UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

1. Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Economics
School/department: University of Sussex Business School / Department of Economics
Hours: Full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need)
Contract: fixed term until 5th January 2022
Reference: 2240
Salary: Grade 8: starting at £41,526 and rising to £49,553 per annum
Placed on: 2 September 2019
Closing date: 3 October 2019. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: Week Beginning October 14th 2019
Expected start date: 6th January 2020

The University of Sussex is seeking to appoint one Research Fellow to work on a Leverhulme Trust Funded Project in Decision Theory (more specifically stochastic choice under boundedly rationality) led by Paola Manzini at the University of Sussex and Marco Mariotti at Queen Mary University of London.

Candidates should demonstrate potential to conduct leading edge research in economics. They should hold a doctorate, or equivalent, in economics or cognate disciplines (e.g. Statistic, Mathematics or Computer Science on topics/techniques applicable to economics). The successful candidate will be highly skilled in economic formal modelling and/or statistical/mathematical techniques. Programming skills, especially in Matlab, are an advantage. You should be willing to acquire (or have already) deep knowledge of tensor algebra, mixture models and sparsity theory.

The successful candidate will be affiliated to the Department of Economics, part of the University of Sussex Business School. Over the past five years the Department has expanded as a result of a strategic programme of recruitment aimed at intensifying the quality and depth of our established strengths.

Applicants should apply online at https://econjobmarket.org/, including their CV, three reference letters and their job market paper. Candidates should also completed "Equal Opportunities Form" available here and email it back to economicsjobmarket@sussex.ac.uk as part of the application package.

Prospective applicants are invited to make informal enquiries with Professor Paola Manzini (p.manzini@sussex.ac.uk). For more details on the Department of Economics see http://www.sussex.ac.uk/economics/.

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.
2. The University of Sussex Business School

The University of Sussex Business School, headed by Professor Steve McGuire, is a unique research-focused interdisciplinary school which takes a strong policy-directed view on business practices and on economic analysis, while also developing the underlying core disciplines. In addition to the Department of Economics it includes the Department of Accounting & Finance, Department of Management, the Department of Strategy & Marketing, and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU).

With such excellent foundations the University of Sussex Business School offers something distinctive and special to the future of business, economics and management research and education in the UK and beyond. It is exceptionally well placed to provide leadership in the development and dissemination of sustainable business and management practice, informed by sound economic logic.

The Department of Economics

The Department of Economics is undergoing a continuing expansion as part of the University’s strategy of investment in the University of Sussex Business School. The Department has experienced an almost threefold increase in size over the past five years and currently has a faculty base of over 30. This strategic growth has resulted in an invigorated department with some of the brightest and best early career economists and a strong core of experienced and respected senior academics providing research experience and leadership. This transformation is reflected in our REF2014 performance where we ranked 18th overall and in the top ten for the policy impact of our research.

The Department of Economics at Sussex is committed to high quality teaching and research within a friendly academic environment. We have approximately 600 undergraduates on a variety of degree courses, about 90 students on our four Masters courses, and about 40 students on our research degree programme. In particular, undergraduate student numbers have doubled in recent years with a coincident increase in quality.

We offer core undergraduate BA and BSc degrees in economics (the latter with a strong statistical/mathematical component), joint degrees with international development, international relations, politics, management and finance. The Department is also responsible for teaching of modules on interdisciplinary courses in international development, management studies and European studies.

The Department runs a popular stream of MSc courses in Economics, which share a core of key teaching in principles and econometrics. We currently run successful courses in Development Economics and Economics, which attract high quality applicants from all over the world. We recently introduced an MSc in International Business Economics. About 25% of our undergraduate and over 70% of our postgraduate students are from overseas and enrich the learning environment in the Department. Our students have a good record of obtaining high quality jobs on graduation.

We provide a first-rate doctoral training programme focussed on providing high quality supervision, facilities and training to nurture excellent research economists. The award to Sussex of the ESRC-DTC in 2010 and the introduction of generous PhD studentships has been instrumental in attracting outstanding PhD students in recent years. Now Sussex has joined the SeNSS (South-East Network for Social Sciences), which will continue ESRC PhD funding. Our programme is heavily over-subscribed, enabling high entry standards to be set. We have around 40 high quality doctoral students researching on a range of topics, particularly in the area of development and international trade. Our doctoral graduates have a very good record of
successful employment on completion of their studies, with many currently working in academia, business, government and international institutions.

