

Dear Professor Edwards

I am pleased to attach my CV and application form for the post of Senior Lecturer in French History as advertised on the jobs.ac.uk website.

For the past five years I have held the post of Lecturer in the department of French Studies at the University of Northtown, where my research has focused primarily on Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century French Atlantic history. I have a particular interest in the history of the Haitian revolution and have recently developed a new undergraduate module in Post Colonial Caribbean History in collaboration with the department of History and the department of Hispanic Studies.

I have published widely in the field of French Atlantic history and society. My monograph, "Piracy and Revolution in the Lesser Antilles" won the Leverhulme award and I was invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. My research received outstanding peer reviews and helped the department attain a 4* rating in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

Currently I am researching the history of the great planter families in Tortuga in the early nineteenth century and their links with the Haitian Revolution, for which I have been awarded a two year grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. My enquiry focuses on the transition from autocratic and feudal structures to democratic institutions in the French Atlantic and the cultural barriers to democracy in post-colonial societies. It examines transatlantic family structures and their influence on French and Colonial political life. I have been fortunate to spend a six month sabbatical at the Universite d'Etat d'Haiti where I was able to conduct primary research with officials in the Haitian government and the United Nations. This has resulted in a six month consultancy project from the Haitian Ministry of Social Justice to advise on electoral reform.

I believe my research has clear links with your Post Colonial French History research group and would contribute well to your joint degrees with the Sociology and History departments, for example your modules in Nineteenth Century French Caribbean History and Slave Societies in Eighteenth Century French Colonies.

Having discussed my research interests with Dr Benoit and Dr Ward, I was impressed by the close integration of research and teaching in the department. I am passionate about the value of integrating doctoral research into undergraduate teaching and recently introduced a programme for PhD students to supervise and mentor undergraduates during their final year dissertations.

- 1: This gets straight to the point and shows you have already held a similar level of post.
- 2: Always give evidence of what you have achieved in your current and past roles; especially anything which shows how you will be able to improve the current offering of the recruiting department.
- 3: It helps to give actual quantified outcomes and to show how you will improve the standing of the department/enable the department to access funding and/or improve their league table position.
- 4: This bolsters your academic credentials, shows you can apply your research and proves you can generate income.
- 5: This is based on knowledge of the department's offering, demonstrates more career focus and shows clearly how you can contribute if they hire you.
- 6: Evidence that you have bothered to research the role properly, are seriously interested and are known to people the recruiter trusts. If you don't already know people in the department, ask around to see if anyone can introduce you. Failing that, contact the Institution and ask if you can discuss the post before submitting your application.
- 7: There is actual evidence here of a real interest and some evidence of initiative and achievement. It also balances academic excellence with evidence of administrative/managerial skill.

I am also impressed by the strength of your e-learning platforms and believe I can help develop these further. As placement officer for the year abroad I extended our e-learning resources to provide support from Language Assistants to students during their second year overseas. This received excellent feedback in our departmental Student Experience Survey.

8: Anything which ticks boxes in terms of league table positions is likely to go down well.

I currently teach undergraduate modules on French Atlantic History 1790 – 1840 and The Haitian Revolution and its Links to French Political Life and can also offer both undergraduate and postgraduate modules on Twentieth Century French Caribbean Politics, Francophone Slave Literature and French Caribbean Language and Dialects. I currently supervise three PhD students and have seen two of my PhD students receive their awards this year.

9: This is more helpful as it is specific.

10: Try to include evidence of success, not just that you carry something out.

11: More hard evidence of a positive impact on the department.

In addition to my teaching and supervision duties, I serve on the Staff Student Liaison Group. From 2009 - 2011 I acted as Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for the department; a period which saw an 8% rise in applications at a time when applications nationally dipped by 5%. This was achieved by implementing a new schools outreach programme and improving communications with prospective students at the post-offer stage.

12: Try to be specific, but its fine just to mention one or two recent examples of your work – the rest can be found on your CV and/or discussed at interview.

13: This is a stronger pitch for the job and answers the question 'Why should you hire me?'

As associate editor of the 'French Atlantic Political Review' I have organised a number of conferences. This included a conference on 'Electoral Reform in the French Caribbean' in Haiti in April which was attended by 350 delegates and where I was one of the keynote speakers.

14: This sounds polite but confident.

In summary, I believe my relevant expertise in French Atlantic history, politics and society, my strong research and publications record, my ability to support the department's joint degree programmes and my achievements in integrating research and teaching whilst improving the student experience make me ideally placed to contribute in this Senior Lecturer position.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my application further at interview. Please contact me if you would like any further information in the meantime.

Yours sincerely