

1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Innovation and Geography

School/department: University of Sussex Business School/ Science Policy Research Unit

Hours: Full-time considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Contract: fixed term for 24 months, with the possibility of extension

Reference: 20767

Salary: starting at £36,333 to £43,155 per annum, pro rata if part-time.

Placed on: 13 June 2023

Closing date: 05 July 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: To be confirmed.

Expected start date: September or October 2023, negotiable

The Science Policy Research Unit, within the University of Sussex Business School, is seeking to appoint a highly motivated Research Fellow with a background in Economic Geography and/or Innovation. The successful candidate will work as part of the [Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre \(Creative PEC\)](#), funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, led by [Dr Josh Siepel](#), who is leading the core research on clustering and geography, innovation and R&D in the creative industries, to deliver academic and policy outputs.

The tasks of the role include collection and quantitative analysis of firm- and region-level data (including administrative, financial, and unstructured data), econometric and other advanced analysis, and mapping and visualizing data. In addition to analysis, the role will also involve writing reports and other policy documents and engaging with policy stakeholders. We expect our research to result in several high-quality academic publications and policy outputs.

The successful applicant will have access to academic mentoring by the Principal Investigator as well as other members of the Creative PEC consortium, as well as exposure to the academic environment in SPRU and the University of Sussex Business School. Among other achievements, USBS ranked first in the UK for research grant awards in 2022 and is home to some of the leading innovation studies journals. There will be opportunities to attend consortium workshops, policy events, and academic conferences where we will present our results.

Applicants must have completed or be close to completing a doctoral degree in economic geography, economics of innovation, management (strategy), entrepreneurship or related fields. An ideal applicant would have a background in quantitative methods for firm- or region-level research, including spatial analysis; and experience of, or interest in, engagement with policy audiences. Previous research experience on the creative industries is welcome but not essential.

Please contact Dr Josh Siepel (j.siepel@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.

Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.

2. The School / Division

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

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Innovation and Geography

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Innovation and Geography
Grade:	Research Fellow I, Grade 7
School:	University of Sussex Business School
Location:	Jubilee Building
Responsible to:	Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports:	n/a
Key contacts:	Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.

Role description: Research Fellow I 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.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.
2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

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 of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
- 1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.
- 1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.8 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 Collection and analysis of quantitative research data on businesses in and near the creative industries, including survey data, scraped web data, financial data and other open data.

- 4.2 Collection and analysis of quantitative research data on creative industries activity at the geography level, including official statistics, administrative data, and aggregated firm level data as above.
- 4.3 Mapping geographical data and presenting the data in an accessible way for end-users and stakeholders
- 4.4 Econometric analysis of data and preparation of results for communication.
- 4.5 Engagement with the wider project and collaboration partners locally, regionally and nationally.
- 4.6 Engagement with policy stakeholders
- 4.7 Preparing and writing policy relevant outputs to inform policies to support creative clusters and innovation in the creative industries.
- 4.8 Collaboration with the wider research team to deliver outputs.
- 4.9 Authoring and co-authoring high-quality academic research papers on the industrial dynamics and patterns of innovation and management practices of UK creative industries firms.
- 4.10 Undertake training and skill development activities to enhance research skills (as needed).

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

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

4. 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.
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. PhD (or near completion) in economic geography, innovation studies, economics of innovation, management (strategy), economics, entrepreneurship or related subject
2. Experience in quantitative research, including data collection and analysis of data at the firm and/or geography level
3. Experience using a range of econometric methods.

4. Experience of (or willingness to) use mapping and GIS software, and spatial analysis tools and methodologies
5. Ability to write for both academic and policy audiences.
6. Ability to interact with non-academic stakeholders and present research findings in an accessible form.
7. An interest in conducting research studying innovation and geography in the creative industries

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.
3. Experience of analysing unstructured (e.g. web-scraped) data
4. Experience of analysing survey data
5. Proficiency in data science techniques as they relate to social sciences research
6. Knowledge of the creative industries
7. Knowledge of clusters and clustering (including clustering methodologies) as they relate to firms' activities
8. Ability to collaborate within a larger team and set of research projects.
9. Holding Accredited Researcher status with the UK Office of National Statistics