

## 1 Advertisement

**Post Title:** Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Economics of International Trade and Investment

**School/Department:** Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy/ University of Sussex Business School

**Hours:** Full-time hours 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 to 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2026

**Reference Number:** 20904

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

**Placed on:** 13 June 2023

**Closing date:** 27 June 2023. applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**Expected interview date:** To be confirmed

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

***"This vacancy is only open to those currently employed by the University of Sussex (Including those employed through Reed, Chartwells, and SEF)."***

This is an exciting opportunity to join a new multi-million-pound ESRC-funded Research Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy (CITP) which spans four Departments in Sussex plus universities in all four UK nations and comprises scholars from economics, law, business management, politics, and international relations.

This call is for an Economist experienced in research on foreign direct investment (FDI) and estimating the effects of trade policy interventions. She/he will be based in the Department of Economics in the University of Sussex Business School and located in the University's Jubilee Building.

This is an exciting time to join a dynamic and rapidly growing unit undertaking advanced research on international trade and trade policy. Details can be found below. Candidates should demonstrate the potential to conduct high quality research in the economics of international trade, and to be able to communicate it clearly in writing and verbally.

The Research Fellows will be part of the CITP's Early Career Researcher cohort for which the Centre will organise various professional development activities. They will also form part of a large group of trade scholars in Sussex which, as well as CITP, also includes faculty and Research Fellows in the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO).

Collaboration and team working will be central to the work of both the CITP and the UKTPO, so being able to work closely with colleagues in a fast-moving and exciting area is important.

For details beyond those below please contact L Alan Winters ([L.A.Winters@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:L.A.Winters@sussex.ac.uk)), Co-Director of the Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy.

- The CITP's web-site is [www.citp.ac.uk](http://www.citp.ac.uk).

- Details of the UKTPO's activities can be seen on its website: <https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/> and on Twitter @uk\_tpo

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 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>

### The Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy

The Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy is built on the precept that trade policy should be inclusive in both policy formulation and outcome and focuses on four dimensions of inclusiveness: geography, political domains, society and generations. The Centre itself is inclusive with researchers in all four UK nations, in five disciplines and at all stages of their careers, and with a commitment to hear the voices of all parts of UK society.

In addition to the University of Sussex, the Centre 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 also from four overseas universities – The European University Institute, Georgetown University, Tel Aviv University and the University of California, Berkeley. With funding for an initial five-year period, it is the ESRC’s first interdisciplinary research centre in international trade and trade policy and will comprise scholars from economics, law, business management, politics and international relations.

The Centre will work with nine partners including Ernst & Young LLP (EY), Fieldfisher LLP, the International Trade Group of the Professional and Business Services Council, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Trade Justice Movement and trade officials in all four UK administrations. It will undertake consultation and societal deliberation, including via a series of citizen’s juries, in order to ensure that its programme is relevant to the needs of UK business, society and policymakers.

The Centre’s objectives include to:

- Conduct frontier disciplinary and interdisciplinary research into international trade and trade policy;
- Create a critical mass of expertise by integrating excellent scholars from several disciplines and all parts of the UK;
- Create a body of data and innovative methods relevant to the study of international trade and trade policy-making;
- Apply research skills to pressing practical trade problems, including some identified by a broad societal consultation among stakeholders and the public;
- Work extensively to inform public debate, so that the relevance of trade to economic management is clear and the trade-offs that it inevitably entails are more widely appreciated;
- Engage with a wide range of policy-makers and stakeholders, and
- Create a legacy in terms of a permanent wide-spread capacity to conduct first-rate research, analysis and policy-making practices in international trade in UK academia, officialdom and business.

The CITP has three research themes:

- **People, Firms and Places** studies the differential impact of trade across locations, firms and individuals in the four nations of the UK, and how external factors such as Brexit, Covid-19 and the rise of China affect the UK economy.
- **Digitisation and Technical Change** considers how governments wrestle with huge platform-companies, and how digital trade affects labour markets, business models and value chains, and their regulation.
- **Negotiating a Turbulent World** asks how to formulate UK trade policy given the obstacles to trading across the UK's internal borders, international regulatory challenges, the need for environmental sustainability and the interaction between trade and investment.

