1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow (International Trade)
School/department: University of Sussex Business School, Economics
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 until 30 December 2023
Reference: 5135
Salary: Starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum, pro rata if part time.
Placed on: 13 January 2021
Closing date: 12 February 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 Research Fellow in The Economics of Brexit, in the Department of Economics. In June 2016, the University established the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO), which is an independent expert group that undertakes primary research and initiates, comments on and analyses trade policy choices and outcomes. While much of UKTPO activity has concentrated on UK trade policy following Brexit, the UKTPO has a broader remit and areas of research and activity are by no means exclusively focused on the UK. The UKTPO also offers training to policy makers, negotiators and other interested parties through tailored training packages. The UKTPO has a very high profile in public debate and good contacts with branches of government dealing with Brexit and with International Trade.

Over the past five years, the Department of Economics has expanded considerably as a result of a strategic programme of recruitment aimed at intensifying the quality and depth of our established strengths in applied policy-relevant research. It seeks researchers with outstanding potential to work in a dynamic economics department which focusses on both research outputs and impact and attracts high-quality postgraduate and undergraduate students.

Candidates should demonstrate potential to conduct high quality research in the economics of international trade and integration and to be able to communicate it clearly in writing and verbally. They should also have a proven strong interest in trade policy, 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 important.

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

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

Please find further information regarding the school/division at https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/
3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow (International Trade)
Department: Economics
Section/Unit/School: University of Sussex Business School
Location: Jubilee Building, Falmer Campus
Grade: 7
Responsible to: Principal Investigator through to Head of School

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. 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 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, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School’s REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

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

1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and 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.

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 expected to develop a close familiarity with UK trade policies, as well as EU and WTO trade practices across the range of goods trade, services trade, investment and movement of people. In particular, this includes familiarity with the UK-EU negotiations, the UK Withdrawal Agreement and the Northern Ireland Protocol.

4.2 Be up to date and contribute to the academic literature studying the economic impacts of Brexit, including the impact of Brexit uncertainty, on both firms and workers. This will include analysis of the effects on firms’ trade and productivity, and effects on workers migration patterns, applying suitable econometric models.

4.3 Estimate state-of-the-art trade models (such as structural gravity models) to perform quantitative analyses of UK, within-UK, and other countries’ international trade and investment flows. This will include compiling extensive datasets using both openly available and statistically protected data sources.

4.4 Undertake quantitative analyses of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on workers and firms, by exploiting, inter alia, recently available ONS surveys.

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

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

4.7 Write and present clearly and precisely at each of several levels: in blog-posts and op-eds for non-experts, Briefing Papers for a policy audience, and Working Papers for the research community.

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

4.9 Remain well informed about the ongoing debate as it related to Brexit and to European external policy, with a view to identifying issues on which UKTPO expertise might be useful.

4.10 Engage with 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).
- Cooperating with others in UKTPO to enhance its output and visibility.
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

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.
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. Excellent 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. Excellent knowledge of methods and techniques applied in the fields of international trade, trade policy, and FDI.
3. Ability to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.
4. Ability to write clearly for different audiences

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

DESIRABLE ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Familiarity with UK trade policy, including the Withdrawal Agreement and the Northern-Ireland Protocol would be an advantage.
2. Familiarity with standard datasets on trade and trade barriers such as Comtrade, TiVA or ONS/HMRC data products would be an asset.
3. Knowledge of modelling / computer programming such as GAMS or GAUSS would be an advantage
4. Evidence of good communication of technical subjects with non-technical audiences.
5. Interest in the practice of trade policy and in the trade aspects of Brexit.