Job Description

Comp ID:	038815
Job Title:	Khyentse Visiting Research Fellow in Buddhist Studies
Research Group/ School/Department:	Trinity Centre for Asian Studies / School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Location:	Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, Room 2012, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland
Job Category and Level:	Appointment will be made on the IUA Post-Doctoral Researcher Salary Scale (Level PD1 or as commensurate with experience)
Hours of Work:	Full-time (1.0 FTE)

The Purpose of the Role

The Khyentse Visiting Research Fellowship in Buddhist Studies is a new initiative designed to support exceptional early-career scholars working in any area of Buddhist Studies. The fellowship provides a dedicated two-year period for research, academic development, mentoring, and public engagement within the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies (TCAS). The role will:

- support fellows in making substantial progress on an independent research project in Buddhist Studies.
- nurture professional development through individual mentorship and structured grant-writing support.
- strengthen Buddhist Studies in Ireland, laying the groundwork for future permanent posts and programme development.
- embed the Fellow within TCAS's thriving research community in Himalayan, Tibetan, Bhutanese and Sino-Tibetan Studies.

Reporting to Professor Nathan W. Hill, Director of TCAS, the Fellow will collaborate with colleagues including Dr Tim Bodt and Dr Seema Chauhan and participate fully in the intellectual life of the Centre.

Context

Trinity College Dublin (founded 1592) is Ireland's leading university and a global centre of excellence in Arts & Humanities. The Trinity Centre for Asian Studies (TCAS) has grown rapidly since 2021, attracting postdoctoral fellows, new academic staff, and expanding interdisciplinary activity in Asian Studies. TCAS's strengths include:

- Himalayan and Tibetan Studies
- Bhutanese cultural and linguistic studies
- Sino-Tibetan linguistics
- Asian minority languages and philology
- Buddhist-adjacent textual and cultural research
- Strong international networks and a rapidly expanding postgraduate cohort

Trinity does not yet have a dedicated faculty position in Buddhist Studies, but the Centre's expertise in Tibet, Bhutan and Himalayan Buddhist regions, together with close ties to the School of Religion, Theology & Peace Studies, offers a strong platform on which to build a distinctive Buddhist Studies profile.

The Khyentse Visiting Research Fellowship has been created to give an outstanding early-career scholar the time, resources and collegial support to help shape that development. As Fellow, you will be able to:

- develop your own research agenda in Buddhist Studies within a supportive, interdisciplinary environment;
- play a leading role in establishing Buddhist Studies as a recognised strength at Trinity and in Ireland more broadly;
- strengthen your track record for future major funding applications (for example ERC Starting Grants or SFI–IRC Pathway), with mentoring and practical support from TCAS and Trinity's Research Development Office.

This is therefore both a research fellowship and a rare opportunity to help build a new area of teaching and research in Buddhist Studies at a national level.

Fellows will also have the opportunity to engage with:

- Dublin Buddhist communities
- The Chester Beatty, a national museum with world-renowned Buddhist collections
- International partners in Buddhist Studies research

Main Responsibilities

This is a list of the tasks, duties and responsibilities for the role is not intended to be exclusive and may be adjusted dependent on the area of research.

The Fellow will:

Research & Scholarship

- Conduct a substantial independent research project in Buddhist Studies.
- Produce high-quality scholarly outputs (peer-reviewed articles, monograph chapters, or similar).
- Carry out original research using appropriate methodologies (philological, textual, historical, ethnographic, digital, etc.).
- Present research findings at international conferences and seminars.
- Participate in the research culture of TCAS and the Trinity Long Room Hub.

Public Engagement

- Curate and host two public scholarly events per year featuring international speakers.
- Deliver at least one public lecture per year on their own research.
- Engage with Buddhist communities in Dublin and across Ireland.
- Collaborate as appropriate with the Chester Beatty and other cultural institutions.

Teaching & Mentorship (limited)

- Provide a small amount of teaching (typically one undergraduate or MPhil module, or guest lectures), subject to need and expertise.
- Offer informal mentorship to TCAS postgraduate students.

Funding Development & Career Progression

- Work with the TCAS Director and TCD Research Development Office to prepare future funding applications (e.g., MSCA, ERC Starting Grant, SFI–IRC Pathway).
- Engage in training offered by TCD in career development, research ethics, project leadership, and grant writing.

Administration

- Manage their research budget, in coordination with TCAS director (€2,000 per year).
- Maintain accurate documentation, data management, and outputs reporting.
- Assist with organisation of workshops, conferences, and academic events.
- Undertake other duties as required by the PI.

Person Requirements

The role-holder will require the following knowledge, skills and attributes for successful performance in the role

Qualifications

- PhD in Buddhist Studies or a closely related discipline (Religious Studies, Asian Studies, Indology, Tibetology, Chinese or Japanese Buddhism, Comparative Philosophy), awarded or with award pending at the time of appointment.

Knowledge and Expertise

- Demonstrated research expertise in one or more areas of Buddhist Studies.

- Competence in relevant research languages (e.g., Classical Tibetan, Sanskrit, Pāli, Classical Chinese, Japanese, etc.).

- Evidence of high-quality academic outputs appropriate to career stage.

- Understanding of research methodologies relevant to the candidate's specialism.

- Experience working in a university research environment.

- Excellent analytical, organisational, and communication skills.

- Experience in public engagement, outreach, or collaboration with cultural institutions is desirable.

- Experience in university teaching is desirable.

Key Accountabilities

Consistent with Trinity's framework for research staff:

- Conduct tasks with the highest academic and ethical standards.

- Deliver agreed research outputs and public events within the project timeline.

- Support dissemination of research to academic and public audiences.

- Maintain accurate administrative records and manage research resources.

- Engage constructively with TCAS colleagues, partners, and external communities.

- Demonstrate initiative in planning research and career development.

- Contribute to the long-term strengthening of Buddhist Studies at Trinity.Other related duties as requested

Trinity Competencies

In Trinity there are 6 Core Competencies that are applicable to all roles across a range of professional, administrative and support jobs, unlike specialist or technical skills which may be job specific. They provide a common language for describing performance and the abilities/attributes displayed by individuals. They focus on 'how' tasks are achieved, not 'what' is achieved.

Below is a summary definition of the 6 Core Competencies.

	Competency	Summary Definition
1	Agile Leader	Sees the big picture and harnesses opportunities to achieve the University's goals. Creates clear direction for the future and how to get there.
2	Unlocks Potential	Energised, capable and confident to take ownership and responsibility for their development and goals. Motivates, supports and develops people to perform to the best of their ability.
3	Service Ethos	Finds ways to increase stakeholder and customer satisfaction. Builds relationships, is proactive and delivery focused in order to anticipate, meet & exceed expectations.
4	Builds Trusted Relationships	Communicates in a clear and respectful manner building trust and commitment for mutually beneficial outcomes.
5	Decision-making	Confidently makes timely decisions based on knowledge, evidence and sound judgement.
6	Achieves Results	Delivers results by setting direction, planning, executing and evaluating impact.