

Public Bioethics Fellow

JOB DESCRIPTION

The principal responsibility of the Public Bioethics Fellow is to facilitate the effective communication of the Catholic Church's moral teaching as it bears on bioethics to:

- Healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists;
- Medical, nursing and other university students;
- The Catholic and wider Christian community;
- The general public.

This will be done by:

- Writing popular articles and opinion pieces in an accessible style without compromising the essential technical and ethical content to be communicated;
- Lecturing (semi-regular), giving talks and presentations, and participating in conferences and seminars, both in-person and on-line;
- Contributing to the Centre's output of peer-reviewed scholarship;
- Helping to develop and deliver a course in Catholic Bioethics;
- Devising and initiating public bioethics projects of his or her own to communicate the Centre's message more effectively;
- Networking conducive to public bioethics outreach;
- Editing the website and related social media as a public resource for Catholic bioethics;
- Working closely with the Director on projects and tasks initiated by the Director;
- Performing such other reasonable tasks as may be requested from time to time as part of the overall work of the Centre.



As Public Bioethics Fellow, you will work in a small and dynamic team as part of one of the world's longest established and best bioethics centres.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

Education

- MA/MSc degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline (e.g. philosophy, theology, law, medicine, biomedical sciences).

Skills / Aptitudes

- A strong researcher with high-level analytical skills;
- Clear and persuasive communicator (in both written and oral formats);
- Works well with others;
- Strong work ethic;
- Ability to use, or to learn how to use, electronic media (including updating web-content);
- Can creatively pursue new ways of communicating Catholic bioethics.

Knowledge / Experience

- Experience in public speaking (e.g., teaching, presentations, debating);
- An academic interest in bioethics;
- A solid grasp of the fundamentals of Catholic moral teaching.

Personal attributes

- While the post-holder does not necessarily have to be a Catholic, s/he must fully support the aims and the Catholic ethos of the Centre, and commit not to behave in a manner which can reasonably be judged prejudicial to the Centre's mission and public reputation;
- Conscientious.

Desirable

Education

- Doctoral qualification in a relevant discipline.

Skills / Aptitudes

- Very good IT skills.

Knowledge / Experience

- Experience in academic lecturing / teaching;
- Persuasive debater in both written and oral formats.

Achievements

- Popular publications of a scholarly/academic nature;
- Peer-reviewed publications.

PAY AND CONDITIONS

The successful applicant will be appointed for a period of 2 years in the first instance, with a probationary period of 6 months.

The starting salary of the Public Bioethics Fellow will be £30-36,000 pro rata, depending on experience. The Centre will also contribute 8% of salary into a personal pension scheme.

This job is part-time, for the equivalent of 2.5 days a week (17.5 hours) with potential for expansion of the role. There is some flexibility about when hours are taken, but the post-holder must be prepared, from time to time, to respond to news queries, social media activity, etc. at short notice. In general, the post-holder will work remotely (“from home”) but some work will require the post-holder to be onsite for Centre meetings, events or for public speaking (e.g., lecturing). Occasional weekend working may be required.

APPLICATIONS

Applicants should **submit a CV and a cover letter** which makes clear their suitability for the post of Public Bioethics Fellow, **together with an opinion piece** (op-ed) pitched for a national newspaper on a bioethical topic of choice (750 to 800 words) **plus one other piece of written work** (3,000 to 7,000 words) which could be but need not be related to bioethics. The applicant’s written work should not contain any identifying information so it can be assessed independently from the rest of his or her application.

Applicants should also **provide contact details for two referees**, at least one of whom should be well-placed to testify to the candidate's respect for the mission and Catholic ethos of the Centre. References should be sent directly to the Centre by referees. Applicants should give their referees notice of the deadline for references.

Further details:

- CVs (together with cover letters, contact details for references and written work) should be sent directly and independently to Gwen McCourt at admin@bioethics.org.uk, to whom further enquiries may also be directed;
- **Closing date for applications:** 12 noon, Thursday 15 June 2023;
- **Deadline for references:** 12 noon, Monday 19 June 2023;
- **Interviews:** Thursday 22 June 2023, via Zoom;
- **Proposed commencement of the position:** By mutual agreement and not later than Monday 25 September 2023.

Please note that applicants must have the right to work in the UK and may be asked to furnish documentary proof if offered the position.

