Gresham College

IT Livery Company
Professorship of IT

November 2024

Gresham College
Barnard's Inn Hall
Holborn
London EC1N 2HH
www.gresham.ac.uk

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the role of IT Livery Professor of IT at Gresham College. A new appointment will be made to this position with effect from 1 August 2025.

The mission of Gresham College is to make new learning of contemporary relevance and academic integrity available to a wide and diverse audience. It provides an intellectually rigorous and stimulating programme of free public lectures of the highest standard, dealing in depth with a range of intellectual, cultural, and social issues. All its professors are superb communicators able to get across complex ideas to an educated but non-specialist audience.

As the term of office of Professor Victoria Baines comes to an end, the College is seeking a Professor of IT, who will continue to educate and inspire audiences, building on the 400-year-old traditions of Gresham College, at the same time as developing innovative ideas for the transmission of knowledge. The Professor of IT was established in 2015 and is open to any discipline in such areas as Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Software Dependability, Web Technologies, HCI and FinTech etc. The successful candidate will have a record of high-level scholarship, and a demonstrable ability to communicate the complexity of the subject to an interested audience.

Gresham Professors are contracted to provide six one-hour lectures annually (which are live-streamed and recorded), as well as participating in additional promotional filming and engaging in Academic Board meetings and social events. It is common to hold a Gresham Professorship (with its specified commitments) alongside a permanent position at a university, professional institution or other body, but the home institution's agreement must be secured in advance. The term of office is three years.

Applications will be judged against the job description and person specification that follow, and applicants should clearly state how their skills and experience combine to meet these criteria. The selection and interview process will be conducted by an interview panel who will make an appointment recommendation to Council. Candidates invited to interview will be asked to give a **10-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute Q&A** on their topic (such as an overview of their proposed series, or an excerpt from a lecture), presented as if to a Gresham public audience. The final appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references, formal Sponsor and Council approval, and any other necessary document checks (e.g., right to work in the UK).

Please contact us at professorships@gresham.ac.uk if you have any queries or require any additional information that is not covered below.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Martin Elliott
Provost
Gresham College
Barnard's Inn Hall
Holborn, London, EC1N 2HH

Introduction

Gresham College has been maintained in various forms since its foundation in 1597, but the major continuing activity has always been the appointment of distinguished Professors "*sufficiently learned to reade [sic] the lectures*" in Astronomy, Divinity, Geometry, Law, Music, Physic and Rhetoric. To these, in 1985, was added the Mercers' School Memorial Professor Business, in 2014 the Frank Jackson Professor of the Environment, and in 2015 the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists' (WCIT) Professor of Information Technology.

In addition to the historic obligation to provide free public lectures, the College also collaborates with institutions of higher education, learned societies and professional bodies. One of its major original concerns was to provide insights to an important and sometimes influential audience in the City of London, it now also provides a platform through which a global audience can be reached. Through its independence it can offer opportunities for free and open discussion and debate that are not always available elsewhere.

Since 1991, the College has been based at Barnard's Inn Hall, where the premises provide for lectures and other events, but a range of other venues are also used. Gresham College has no registered students, runs no courses, and does not confer degrees or diplomas. All Gresham lectures (about 100 p.a.) are open to the public, without charge, with attendances in person numbering up to 9,000 each year and achieving c.7 million online views annually. All lectures are live-streamed, and recordings made available on our website, through YouTube and as podcasts; there are now over 2,000 Gresham lectures accessible through the College website.

Mission of Gresham College

Mission

1.   To continue to provide free public lectures of the highest possible standard, focused on the maintaining of Gresham Professorships in an extensive range of academic disciplines, in accordance with the Vision of Sir Thomas Gresham as expressed in his Will in 1575 which is now stated as follows:

To entrust the City Corporation and the Mercers' Company to ensure that a succession of academics should be nominated and appointed as Professors 'to read Lectures in Divinity, Astronomy, Musick and Geometry, … and also Law, Physick and Rhetorick, for the benefit of the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of London, henceforth and so long as they or their successors shall by any means or title have, and hold and enjoy the said Royal Exchange, Shops, Pawns, Vaults, Houses and all other the Premisses with the Appurtenances for ever.'

2.   To provide free and open access to new learning of contemporary relevance and interest in the widest possible international sense.

3.   To contribute to society through the provision of stimulating free education, learning and debate, linked to the core value of freedom of thought and expression.

Job Description: IT Livery Professor of Information Technology

Professors are appointed periodically, for a three-year term.

The appointment of the Professor of IT is subject to the official approval of the IT Livery Company. An honorarium of £8,000 is paid (plus reasonable travel expenses). Professors are responsible for ensuring that any tax due is paid through self-assessment.

Professors' responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Lectures

- To contribute to the College's annual academic programme, by preparing and personally delivering six public lectures a year (lasting one hour including time for questions) and making such other public presentation(s) as may be agreed with the College.

- To provide written accompanying texts of lectures and any other supporting resources, such as PowerPoints, at least one week in advance of each lecture. These materials, together with live-streaming and video recordings, are made public through the Internet and other means.

- To contribute to the College's overarching aim to provide free education and outreach to a wide range of audiences, both locally in person and world-wide through the Internet.

