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1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Professor in International Trade

School/department: UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO) a joint venture between University of Sussex Business School, (Department of Economics), and School of Law, Politics and Sociology, (Department of Law)

Hours: Full time. Requests for [flexible working](#) options will be considered (subject to business need).

Contract: Fixed term for 3 years (with potential for renewal, subject to funding)

Reference: 20991

Salary: Competitive

Placed on: 07 July 2023

Closing date: 21 July 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: 29 August 2023

Expected start date: ASAP

This is a senior position, initially for three years, to which we are looking to recruit a highly experienced researcher with knowledge and expertise in the field of international trade law, a commensurate track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals, a demonstrable interest in the policy relevance of their work, experience generating research grants and leading major funding bids, and experience of working in an interdisciplinary context. The post holder will play an important role in contributing to the trade group at Sussex as a Deputy Director of the UKTPO. Hence, this post provides the opportunity to spend the next three years focusing on research with relevance and impact, and as Deputy Director of the UKTPO to provide leadership and input into its ongoing development. It is anticipated that approximately 0.2% of the post holders time will involve directly contributing to the work of Department of Law .

The UKTPO is a dynamic, interdisciplinary group and we are looking for somebody who will welcome working with a team of trade experts, including economists, lawyers and international business, and somebody who values policy impact and external engagement. With the range of challenges facing the world trading system It is an exciting time to join UKTPO's dynamic and interdisciplinary team to undertake advanced research on international trade and trade policy. In particular, the UKTPO seeks to strengthen its research and impact capacity at the intersection of trade policy and sustainability. 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

The UKTPO is focused on producing high quality academic research as well as extensive engagement with the policy making community and wider stakeholders. The Professorial

Research Fellow / Deputy Director will contribute to the management of the UKTPO, and will undertake the role of Principal Investigator on externally funded research projects, will demonstrate and provide academic leadership to more junior members of the team across the range of disciplines, and will seek to enhance interdisciplinary collaborations. While much of the UKTPO's work focuses on trade topics as they relate to the UK, our work has a broader remit and areas of research and activity are by no means exclusively UK focused.

In the broader context of the challenges facing international trade policy, and UK trade policy making, we particularly welcome applications from researchers with an interest in the relationship between trade and sustainability, be this with a focus on climate change, or trade and the environment and agriculture.

Candidates should demonstrate:

- The ability to conduct outstanding and impactful academic research in international trade law;
- A strong interest in trade policy and willingness to engage with policy makers, stakeholders and the media;
- Experience of managing projects and teams of researchers;
- The ability to communicate clearly both in writing and verbally.

Collaboration and team working are central to the UKTPO, so being able to work closely with colleagues in a fast-moving and exciting area is vital.

Please contact Michael Gasiorek, Director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory on m.gasiorek@sussex.ac.uk / uktpo@sussex.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

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

Details of the University of Sussex Business School are here:

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/>

Please find further information on the Department of Economics at

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/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 UK's new trade agreements, the selection of standards, trade preferences, 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 a 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](#).

For more information about the CITP see www.citp.ac.uk We are also on Twitter [@centre4ITP](#).

2. JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Professorial Research Fellow in International Trade, UKTPO

Grade:	Grade 10
School:	University of Sussex Business School
Location:	Jubilee Building
Responsible to:	Director, UK Trade Policy Observatory
Direct reports:	n/a
Key contacts:	Members of the UKTPO, members of faculty within the School and University, academics in the field in other institutions.
Role Description:	Professorial Research Fellow is a senior career-grade research position. Post-holders are expected to undertake the role of a Deputy Director, and also Principal Investigator on major research projects for the UKTPO, demonstrate a significant reputation for independent research, and provide academic leadership to those working in the UKTPO. They are also expected to contribute to the delivery of the School research strategy, and contribute to duties in Sussex Law School which may include teaching and supervising students