ABOUT THE CENTRE

The **Anscombe Bioethics Centre** (originally known as the **Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics**) is a Roman Catholic academic institute that engages with the moral questions arising in clinical practice and biomedical research. It brings to bear on those questions principles of natural law, virtue ethics, and the teaching of the Catholic Church, and seeks to develop the



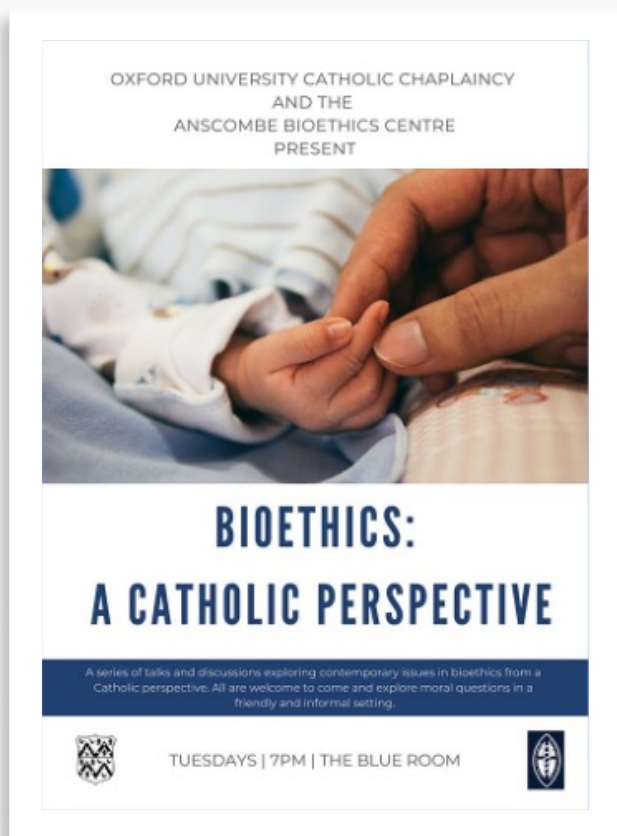
implications of that teaching for emerging fields of practice. The Centre engages in scholarly dialogue with academics and practitioners of other traditions. It contributes to public policy debates as well as to debates and consultations within the Church. It runs educational programmes for, and gives advice to, Catholic and other interested healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists. It also offers talks and lectures to other groups, including seminaries and schools.

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre is the foremost Catholic institution specialising in the field of biomedical ethics in the UK and Ireland. As such it provides a unique service to the Catholic community in these islands and more particularly to Catholics working in the field of healthcare. The Centre has a record, over the 44 years of its existence, of influence in the Church outside these islands as well as academic engagement in public policy debates in the United Kingdom. There are five members of staff, and the Centre has offices in 82–83 St Aldate's, Oxford, close to the well-known college of Christ Church, Oxford (although the Centre is not affiliated to the university).

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre is a registered charity and has as its stated object to:

'... [provide] training and guidance or...[to] cooperat[e] in the provision thereof to assist those who are engaged in or concerned with the practice of health care and the application of the biological and social sciences to solve and to deal with any moral questions that may arise in the course of their professional duties in the light of Catholic doctrine and to bring Catholic principles to bear in the performance of their work'. [Trust Deed, para. 3]

As biomedical ethics affects all citizens (not only professionals) and as it is shaped by law and public policy, the Centre also addresses the needs of the public and of policymakers for clarity on these issues. Furthermore, as attitudes (of professionals, the public and policy-makers) are shaped by education, and as schools explicitly engage with issues in medical ethics, the Centre also addresses their needs.



The principal aims of the Centre are:

- directly to assist healthcare professionals to develop a sound moral understanding of bioethical issues;
- to help achieve a deeper understanding within the Catholic community of the Church's moral teaching as it bears on the practice of healthcare and work in the biomedical sciences;
- to assist other individuals and bodies to understand and apply the Church's moral teaching on bioethical issues;

- to assist the teaching authorities within the Church in addressing bioethical issues;
- to communicate and defend the Church's moral teaching about bioethical issues in public consultations and debates in order to influence public policy and legislation.

These purposes are fulfilled by a combination of: research and publications, conferences, courses, talks and lectures, some degree of media work, and consultancy work for individuals and for other organisations.



© The Anscombe Bioethics Centre 2022
82-83 St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1RA, United Kingdom
Tel: 07734 964 620
Email: admin@bioethics.org.uk
Reg. Charity No. 274327