Academic Board

- To participate in the activities of the College, including attendance at an initial professorial induction session, and at meetings of the Academic Board, which normally meets four times per year (October, February, April, and June).

- To advise as necessary and appropriate on College academic policy, programmes, and proposals.

- To participate in additional activities from time to time, both academic and social, attending other meetings and events (including social events) as appropriate, and where possible.

Promotion of the College

- To engage with the College's production team on promotional filming for lectures and for the College more widely.

- To promote the College in external partnerships and at external events, acting where possible as an ambassador for the organisation, its members, and followers.

- To use the Gresham title wherever possible/appropriate when engaging in other activities, so that public attention is drawn to their connection with the College.

- To promote the College's reputation as a prominent, global education institution, committed to making accessible a wide range of innovative education and research.

Person Specification: IT Livery Professor of Information Technology

Essential

- A superb communicator with extensive experience of public speaking and lecturing, with a commitment to widening participation and access able to deliver complex information to largely non-specialist audiences.

- A distinguished record in the field of information technology, with strong credibility including an academic research profile (where appropriate) and the ability to command respect from sponsors, staff, participants, and others.

- Proposals for a programme of lectures of originality and topicality for the tenure of the professorship and specifically providing engaging titles and 200/250-word abstracts for each of the first 6 lectures in year one, and outlines for the further two years for approval by the Academic Board. Note: Successful candidates must also provide 80/90 word summaries of all their first-year lectures for the printed programme booklet immediately upon appointment. Please note that originality extends to our programme content. We recommend you familiarise yourself with our current programme and programme archives to ensure sufficient distinction.

- Enthusiasm for the College's ethos and range of provision, with the ability to work with colleagues to promote an academic programme of the highest standard that will have excitement, relevance, credibility, and impact – making a contribution to local/national/ international learning and debate.

- A willingness to work with Gresham colleagues on promotion and marketing of lectures, and in the creation of introductory videos, interviews, publicity, etc.

- An ability to build on the College's current success and strengths to lead it to an ever-higher level of achievement and growth (particularly globally).

- Good interpersonal and communication skills, in order to relate to the sponsors, other academics, staff and members of the public

- Outreach to students and schools is also included in College activities.

- Good time management (lectures are strictly limited to one hour including questions).

Desirable

- A national/international reputation, with substantial publications of recognised international quality (or similar), which will contribute to and enhance the profile of Gresham College.

- An excellent track record in teaching, evinced by previous university-level lectures.

- A willingness to participate in new formats explored by the College (e.g. podcasts, lectures in schools).

Additional Notes

1. **University positions.** It is not essential for applicants to be formally attached to a University or Higher Education Institution as long as the above can be demonstrated.

2. **Country of residence.** It is not essential for Professors to be UK-based, but the requirement to attend at least 10 times per year for lectures, Board meetings and other occasions would present challenges to anyone outside the UK (non-UK expenses are subject to limits). Please be advised that the College does not possess a sponsor license and is therefore unable to support work visa applications.

Equal Opportunities

Gresham College has an increasingly diverse world-wide audience and programme. To reflect this, the College wants to increase the diversity of its professoriate, and welcomes applications from everyone regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. It would like to see applicants from the full pool of talent – especially those who have been and continue to be underestimated, underrepresented, and under-served. All appointments will be made on merit, following a fair and transparent process.

Panel members are aware of the principles of equality of opportunity and fair selection. Gresham College's equal opportunities in employment policy (in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the protected characteristics defined therein) states: *The only consideration in recruitment, training, appraisal and promotion of employees will be how the genuine requirements of the post are met or likely to be met by the individual under consideration.*

Application Process

All applications will be managed in accordance with the process outlined below. No additional recruitment agency or executive search is being used, and no agencies may submit on another's behalf. Formal applications must consist of:

1. A statement in the form of a letter explaining your suitability for the role as against the information and criteria specified in the Job Description and Person Specification, as well as details of the proposed lecture series.

2. A Curriculum Vitae of no more than five pages. Anything above this limit will not be submitted to the panel. CVs submitted without an accompanying statement as outlined in point 1 above will **not** be considered.

3. A list of proposed titles and abstracts for the first year's 6 lectures (as for a submission of abstract for conference proceedings, c 200-250 words for each of the lectures), plus an outline for the following two years (6 further lectures per year) to show the coherence of your programme.

4. A weblink to a lecture presented by you on the internet, to demonstrate your outstanding communication skills appealing to both specialist and non-specialist alike. Lack of such an online lecture does not preclude you from applying but is strongly encouraged.

5. Indication of any social media presence you currently have e.g., X (Twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, or any others that you use.

6. Names and addresses of two referees. Referees will be contacted only upon offer of the appointment.

7. Submission of a Recruitment Monitoring form. This can be completed here: https://forms.office.com/e/EYCM9C9yHT

Applications should be sent to professorships@gresham.ac.uk. Please combine into a **single PDF file**, if possible, and **include your surname** in the file title. Applications may also be sent by post to:

The Academic Programme Manager
Gresham College
Barnard's Inn Hall
Holborn
London EC1N 2HH.

The closing date for the IT Livery Professor of Information Technology is 09.30 am on <u>Monday 6 January 2025</u>.

Interviews will be held in London on <u>Monday 3 March 2025</u>.