions, feel free to contact the individuals listed in the job advertisement.