



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in the Economics of Trade Policy

School/department: Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy, University of Sussex Business School

Hours: full time or part 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 24 months

Reference: 9182

Salary: starting at £35,333 to £42,155 per annum, pro rata if part time

Placed on: 22 July 2022

Closing date: 06 September 2022 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: expected to be on 28 September 2022

Expected start date: ASAP, certainly by 01 January 2023

This is an exciting opportunity for an economist in the partial equilibrium modelling of international trade to join a new multi-million-pound ESRC-funded Research Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy (CITP). The Centre spans four departments in Sussex plus universities in all four UK nations, and comprises scholars from economics, law, business management, politics and international relations.

The project will be under the leadership of Professors Michael Gasiorek (Co-Director of CITP) and Alasdair Smith (Co-Investigator, CITP). The post is an early career research position. The post-holder will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

Candidates should demonstrate the potential to conduct high quality research in the economics of international trade, and to be able to communicate it clearly in writing and verbally. They should demonstrate ability in economic modelling and ideally in the partial equilibrium modelling of trade policy, or in computable general equilibrium modelling.

The Research Fellows will be part of the CITP's Early Career Researcher cohort for which the Centre will organise various professional development activities. They will also form part of a large group of trade scholars in Sussex which, as well as CITP, includes faculty and also Research Fellows in the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO). Collaboration and team working will be central to the work of both the CITP and the UKTPO, so being able to work closely with colleagues in a fast-moving and exciting area is important. This is an exciting time to join a dynamic and rapidly growing unit undertaking advanced research on international trade and trade policy.

For details beyond those below please contact Michael Gasiorek, (m.gasiorek@sussex.ac.uk), Co-Director of the Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy.

For full details and how to apply see the University of Sussex [vacancies page](#).

This opportunity is being advertised with two other posts for Post-Doctoral Research Fellows in the Economics of Trade Policy for the CITP – references: 9183 and 9184. Because they are different, separate applications are required, but please indicate in your application if you have applied for one or both of the other posts.

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

Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.

2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the University of Sussex Business School at:
<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/>

and further information regarding the Department of Economics at:

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/people-and-departments/economics>

The Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy

The Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy is built on the precept that trade policy should be inclusive in both policy formulation and outcome and focuses on four dimensions of inclusiveness: geography, political domains, society and generations. The Centre itself is inclusive with researchers in all four UK nations, in five disciplines and at all stages of their careers, and with a commitment to hear the voices of all parts of UK society.

In addition to the University of Sussex, the Centre 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 also from four overseas universities – The European University Institute, Georgetown University, Tel Aviv University and the University of California, Berkeley. With funding for an initial five-year period, it is the ESRC's first interdisciplinary research centre in international trade and trade policy and will comprise scholars from economics, law, business management, politics and international relations.

The Centre will work with nine partners including Ernst & Young LLP (EY), Fieldfisher LLP, the International Trade Group of the Professional and Business Services Council, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Trade Justice Movement and trade officials in all four UK administrations. It will undertake consultation and societal deliberation, including via a series of citizens' juries, in order to ensure that its programme is relevant to the needs of UK business, society and policymakers.

The Centre's objectives include to:

- Conduct frontier disciplinary and interdisciplinary research into international trade and trade policy;
- Create a critical mass of expertise by integrating excellent scholars from several disciplines and all parts of the UK;
- Create a body of data and innovative methods relevant to the study of international trade and trade policy-making;
- Apply research skills to pressing practical trade problems, including some identified by a broad societal consultation among stakeholders and the public;

- Work extensively to inform public debate, so that the relevance of trade to economic management is clear and the trade-offs that it inevitably entails are more widely appreciated;
- Engage with a wide range of policy-makers and stakeholders, and
- Create a legacy in terms of a permanent wide-spread capacity to conduct first-rate research, analysis and policy-making practices in international trade in UK academia, officialdom and business.

The CITP has three research themes:

- **People, Firms and Places** studies the differential impact of trade across locations, firms and individuals in the four nations of the UK, and how external factors such as Brexit, Covid-19 and the rise of China affect the UK economy.
- **Digitisation and Technical Change** considers how governments wrestle with huge platform-companies, and how digital trade affects labour markets, business models and value chains, and their regulation.
- **Negotiating a Turbulent World** asks how to formulate UK trade policy given the obstacles to trading across the UK's internal borders, international regulatory challenges, the need for environmental sustainability and the interaction between trade and investment.

