



## 1 Advertisement

**Post Title:** Research Fellow in the Economics of Trade *or* in International Trade Law

**School/Department:** UK Trade Policy Observatory, University of Sussex Business School

**Hours:** full time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0fte. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

**Location: Brighton, UK**

**Contract:** Fixed term for 24 months

**Reference:** 10566

**Salary:** starting at £36,333 and rising to £43,155 per annum, pro rata if part time

**Placed on:** 05 March 2023

**Closing date:** 27 March 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**Expected interview date:** to be confirmed

**Expected start date:** As soon as possible

The UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO) at the University of Sussex invites applications for the position of post-doctoral Research Fellow in the Economics of Trade in the Department of Economics OR in International Trade Law in the Department of Law.

Candidates should demonstrate the potential to conduct high quality research in the economics or law of international trade and integration, and to be able to communicate it clearly in writing and verbally. They should also have a proven strong interest in trade policy. Collaboration and team working are central to the UKTPO; therefore, being able to work closely with colleagues in a fast-moving and exciting area is important.

With the range of challenges facing the world trading system, this is an exciting time to join UKTPO's dynamic and interdisciplinary team to undertake advanced research on international trade and trade policy. The UKTPO is at the forefront of national and multilateral trade policy analysis and commentary. As such, the position offers excellent conditions for research, for working as part of a stimulating team, and ample opportunities to build contacts with policy makers and other stakeholders.

Please contact Professor Michael Gasiorek, Director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory on [m.gasiorek@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:m.gasiorek@sussex.ac.uk) / [uktpo@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:uktpo@sussex.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

*The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds. Applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates.*

## 1. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the University of Sussex Business School at: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/>

Please find further information regarding the Economic Department at : <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/people-and-departments/economics>

Please find further information on the Department of Law at <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/law/>

### The UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO)

The UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO) was established in 2016 and is an independent expert group that has rapidly established itself as one of the leading research groups working on international trade issues in the UK. The UKTPO engages closely with policy makers and stakeholders on a wide range of trade policy issues. The UKTPO works closely with Chatham House who are a supporting partner of the UKTPO.

A key feature of the UKTPO is that it involves academics from within economics, law, business studies and international relations – both within the university and externally. Indeed, the University of Sussex has the largest collection of academic expertise on the world trading system in the UK, with specialists on trade policy, trade law, trade politics and European law and economy. This results in a mix of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and policy engagement. The UKTPO also offers advice and training to British policy makers, negotiators and other interested parties through tailored training packages. The UKTPO has a high profile in public debate and good contacts with many branches of government dealing with UK trade policy.

The UKTPO currently operates across six **priority areas**:

1. Overall trade strategy, including the effects of trade agreements at the national and sub-national level, and the analysis of trade instruments such as the selection of standards, preferences and services regulation, as well as trade defence.
2. The evolution of the world trading system, the role of the UK in the multilateral system in the context of the current challenges to world trade and investment with the rise of regulatory hegemony, disruptive trade policies and exogenous shocks such as COVID, and the emergence of much more interventionist approach to trade and investment policy.
3. The impact of trade policy choices on environmental sustainability and climate change, as well the impact of domestic environmental / climate policies on trade and competitiveness.
4. Modelling the impact of changes in trade policy, using state-of-the-art partial equilibrium modelling. The aim is to build the next generation of models incorporating firm heterogeneity and permitting a richer treatment of trade costs between countries.
5. Devising policies for UK trade with developing and least developed countries
6. The impact on firms, regions and supply chains of changes in trade policy, of ongoing technological change in particular digitization, and other exogenous shocks.

The UKTPO is also the lead organization in the recently established Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy (CITP). The CITP is a major ESRC funded research centre and is built on the precept that trade policy should be inclusive in both policy formulation and outcomes. As well as the UKTPO, the CITP brings together researchers from all four UK nations – including from the University of Nottingham, the University of Strathclyde, Queen's University Belfast, Cardiff University and the University of Cambridge - and several overseas

universities to create the UK's first interdisciplinary research centre focused on international trade. The Centre is supported by a £8 million grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and by funding from its contributing universities.

For more information about the UKTPO see: <https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/>. We are also on Twitter [@uk\\_tpo](https://twitter.com/uk_tpo)

For more information about the CITP see [www.citp.ac.uk](http://www.citp.ac.uk). We are also on Twitter [@centre4ITP](https://twitter.com/centre4ITP)

## 2. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in the Economics of International Trade, or International Trade Law

**Department: UK Trade Policy Observatory**

**Section/Unit/School: University of Sussex Business School, Department of Economics**

**Location: Jubilee Building, University of Sussex**

**Grade: 7**

**Responsible to:** Director, UKTPO

**Responsible for:** n/a

This post is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

The principal area of work will be to contribute to the research of the UKTPO. This will involve work leading to academic articles in high quality refereed journals as well as work leading to Briefing Paper, Blogs and the outreach / engagement work of the UKTPO. Current areas of research focus include: the interface between trade, climate change and the environment from both the economic and legal perspective, the role of regulations and changes in legislation as potential barriers to trade, the impact on trade and investment of Brexit; services trade and restrictions on services trade, digital trade, partial equilibrium modelling of trade, the impact of Brexit on UK firms' productivity; the political economy of the tilt of UK policy towards the Indo-Pacific and trade and sustainability. We welcome suitably qualified applicants with an interest in any of these areas.