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.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To contribute to the management and development of the UKTPO.
2. To engage in high-quality research activity with impact and policy engagement resulting in high quality publications; to acquire and lead research projects or research initiatives within the School where appropriate; to secure research funding and third-stream income; and to contribute to the School's research strategy.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Contribute to the management of the UKTPO and to the development of UKTPO research strategies and themes, including providing academic leadership to those working within relevant research areas.
- 1.2 Carry out independent research and act as a Principal Investigator or project leader on research projects, which may directly in the field of law but may also be interdisciplinary or have an economics focus. This may involve leading and line-managing the staff including their recruitment, probation, mentoring, performance review and staff development; managing the budget, and taking responsibility for the delivery of the programme.
- 1.3 Play a leading role in responding to external requests for input and expertise, including identifying sources of funding, and the coordination of tender responses. This includes developing proposals for funded research projects and engagement activities which will

make a significant impact, and/or lead to an increase in knowledge or understanding, or the development of new explanations, insights, concepts or processes.

- 1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs that have significant impact in the field, for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and make a significant contribution to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 1.5 Make presentations at national or international conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet, the media and other forms of public engagement.
- 1.6 Develop and maintain an independent research reputation by, for example, serving on peer review committees, acting as a referee for journal articles and research grant applications.
- 1.7 Develop successful links with external contacts such as other educational and research bodies, businesses, the public sector, professional bodies and other providers of funding and research initiatives to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange and generate income.
- 1.8 Play a role in a relevant national professional body or recognised events.
- 1.9 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field of specialisation, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Contribution to School & University

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Contribute to the overall management of the UKTPO in areas such as budget management and business planning, if required.
- 3.3 Advise and provide support to less experienced colleagues, and conduct Performance and Development Reviews, as required.
- 3.4 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Head of School, which may include teaching and assessment, supervising research projects and/or supervising research students

4. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 To contribute primary research of high publishable quality.
- 4.2 To write and present clearly and precisely at each of several levels: in blog-posts for non-experts, Briefing Papers for a policy audience as well as submissions to Parliamentary Committees, Working Papers and academic papers for the research community.
- 4.3 To engage with stakeholders, the press and other media as appropriate.

- 4.4 To work with and provide supervision of UKTPO research fellows and research officers as appropriate.
- 4.5 Undertake training of government officials, practitioners, and others as required.
- 4.6 Engage positively and constructively with UKTPO and other colleagues from related disciplines – which comprise economics, law, business and management and international political economy.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Regular published output of original research, with a significant proportion at international level (refereed journal papers, monographs, book chapters, textbooks).
- Contribution to the management of UKTPO non-academic outputs and external submissions.
- Responsible for leading and managing a research projects and teams.
- Success in obtaining competitively awarded research and knowledge exchange grants and contracts, with evidence of leadership in securing such awards as Principal Investigator.
- Frequent citation in print and broadcast media and maintenance of network of media representatives.
- Evidence of external profile, such as membership of professional body, editorial board or similar.

ROLE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Cooperating with others in UKTPO to enhance its output and visibility.
- Evidence of contribution to UKTPO management and policy formation.
- Publishing in a variety of formats, as appropriate for a group seeking to have strong immediate and medium-term impact. This includes devising novel and interesting 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



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1. Educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience.
2. Ability and experience of leading interdisciplinary research programmes, and teams of researchers.
3. Track record of significant and high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
4. Successful track record of generating research and knowledge exchange income, and the translation of research results into practice and policy focussed outputs.
5. Experience in, and track record of, extensive engagement with public policy stakeholders such as UK Parliament or civil service policy makers
6. Experience of supervising postgraduate students.
7. Leadership and people management skills.
8. Ability to exercise a high degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
9. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
10. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Excellent understanding of the law and policy of international trade, the role of the WTO and Free Trade Agreements.
2. Knowledge and interest in the interface between trade and sustainability with regard to the environment and agriculture, as well as climate change.
3. The ability to undertake legal analysis of trade policy and its relevance to domestic regulatory strategy; as well as the compatibility of domestic regulation with international trade law. (Candidate in Law).
4. Experience of working and managing inter-disciplinary teams.
5. Ability to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.
6. Ability to write clearly for different audiences.
7. Excellent presentation skills, with the proven ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

DESIRABLE ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

8. Extensive experience of impact and engagement activities.

9. Knowledge of the UK policy context and experience of interacting with the UK policy making community.
10. Strong network with academics and policy makers beyond the UK eg. Europe, North America, or the Indo Pacific region.