Find out more about CITP:

Twitter: @centre4itp <https://citp.ac.uk/>

The UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO)

The UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO) is an independent expert group, established in June 2016, that undertakes research on trade, initiates, comments on and analyses trade policy proposals for the UK. The UKTPO also engages closely with policy makers and stakeholders on a wide range of trade policy issues. 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 branches of government dealing with UK trade policy.

Find out more about the UKTPO: <https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/>

We are also on Twitter [@uk_tpo](https://twitter.com/uk_tpo)

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Economics of Trade Policy

Department: Economics

Section/Unit/School: Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy, University of Sussex Business School

Location: Jubilee Building

Grade: 7

Responsible to: Michael Gasiorek, Co-Director of CITP

Responsible for: N/A

The principal area of focus of work will be to develop partial equilibrium modelling applications for UK trade policy issues. Members of the CITP team at Sussex University (Michael Gasiorok, Alasdair Smith, Nicolo Tamberi) have built up a partial equilibrium modelling capability with the ability to apply a range of PE models (classic Armington, multi-market perfect competition, imperfect competition). The model has been used in a wide range of contexts ranging from the impact on UK manufacturing of different Brexit outcomes, and the consequences of Brexit for the UK fishing industry, to the implications of a trade war with the US. A version of the model has also been written for DIT, and is in use in Whitehall for the evaluation of the UK's future trade agreements.

We are now seeking to extend this modelling in two principal directions:

1. To allow for firm level heterogeneity in the spirit of Melitz. In the first instance we anticipate that rather than modelling a continuum of firms we would model different categories of firms, where we would distinguish between different size classes of firm. This would allow for changes in trade and trade policy to alter within-industry composition and consequently industry-level productivity.
2. To model trade in services. Services trade can be delivered via any one of GATS modes 1-4, as well as through what has been known as mode 5 – service inputs used in manufacturing. Different modes have different configurations of fixed and variable costs, and trade policy may impact on these elements differently. Regulatory barriers in services typically affect fixed costs, unlike tariffs on goods which affect the variable cost of market access. In order to model trade in services we will therefore build a model with a more flexible specification of cost structures, as well as firm heterogeneity.

The post holder will be tasked with preparing the data and undertaking the computer programming work in order to extend the model(s) in the two areas identified above. You will work closely with Professors Gasiorok and Smith, but will also need to be able to proceed independently and show initiative.

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.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals within the main project and also 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, as appropriate.
- 1.5 Contribute as required to the preparation and writing of CITP Briefing Papers, blogs and other outputs (e.g. podcasts/videos/reports).
- 1.6 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes, if so requested.

1.7 Build contacts and participate in networks within Sussex and the CITP more broadly, and participate in 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 This is not a teaching post, but there may be scope for some teaching if desired and the post holder may be required to make small contributions towards an online course on trade policy within the CITP.

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 trade relations and notably the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, 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, and the theoretical literature on the determinants of trade and investment.

4.3 Be up to date on the partial equilibrium, and computable general equilibrium modelling literature and in particular work extending the standard perfectly competitive Armington models to allow for imperfect competition, heterogeneous firms, and different cost structures.

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

4.6 Write and present clearly and precisely at each of several levels, including research papers for leading journals, Working Papers, Briefing Papers for a policy audience and blog-posts and op-eds for non-experts.

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

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

4.9 Engage with the press and other media as appropriate.

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).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.

ROLE-SPECIFIC INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Cooperating with others in CITP to enhance its output and visibility.
- Generating interesting ideas for CITP's output of analysis and commentary.
- Publishing in a variety of formats, as appropriate for a group seeking to have strong immediate and medium-term impact. This includes devising novel 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.

4. 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, with an emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
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. Good organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Experience in economic modelling, preferably partial equilibrium or Computable General Equilibrium trade modelling, but possibly in related modelling areas.
2. Excellent knowledge and experience in computer programming and the writing of models preferably in 'R' or Gauss.
3. Excellent knowledge of methods and techniques applied in the fields of international trade and trade policy.
4. Ability to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.
5. Ability to write clearly for different audiences.

ROLE-SPECIFIC DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Knowledge of the trade modelling literature, both partial and general equilibrium, as well as the literature on estimating non-tariff barriers and trade elasticities.
2. Knowledge of and interest in the relationship between services trade and goods trade, and how this impacts on firms' engagement in international trade.
3. Familiarity with standard datasets on trade, trade barriers and production such as Comtrade, TiVA, ONS, UNIDO and World Bank data products would be an asset.
4. Evidence of good communication of technical subjects with non-technical audiences.
5. Interest in the practice of trade policy especially in post-Brexit Britain.
6. Interest in aspects of inclusivity in trade policy.