1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Assistant in ICTs and Energy Demand
School/department: University of Sussex Business School, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)
Hours: Full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 36.5 hours.
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Reference: 3939
Salary: Starting at £30,046 to £33,797 per annum, pro rata if part time.
Placed on: 22 June 2020
Closing date: 06 July 2020. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: TBC
Expected start date: August 2020 or ASAP

This vacancy is only open to those currently employed by the University.

The Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex Business School is seeking to appoint a Research Assistant to contribute to a project on Telecommuting and UK Energy Demand. This project forms part of a broader program of work under the Digital Society theme of the Centre for Research on Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS).

The project will use 18 years of UK National Travel Survey data to estimate the historical impact of telecommuting on UK energy use and carbon emissions. It will examine how the adoption of telecommuting has influenced location decisions, the work and non-work travel of the telecommuter, and the travel patterns of other household members.

The Research Assistant will undertake data construction, econometric analysis, (including structural equation modelling) and preparation of academic outputs. Depending upon project progress, there may be opportunities for additional follow-up work in this area.

Essential criteria for the post include:

- Strong econometric skills, including familiarity with Stata
- Experience with data construction from multiple sources
- Experience in writing up quantitative research for academic publication

Please contact Professor Steve Sorrell, s.r.sorrell@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.*
2. The School, Department and Project

University of Sussex Business School
The University of Sussex Business School is a unique research-focused interdisciplinary school, which takes a strong policy-directed view on business practices while also developing the underlying core disciplines. It includes the Department of Accounting and Finance, the Department of Strategy and Marketing, the Department of Management, the Department of Economics and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU).

As a dynamic, research-orientated and interdisciplinary School, we produce cutting-edge research that addresses real-world issues, pressing global policy agendas and business practices, whilst also being committed to developing the underlying core disciplines.

Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)
Founded in 1966 by Christopher Freeman, SPRU was one of the first interdisciplinary research centres in the field of science and technology policy. Today, with over 70 faculty members, SPRU remains at the forefront of new ideas, problem-orientated research, inspiring teaching, and creative, high impact engagement with decision makers across government, business and civil society. Our research addresses pressing global policy agendas, including innovation challenges posed by the digital economy, the future of industrial policy, inclusive economic growth, the politics of scientific expertise, energy policy, security, entrepreneurship, and pathways to a more sustainable future. SPRU researchers are driven by a desire to tackle real-world questions, whilst also contributing to a deeper understanding of how science, technology and innovation is shaping today’s world. With a community of over 140 MSc and doctoral students from all over the world, SPRU is also well known for its high quality, research-led teaching programmes.

The Project
The Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) is a 5-year, £19M research centre funded by the UK Research and Innovation’s Energy Programme. It involves 16 UK institutes and over 120 staff. CREDS undertakes globally leading research on energy demand and acts as a knowledge exchange network for the UK energy demand research community. CREDS aims to change the way that energy is used by reducing energy demand, improving energy efficiency and enabling flexibility in time of use. The research is focused around nine themes: three sectoral, three cross-cutting and two focussing upon specific issues.

The Telecommuting project forms part of CREDS Digital Society theme, led by Tim Foxon and Steve Sorrell. This theme is examining the impact of information and communication technologies (ICT’s) on economy-wide energy demand, including the potential for new ICT-based business models and the implications of ICT’s for energy-related user practices.
3. **Job Description**

Job Description for the post of: Research Assistant in ICTs and Energy Demand

**Department:** Science Policy Research Unit

**Section/Unit/School:** University of Sussex Business School

**Location:** Jubilee Building

**Grade:** 6

**Responsible to:** The Principal Investigator (Steve Sorrell) through to Head of School

**Responsible for:** n/a

**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. To assist with individual and/or collaborative research activity and contribute to the production of research outputs for publications.

**GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **Research, Scholarship & Enterprise**

1.1 With support from the Principal Investigator, develop research objectives and contribute to the planning of the research project

1.2 Conduct research under supervision of the Principal Investigator, and in collaboration with others.

1.3 Assist with the analysis and interpretation of research findings and contribute to discussions on conclusions and outcomes.

1.4 Contribute to the writing of reports and other dissemination activities under the supervision of experienced researchers.

1.5 Contribute to the preparation of research ethics and data management strategies, under guidance from the Principal Investigator to ensure compliance with ethical approval and data protection legislation.

1.6 Present information on research progress and outcomes to relevant bodies under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.

1.7 Plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme.
1.8 Learn about the publication process and contribute to research outputs for publication in reports, monographs or recognised high-quality journals as appropriate.

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

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Assist in the supervision of student projects and provide guidance to those assisting in the research.

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.

ROLE-SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Construct a suitable dataset from National Travel Survey, BEIS and other sources.

2. Work with the PI and colleagues to develop an appropriate approach to analysing this data

3. Develop and estimate an OLS model with this data, and work with the PI to write-up the results for publication

4. Develop and estimate structural equation models with this data, and work with the PI to write-up the results for publication.

The Research Assistant will work closely on these tasks with Professor Steve Sorrell (SPRU) and Professor Tim Schwanen (Transport Studies Unit, Oxford)

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

1. Under the supervision of the Principal Investigator, conduct research to assist with project aims, with emphasis on training.

2. Undertake research by preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcomes.

3. Manage and analyse data, and prepare written reports and summaries.
4. Maintain and store project files and equipment as per health and safety and data regulations.

5. As part of career development, contribute to the preparation of journal articles and reports based on the research with support from the Principal Investigator.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to degree level, or other equivalent qualification, or relevant level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Good presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with colleagues and external audiences.

3. Ability to work independently (under supervision), and as part of a team.

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

5. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

6. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

7. Excellent IT skills.

8. Ability to follow guidance of team leaders.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Strong econometric skills, including experience with the use of pooled cross-sectional data within Stata.

2. Experience with data construction from multiple sources.

3. Ability to design and conduct research involving the econometric analysis of secondary data.

4. Enthusiasm, flexibility and a commitment to working within an interdisciplinary, policy-relevant field.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Working towards a PhD in a related research area (e.g. Economics, Energy Policy).

2. Familiarity with structural equation modelling.
3. Strong academic writing skills.

4. Knowledge of policy debates around energy, transport and climate change.