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## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

### 1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
- 1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.
- 1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- 1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 1.5 Contribute to the preparation and writing of UKTPO Briefing Papers and blogs.
- 1.6 Contribute to, and participate in, UKTPO outreach and training activities within the candidate's area of expertise.
- 1.7 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
- 1.8 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.
- 1.9 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.10 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

## **2. Teaching & Student Support**

- 2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.
- 2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.
- 2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

## **3. Contribution to School & University**

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

## **4. Role-specific duties**

- 4.1 The post holder will be expected to have or develop a close familiarity with UK trade policies, as well as emerging policy responses by the US, EU and China to some of the

challenges facing the world trading system, as well as the role of the multilateral trading system.

- 4.2 Write and present clearly and precisely at each of several levels: in blog-posts and op-eds for non-experts, Briefing Papers for a policy audience, and Working Papers for the research community, at a level suitable for publication in a field journal (law or economics).
- 4.3 Engage positively and constructively with UKTPO and other colleagues from the CITP and from related disciplines – notably law and international relations, as well as researchers from project partners at other institutions.
- 4.4 Remain well informed about the ongoing debate as it relates to Brexit and to European external policy, with a view to identifying issues on which UKTPO expertise might be useful.
- 4.5 Engage with the press and other media as appropriate.

For **Economics** candidates only:

- 4.6 Be up to date and contribute to the academic literature studying the economic impacts of Brexit, including the impact of Brexit uncertainty, on firms, workers and places. Similarly, be familiar with analyses of trade frictions in other relevant areas such as fragmentation and supply chain trade, or barriers to investment flows.
- 4.7 Be capable of estimating state-of-the-art trade models (such as structural gravity models, and/or firm level panel data models) to perform quantitative analyses of UK, within-UK, and other countries' international trade and investment flows. This may include compiling extensive datasets using both openly available and statistically protected data sources.
- 4.8 Locate and analyse international trade agreements, including their relationship to international trade law and conventions. Conduct and document empirical work in accordance with best practice of scientific reproducibility of results.

For **Law** candidates only:

- 4.6 Be up to date and contribute to the academic literature studying the legal and regulatory impacts of Brexit, including the trade relationship between the UK and EU.
- 4.7 Undertake qualitative analysis of the implementation of trade law, the regulatory environment, and policy.
- 4.8 Locate and analyse international trade agreements, including the WTO and Free Trade Agreements, and their relationship to domestic policies with trade provisions and agreements.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

## **INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- High quality research output.
- Contribution to the management of UKTPO non-academic outputs and external submissions.
- Contribution to research projects and teams.
- Contribution to writing proposals for research and consultancy contracts.
- External engagement and impact activities.

### **ROLE-SPECIFIC INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- Cooperating with others in UKTPO to enhance its output and visibility.
- Generating ideas for UKTPO academic output, analyses and commentary.
- Publishing in a variety of formats, as appropriate for a group seeking to have strong immediate and medium-term impact. This includes devising novel ways of presenting ideas, data and recommendations.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.

## **5. Person Specification**

### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity, with an emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.

### **ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Ability to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.
2. Ability to write clearly for different audiences

**Economics candidate:**

3. Proficiency in statistical data preparation and analysis.
4. Excellent knowledge of methods and techniques applied in the fields of international trade and trade policy.

**Law candidate:**

5. Knowledge of the law and policy of international trade, including in the WTO and FTAs;
6. Ability to undertake legal analysis of trade policy and understanding of its relevance to domestic regulation.

**ROLE-SPECIFIC DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Familiarity with current policy issues around digital trade and the impact of technological change on trade.
2. Evidence of good communication of technical subjects with non-technical audiences.
3. Interest in the practice of trade policy and in the trade aspects of Brexit.

**Economics candidate:**

4. Familiarity and work experience with firm-level administrative data-sets.
5. Knowledge of advanced data-processing techniques including machine learning, web-scraping, and text analysis.
6. Knowledge of and interest in the relationship between services trade and goods trade, and how this impacts on firms' engagement in international supply chains.
7. Familiarity with standard datasets on trade and trade barriers such as Comtrade, TiVA or ONS data products.
8. Knowledge of modelling / computer programming such as GAMS or GAUSS

**Law candidate:**

9. Familiarity with the legal issues of EU economic integration and the single market
10. Familiarity with the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement
11. Familiarity with the legal aspect of the UK internal market, and UK subsidies policy

12. Familiarity with UK policy on trade remedies.