



Chair & Faculty in Religious Studies

University of the West is a private, nonprofit, non-sectarian, co-educational university accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Founded in 1991 by Venerable Master Hsing Yun of the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist order, it is one of five worldwide universities and colleges in the Fo Guang Shan Consortium. UWest is also part of an interfaith consortium of graduate schools, including Claremont School of Theology, Academy for Jewish Religion, Bayan Claremont, and the Indic Foundation.

The Religious Studies Department at UWest specializes in the study of Buddhism and comparative religion, offering MA and PhD degrees in religious studies. In addition to their teaching mission, faculty members engage in significant research projects, including detailed study of Chinese-, Sanskrit-, and Pali-language Buddhist texts and the study of Asian religions in the contemporary world. The department collaborates with other units, particularly Buddhist Chaplaincy and Psychology.

The department invites applications for a full-time, open rank, tenure/tenure-track position in Buddhist Studies to chair the department. We seek a dynamic teacher-scholar with primary research expertise in one or a combination of the following areas: modern Chinese Buddhism, Buddhist modernism, Mahayana Buddhist traditions. Scholars with other specializations in Buddhist Studies are welcome to apply. Expertise in relevant theoretical and methodological approaches to Buddhist studies/religious studies may be complemented by disciplinary training in folklore/anthropology, history, cultural studies, philosophy, and sociology of religion. An appreciation of Buddhist practice and applied approaches is also desired.

The candidate should possess strong leadership and administrative skills, and preferably, have served as a department chair. As chair of the department, he or she will manage fiscal and academic planning, classroom instruction, student advisement, and department data and records; assess the department on an ongoing basis and ensure continuous quality improvement in programs and courses; and recruit and evaluate faculty. The chair also provides leadership for the development of the department by creating and implementing innovative programs and curricula that promote growth and meet needs.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Please submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and a list of at least three professional references to:

Search Committee, Religious Studies
University of the West
1409 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, California 91770.



Electronic applications should be sent to hr@uwest.edu. All applications received by March 1, 2017 will be given full consideration.