

***Position Announcement:***

**Henderson-Harris Fellowship Program  
Academic Fellowship in the Department of Religion  
College of Arts and Sciences  
The University of Vermont**

The Religion Department of the University of Vermont is seeking applicants for a **Henderson-Harris Postdoctoral Fellowship with a specialization in Religion and Race in the Americas**, with a starting date of August 19, 2024. We are open to area of specialization, but are especially interested in a scholar who works on Religions and Black communities, Religions and Latinx communities, or Religions and Indigenous Communities. We will consider scholars whose work is in the United States or in the American hemisphere more broadly. Candidates should have the capacity to teach and engage students in the Critical Study of Religion and will ideally have an additional/secondary specialization in one of the following areas of expertise: health and medicine, gender and sexuality, the environment, education, and social justice.

The Henderson-Harris Postdoctoral Fellowship specifically seeks scholars from historically underrepresented minority or racial groups. The Fellowship is for up to two years, with the capacity to transition into a tenure track line. Applicants should have their PhD by the start of the Fellowship and evidence of excellence or promise in scholarship and teaching, publications, and ability to engage with diverse students with different pedagogies. We will consider those who have completed their degrees after August 2020, and while a degree in Religion is preferred, we will consider applicants with degrees in related disciplines with sufficient background in Religion. Fellows are expected to teach two courses a year, one each semester.

**Application Process:**

Review of applications will begin on October 31, 2023 and the position will remain open until filled.

Applicants are asked to submit materials to Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst (Ilyse.Morgenstein-Fuerst@uvm.edu), Associate Professor of Religion and chair of the search committee.

Applicants are asked to submit the following materials:

- A cover letter;
- CV;
- names of three references;
- a statement of research interests and teaching philosophy;
- a statement about how they plan to contribute to the diversity, inclusion and equity work of the University and the College of Arts and Sciences.



Questions may be directed to Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst (Ilyse.Morgenstein-Fuerst@uvm.edu), Associate Professor of Religion and chair of the search committee.

### **The Henderson-Harris Fellowship Program**

This Fellowship honors the memory of two outstanding UVM alumni. George Washington Henderson was one of the first African American students elected to Phi Beta Kappa and to graduate from the University of Vermont (class of 1877). Andrew Harris was not only the very first African American graduate of the University of Vermont (class of 1838), but he was also the first African American college graduate in the United States to champion the abolition of slavery and to demand full equality for people of color.

Offered in cooperation with academic departments, the Henderson-Harris Fellowship program specifically seeks applicants who are US citizens or legal permanent residents, and who identify as people/persons of color. The Fellowship sponsors post-doctoral scholars who can help advance UVM's research and teaching goals and assist in reaching identified diversity goals, especially with respect to the specific academic curricula. The Henderson-Harris fellowships are awarded for a maximum of two years with the expectation the Fellow will transition to a tenure track position at UVM at the completion of the fellowship.

This Fellowship is offered as a full-time, 12-month Post-Doctoral/Post-MFA Associate appointment (September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024). Salary is set at 'no less than' \$66,000 for the 12-month appointment. Full health and other benefits (see list of benefits and other terms of employment: <https://www.uvm.edu/hrs/postdoctoral-associates-fellows-overview>). Relocation and research funds also available (to be determined at the time of hire).

### **Possibility of Tenure-Track**

This Fellowship is offered as a full-time, 12-month Postdoctoral Associate appointment (September 1 through August 31) in the Department of Religion in the College of Arts and Sciences. Fellows establish and pursue their own research agenda with guidance through a mentorship program tailored to help the fellow transition into a tenure-track faculty position at the end of the Fellowship. If, in consultation with the department chair, the Fellow decides to apply for a tenure-track position at UVM, the Department of Religion will conduct a vote about converting the position to tenure-track and send the hiring recommendation to the Provost for approval.

### **The University**

Established in 1791, the University of Vermont is considered a public-ivy and consistently ranked as one of the top public universities in the United States. Our academic programs combine faculty-student relationships most commonly found in a small liberal arts college with the resources of a land-grant research institution. UVM's tradition of equity and social justice extends not only to faculty, staff, and students, but also is reflected in a commitment to environmentally sound and sustainable practices.



## **The College of Arts & Sciences**

In the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), students experience the connectedness and accessibility of a small liberal arts college within a high caliber public research institution.

Whether students are pursuing the Fine Arts, the Humanities, Natural Science and Mathematics or Social Sciences, they have a place here, in the College of Arts and Sciences' academic ecosystem.

The College of Arts and Sciences highly values the excellence that results when people from different backgrounds and perspectives work, interact, and learn together. In this way, commitment to diversity fosters our educational mission. For our students, it prepares them for life and work ahead: it recognizes that we are a culturally, ethnically, and racially diverse nation, one that is also situated in an increasingly global environment. For our faculty, scholarship and research are increasingly cooperative activities—often crossing national borders—requiring the abilities and skills to work with others often from very different backgrounds. For both our students and faculty, diversity enhances our curriculum, enriches the classroom experience, and fosters the exchange of ideas. As our society, economy, politics, and global interactions become increasingly diverse, so too must our intellectual community of students, faculty, and staff.

### **The College of Arts & Sciences' Diversity Plan**

[The College of Arts & Sciences \(CAS\)](#) will become a role model for the creation of a welcoming and socially nurturing environment that actively promotes a sincere appreciation of diversity. To achieve our purpose, CAS will:

- Ensure faculty, students, and staff members from underrepresented and marginalized populations are an integral part of the life and governance of the institution
- Substantially increase the representation of women, minoritized, and other marginalized groups among faculty, students, and staff
- Engage all students, faculty, staff and community members in rich curricular and co-curricular experiences that enhance their understanding and appreciation of people of diverse personal and group histories, identities, and perspectives

Establishing a diverse and inclusive culture is a priority at the University of Vermont. In fact, UVM holds that diversity and academic excellence are inseparable. Read UVM's [Why Diversity Statement](#) and [Our Common Ground values](#). The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law. The University encourages applications from all individuals who will contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution.

### **The Department**

The Religion Department at UVM has a 50-year history as an independent department focused on the critical study of religion. We are primarily concerned with the ways that religions –



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discourses, practices, institutions – work in society. Religions may serve as tools of and for liberation, yet they are also deeply tied up with systems of oppression. Our goal is to provide students with knowledge and background into particular religions, but also to understand how

people and communities, religious and not religious, deploy the category of religion or specific religions for moral, political, cultural, or other reasons.

### **The Community**

UVM is located in Burlington, Vermont, which is rated as one of the best small cities in the country. The greater Burlington area has an increasingly diverse population of about 125,000 and enjoys a panoramic setting on the shore of Lake Champlain, between the Green Mountains of Vermont and the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. The surrounding area provides an environment rich in cultural, civic and recreational activities. Vermont has a deep history of social activism and political participation. It offers many opportunities for collaborative partnerships in community and state-wide human service and social change organizations in multiple fields of practice, including state agencies.

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.

The University of Vermont is an educationally purposeful community seeking to prepare students to be accountable leaders in a diverse and changing world. Members of the University of Vermont community embrace and advance the values of [Our Common Ground](#).