
Teaching the Legacies of Slavery in TEI's: Research Associate

Scottish Episcopal Institute

Salary	£35,727 (Spine Point 16) equivalent. This project is grant funded. Hourly rate at £18.3.
Contract	Grant funded, fixed term for 240 hours
Hours	Negotiable. Part-time hours to be discussed.
Location	Remote (UK based) with occasional travel to Edinburgh or other locations as required.

Purpose of this role

Reporting to the Scottish Episcopal Institute's Director of Studies, you will work as part of a project team to deliver the Durham University Seedcorn Grant funded: 'Teaching the Legacies of Slavery in TEI's: Exploring teaching practice concerning the transatlantic slave-trade and reparations.' You will be responsible for conducting quantitative/qualitative research with Theological Education Institutes (TEI's) in the UK and in the Caribbean exploring how/if TEI's already teach content on 1) transatlantic slavery and the involvement of churches/missionary societies, 2) discussions on reparations (not limited to economics). The researcher will also ask, if they are indeed already taught, in which module are they covered, and how the subject is approached and will create reports of the diversity of each TEI student body.

The appointed researcher will be responsible for primary analysis on the data collected. They will then work with the team of researchers to apply this data to create a framework of best practice regarding how to teach this subject comprehensively and sensitively to students. We envision the study forming a peer-reviewed journal article that you will also assist in writing with the researchers.

Background to this role

This research forms part of a project funded by Durham University Common Awards Seedcorn Grant and carried out through SEI and Dr Victoria Turner as Principal Investigator. The object of this study is to offer suggestions for best practice regarding the teaching of historic church-connected transatlantic slavery and the current topic of reparations (not limited to economics) in UK TEI's (with results useful also to Religion and Theology university departments).

TEI's have the privilege of not only teaching of the various forms of reparations that
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churches and wider society are currently working through, but of joining in with restorative justice themselves by education and ‘revealing the truth.’ Addressing gaps in education and pedagogy is, in itself, a reparative action. This project seeks to explore pedagogic reparative action through addressing how the transatlantic slave trade and the church’s historic and current role in it, is, and should be, taught in theological colleges.

The project will concentrate on the TEI’s partnered with the Durham University Common Awards programme and TEI’s based in the Caribbean. This will involve multiple denominations all with their own entwined and complex relationships with the transatlantic slave trade. These denominations include: The Church of England, United Reformed Church, The Methodist Church, Baptist Union, Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church in Wales.

Who are we?

The Scottish Episcopal Institute “Forming People for Ministry” is a Theological Educational Institute that forms people for lay and ordained ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church (and partner denominations—United Reformed Church and Congregational Federation through the Scottish College). SEI is one of 19 institutions that deliver Common Awards programmes. These institutions are primarily in England, with one in Wales and one in Scotland [TEI Programme Documentation - Durham University](#). We offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses (including three MA’s), with a team of 20 tutors (four core and sixteen associate). We are always seeking ways to improve and decolonize our curriculum. This project also links to the SEC’s Legacies of Slavery project.

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) is a diverse church in the liturgical tradition, with approximately 300 congregations across Scotland. We are part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion. The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church is a registered charity serving the Church at national (or ‘provincial’) level. The General Synod Office, with a staff complement of c.30, supports dioceses (regions), congregations, clergy and laity across Scotland and facilitates the governance of the Church.

Who we’re looking for...

We envision this project being suitable for a current or recently graduated PhD candidate in a relevant subject—theology, religious studies, education, history, with experience of quantitative or qualitative research.

Knowledge of transatlantic slavery, and especially as this relates to the church will be of benefit. You will have excellent communication skills—orally and written, the ability to independently manage data collection, experience of team working and collaborative working.

We are an equal opportunity employer and invite applications from people of all backgrounds and from any faith or none.

Duties

- Set a plan for qualitative/quantitative research method.
- Identify key people and conduct preliminary research the key partner organisations and their links with the transatlantic slave trade.
- Make contact with key organisations and conduct this qualitative/quantitative research in a timely manner.
- Organize and analyze the data collected and present it effectively to the project team.
- Contribute to the design and delivery of outreach and dissemination activities to share project results with TEI’s and for academic publication.

Key Relationships

You will regularly interact with the SEI Director of Studies Dr Victoria Turner, and from time to time, either in person or online with other project team personnel—namely Rev Dr Calton Turner and Canon Rev Dr Peniel Rajkumar. It is expected that the vast majority of this work will be done through home working.

Person Specification

Criteria

	Essential
Education	Currently engaged in postgraduate research in a relevant topic with at least a relevant MA (or equivalent).
Knowledge and Experience	Demonstrable and up-to-date expertise in ethnographic (qualitative/quantitative) methods. Experience of effective data collection and literature searches, and analysing data from a variety of sources. Experience of producing work for academic publication. Knowledge of experience in teaching in TEIs or Universities in relevant subject.

Skills	<p>Excellent communication skills, both oral and written</p> <p>Ability to communicate effectively with non-academic audiences</p> <p>Sensitivity to the complexity of the subject matter</p> <p>Ability to work independently</p> <p>Ability to interpret and analyse both qualitative and quantitative data</p>
Attributes	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a flexible, positive, and responsible approach to your work. • Be able to plan, organise and prioritise your own work to complete research activities in a logical and rigorous manner, within agreed timescales • Have the ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with a wide range of people. • Be able to demonstrate tact and diplomacy as well as handle sensitive information sensibly and responsibly • Have good internal and external relational skills

For an informal chat about this role, please send an email with your contact details to victoria.turner@scotland.anglican.org

How to apply

By the closing date below, please send to victoria.turner@scotland.anglican.org

the following documents:

- a copy of your CV
- a cover letter (maximum one pages of A4) explaining how you meet the job specifications
- a research plan (one page maximum) outlining how you would approach this project within the timescale

Please give details to **one academic referee** familiar with your work and seek their consent to be contacted if offered an interview.

Closing date 18 May, 2026

After the closing date

The selection panel will review applications and will be in touch by the end of May.

Interviews June 2026, in Edinburgh or online

Reasonable travel costs to attend an interview will be reimbursed.

Please note: You must have the *unrestricted* right to work in the UK to be eligible for this General Synod of The Scottish Episcopal Church - Scottish Charity Number SC015962

post.