A great deal of research in the Department is on applied policy relevant research in our five traditional applied clusters: development, international trade, labour & education and quantitative economic history and environment & energy. Each cluster is headed by at least one senior professor and consists of a varying mix of early career researchers and more established faculty. The membership of clusters is flexible with a collaborative culture that stimulates new and sustainable research ventures and the joint supervision of PhD students. We have policy links to a wide range of both international and national policy making bodies, such as the European Commission, the World Bank, World Trade Organisation, Department for International Development, Department of Work and Pensions, Low Pay Commission, Department of Energy and Climate Change, UN Development Programme, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and UNICEF as well as the international academic community. The depth of experience of this is brought to the teaching of our degree programmes. In particular we have a close association with the UK Department for International Development, where Prof. Alan Winters recently served as chief economist.

We have a relatively new research cluster in economic theory, behaviour and experiments. This cluster combines tools and techniques from microeconomic theory, game theory, behavioural economics and experimental economics to address more fundamental questions about the behaviour of economic agents, and how such behaviour should be modelled by economists. The cluster is not purely theoretical, with many researchers being involved in empirically evaluating and informing theory using a broad spectrum of approaches, such as experiments, policy trials and quasi-experimental data. The cluster is active in economic experiments, conducted at the Lab. We have also developed interdisciplinary links, in particular with researchers from Psychology as well as other disciplines within the Departments of Accounting & Finance, Management, and Strategy & Marketing. The cluster is also involved in behavioural policy applications.

The following research clusters are indicative of the main areas of research strength in the Department with faculty listed according to their primary research area of interest:

1. **Development Economics**: Sambit Bhattacharyya, Amalavoyal Chari, Sonja Fagernas, Farai Jena, Julie Litchfield, Andrew McKay, Annemie Maertens, Rashaad Shabab, Mohsen Veisi, Selma Walther.
5. **Quantitative Economic History**: Nicholas Crafts, Alex Moradi, Andrew Newell.
CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Research Fellow in Economics
Grade: Research Fellow B, Grade 8
School: University of Sussex Business School
Location: Jubilee Building
Responsible to: Principal Investigator through to Dean of School
Direct reports: Principal Investigator
Key contacts: Members of the research group, members of faculty within the School and University.

Role description: This is a career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to take a senior role within a research team, be able to demonstrate an established research portfolio, and a growing reputation in their field of study. They will also be expected to provide support and guidance to less experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

The role is in support of the Leverhulme Trust funded project “Economic Choices and Cognitive Diversity: A window to the Human Soul”. The project aims to introduce and analyse a unified theoretical framework to: (i) accommodate cognitive-based (as well as preference-based) explanations of choices; (ii) allow an observer of choices to infer both the underlying cognitive and preference variables. It introduces in economics recent mathematical techniques that have proved useful in other disciplines. The two main methodologies used are tensor decomposition and sparsity analysis. For background to this project please refer to V. Dardanoni, P. Manzini, M. Mariotti and C.J. Tyson “Inferring Cognitive Heterogeneity from Aggregate Choices”, mimeo, University of Sussex.

The successful candidate is expected to engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications and/or high impact/engagement; 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.

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 Lead small research sub-projects and/or identified parts of a larger project.

1.4 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

1.5 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in recognised high-quality journals. A grade 8 Research Fellow is expected to contribute to the School’s REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

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

1.7 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Contribution to School & University

2.1 Attend and contribute to relevant project meetings.

3.1 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 If not an existing skill, develop competence on stochastic choice theory, tensor algebra and sparsity analysis

4.2 Collaborate in developing the theoretical arguments supporting the results in the outputs of the project.

4.3 Undertake analysis of Finite Mixture Models applied to boundedly rational stochastic choice

4.4 Engage positively and constructively with researchers on this project.

4.5 Perform computational simulations (preferably in Matlab) of the theoretical models developed in the project.

4.6 Keep up to date with the relevant academic literature

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1 A PhD in economics or cognate disciplines (e.g. Statistics, Mathematics or Computer Science with a potential economic dimension).

2 Pursuing a line of independent research within the project.
3. Regular published output of original research at international level (referred journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text-books).

4. Other evidence of original research contribution to the field, such as through invited conference contributions, membership of editorial panels etc.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Educated to doctoral level.

2. Evidence of significant independent contribution to the design and execution of research.

3. An emerging track record of publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

4. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

6. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

7. Excellent organisational skills.

8. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

9. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Proficiency in statistical data preparation and analysis.

2. Excellent knowledge of methods and techniques in economic formal modelling and/or statistical/mathematical techniques.

3. Ability to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.

4. Ability to write clearly for different audiences.

DESIRABLE ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA
2. Programming knowledge and experience
3. Knowledge of Matlab

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.