### The UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO)

The UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO) is an independent expert group, established in June 2016, that undertakes research on trade, initiates, comments on and analyses trade policy proposals for the UK. The UKTPO also engages closely with policy makers and stakeholders on a wide range of trade policy issues. 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 branches of government dealing with UK trade policy.

Find out more about the UKTPO: <https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/> We are also on Twitter @uk\_tpo

### 3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Economics of Trade Policy

**Department:** Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy

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

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

**Grade:** 7

**Responsible to:** Professor L Alan Winters, Co-Director of CITP. The post-holder will be also be required to maintain close contact with the principal investigators on the projects on which he/she works.

**Responsible for:** n/a

This post is an early career-grade research position. The post-holder 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 post is to support three projects and conduct independent research in one area within CITP. In all the projects there will be scope for the Fellow to develop her/his own projects and ideas.

The projects are:

- Analysis of firm-level data from Bureau van Dijk's Fame, Orbis and Zephyr databases; fDi markets database, Bloomberg database and Office for National

Statistics (ONS) to map the effects of Brexit and Covid on UK FDI flows., with Professor Palitha Konara (now in the University of Essex).

- Detailed analysis and case studies of recent Japanese FDI in the UK to explore the effects of business conditions and recent trade agreements on flows – quantity, nature, sector/activity, location etc, with Dr Minako Morita-Jaeger.
- Developing a Jobs-in-Trade database, involving, inter alia, UK input-output tables and firm level data, with Professor Michael Gasiorek.

The independent research involves around the effects of US trade policy towards China and the renegotiation of two FTAs on uncertainty and thence on trade with partners currently unaffected by policy interventions. If the uncertainty effects are allowed for, we expect to be able to derive more precise estimates of trade elasticities than are currently available. This entails work with detailed US trade data.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise**

1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals within the main project and also 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, as appropriate.

1.5 Contribute to the preparation and writing of CITP Briefing Papers and blogs.

1.6 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes, if so requested.

1.7 Build contacts and participate in networks within Sussex and the CITP more broadly, and participate in 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, if required.

### **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 required to undertake analysis of multiple large datasets, some at firm level. Knowledge of at least some of the data sources referred to above, Stata and data processing is essential.

4.2 She/he will need to be up to date and contribute to the academic literature on the economics of international trade and trade policy, including issues of inclusivity and trade.

4.3 Conduct and document empirical work in accordance with best practice of scientific reproducibility of results.

4.4 Locate and analyse international trade agreements, including their relationship to international trade law and conventions.

4.5 Write and present clearly and precisely at each of several levels, including research papers for leading journals, Working Papers, Briefing Papers for a policy audience and blog-posts and op-eds for non-experts.

4.6 Engage positively and constructively with CITP and other colleagues from related disciplines – notably law and international relations, as well as with researchers from project partners at other institutions.

4.7 Engage with stakeholders, the press and other media as appropriate.

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.

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

- Cooperating with others in CITP to enhance its output and visibility.
- Generating interesting ideas for CITP's output of analysis 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.

#### **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, 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. Good organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.

## **ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Proficiency in statistical data preparation and analysis.
2. Knowledge of Stata and data processing is essential
3. Excellent knowledge of methods and techniques applied in the fields of international trade and trade policy.
4. Familiarity with FDI data sources and basic trade data sources such as Comtrade and HMRC trade statistics.
5. Ability to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.
6. Ability to write clearly for different audiences.

## **ROLE-SPECIFIC DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Knowledge of advanced data-processing is highly desirable.
2. Knowledge of and interest in the relationship between services trade and goods trade, and how this impacts on firms' engagement in international supply chains.
3. Familiarity with standard datasets on trade and trade barriers such as TiVA or ONS data products and also of UK input-output statistics would be an asset.
4. Knowledge of modelling / computer programming such as GAMS or GAUSS would be an advantage
5. Evidence of good communication of technical subjects with non-technical audiences.
6. Interest in the practice of trade policy especially in post-Brexit Britain.
7. Interest in aspects of inclusivity in trade policy.