1. Advertisement

Post Title: Senior Research Fellow in International Trade
School/department: University of Sussex Business School, Department of Economics, UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO)
Hours: Full time hours considered up to a maximum of 1 FTE. 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: 4588
Salary: Starting at £51,034 to £59,135 per annum, pro rata if part time.
Placed on: 18 February 2021
Closing date: 22 March 2021. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: To be confirmed.
Expected start date: As soon as possible.

The University of Sussex invites applications for a Senior Research Fellow in International Trade in the Department of Economics.

This is a senior level position, to which we are looking to recruit an experienced post-doctoral researcher with knowledge and expertise in independent research in the field of international trade, a commensurate track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals, and with a demonstrable interest in the policy relevance of their work. This post provides the opportunity to spend the next three years focusing on research with relevance and impact.

The UKTPO is focused on producing high quality academic research as well as engagement with the policy making community and wider stakeholders. The Senior Research Fellow will be expected to undertake the role of Principal Investigator on research projects, demonstrating and providing academic leadership to more junior members of the team. While much of the UKTPO’s work focuses on trade topics for the UK, our work has a broader remit and areas of research and activity are by no means exclusively UK focused.

Our current interests are broad, and we particularly welcome applications from researchers with an interest in the following areas:
- the effect and impacts of free trade agreements on trade and investment;
- the relationship between trade and climate policy and more broadly environmental sustainability;
- the impact on firms, regions and supply chains of changes in trade policy, of ongoing technological change and notably digitization;
- trade responses to exogeneous shocks such as COVID-19; the role of the UK in the world trading system and in relation to developing countries; and computable modelling of changes in trade policy.
Candidates should demonstrate:

- The ability to conduct outstanding and impactful academic research in the economics of international trade and integration;
- the ability to communicate clearly both in writing and verbally;
- a strong interest in trade policy and
- willingness to engage with policy makers, stakeholders and the media.

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 UKTPO on m.gasiorek@sussex.ac.uk / uktpo@sussex.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex.

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 / 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/.

3. 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 is a partnership between the University of Sussex and Chatham House in London.

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. On the basis of this unique expertise, the UKTPO:

- Undertakes primary research with the aim of publishing in quality peer-reviewed journals
- initiates, comments on and analyses trade policy and foreign direct investment proposals for the UK;
- comments on and analyses trade policy on a global scale, and
- trains British policy makers, negotiators and other interested parties through tailored training packages.
The Observatory is committed to engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure that the UK’s international trading environment is reconstructed in a manner that benefits all in Britain and is fair to Britain, the EU and the world.

The UKTPO aims to operate 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 selection of standards, preferences and 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 disruptive trade policies and exogenous shocks such as COVID.
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 exogeneous shocks.

Details of the UKTPO’s activities can be seen on its website: https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/ We are also on Twitter @uk_tpo

The Observatory’s output to date includes over one hundred blogposts, 48 Briefing Papers, 12 podcasts and eight animations. It is extensively cited by the press and broadcast media.

The purpose of this appointment is to maintain the UKTPO’s flow of research, its analytical work and commentary, and to build further expertise across the six priority areas identified above.
4. JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Senior Research Fellow in International Trade
Grade: Grade 9
School: University of Sussex Business School, Department of Economics, UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO)
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: Senior Research Fellow is a senior career-grade research position. Post-holders are expected to undertake the role of Principal Investigator on major research projects for the UKTPO, demonstrate a significant reputation for independent research, and provide academic leadership to those working in their own research areas. They are also expected to contribute to the delivery of the School research strategy.

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 engage in high-quality research activity as a member of the UKTPO with impact and policy engagement resulting in high quality publications; to 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.

2. To support UKTPO faculty with teaching as needed.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Contribute to the development of the UKTPO research strategies and themes.

1.2 Identify and develop research objectives and proposals for own and joint research.

1.3 Carry out independent research and act as a Principal Investigator or project leader on major research projects. 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.

1.4 Review and synthesise the outcomes of research studies, and develop ideas for application of research outcomes.
1.5 Develop proposals for funded major research projects which will make a significant impact, and lead to an increase in knowledge or understanding, or the development of new explanations, insights, concepts or processes.

1.6 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.

1.7 As part of empirical research, maintain a relationship with statistical agencies (such as the Office for National Statistics) on improving datasets relevant for the analysis of international or intra-national trade and investment, or to combine primary datasets in novel ways for secondary analyses.

1.8 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.

1.9 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.

1.10 Contribute to the internal co-ordination of the REF assessment exercise where appropriate.

1.11 Provide academic leadership to those working within relevant research areas.

1.12 Play a leading role in identifying sources of funding and secure and/or contribute to the process of securing bids.

1.13 Play a lead role in identifying and securing opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy.

1.14 Actively build internal and external contacts, and play a key role in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to, for example, identify sources of funding, secure student placements, and build relationships for future activities.

1.15 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 and generate income.

1.16 Play a role in a relevant national professional body or recognised events.

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

1.18 Conduct risk assessments and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.
2. **Teaching & Student Support**

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, as required in support of UKTPO faculty.

2.2 Supervise postgraduate research students as the lead of a postgraduate supervisory team.

3. **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.

4. **Role-specific duties**

4.1 To contribute primary research of high publishable quality to one or more of the six primary research areas identified earlier.

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 Working Papers and academic papers for the research community.

4.3 To engage with 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 – notably law and international relations.

**INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- Regular published output of original research, with a significant proportion at international level (refereed journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text books).
- 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 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.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Ability to lead and manage a major research programme.
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.
5. Experience of supervising postgraduate students.
6. Leadership and people management skills.
7. Ability to exercise a high degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
8. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
9. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Excellent knowledge of and proficiency in methods and techniques in the fields of the empirical analysis of international trade and investment, and related policy.
2. Ability to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.

3. Ability to write clearly for different audiences.

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

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Experience of engagement with policy makers, stakeholders, and/or media

2. Knowledge of mathematical computer programming (such as Stata, Gauss, 'R' or GAMS)