



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 to 31 March 2025 (based on 01 Jan 2023 start date)

Reference: 9183

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 26 September 2022.

Expected start date: ASAP, certainly by 01 January 2023

This is an exciting opportunity for an economist experienced in the use of firm-level data for international trade research and also enthusiastic to work on the interface of trade policy and climate policy 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.

She/he will be based in the Department of Economics in the University of Sussex Business School and located in the University's Jubilee Building. 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.

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 L Alan Winters (L.A.Winters@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: 9182 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.

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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 Economic Department at:

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

The CITP's website is www.citp.ac.uk.

Details of the UKTPO's activities can be seen on its website:

<https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/> and on Twitter @uk_tpo

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: Professor L Alan Winters, Co-Director of CITP. The post-holder will be also be required to maintain close contact with Professor Giordano Mion to deliver on his part of the research described below and related research.

Responsible for: N/A

This post is to support two projects within CITP, in both of which there will be scope for the Fellow to develop her/his own projects and ideas. The larger project will be led by Professor Giordano Mion (formerly of the University of Sussex now in ESSEC Business School, Paris). It links trade, productivity and geography at the firm level, exploiting a variety of large administrative (and hence confidential) UK data sources. These comprise HMRC's VAT

panel dataset providing information on sales and purchases of intermediates, the BSD/IDBR dataset that contains firm industry affiliation, location, and employment of active firms and establishments in the UK, the FAME/ORBIS database delivering information on firm capital stocks and an HMRC-based dataset on UK firms' exports and imports. The first three datasets have been integrated previously by Professor Mion. Therefore, the main data construction task for the successful candidate will be to incorporate the last. In this respect, it is important to note that data construction and analysis will need to be performed at the HMRC datalab currently located in Stratford. The successful candidate will be provided with access to the data following HMRC research accreditation procedure and the inclusion in an approved research project.

The above data can be used to study the interactions between trade, productivity and geography in a number of ways. For example:

- Look at the impacts of Brexit/Covid19-related trade shocks on local productivity and employment
- Examine the impacts of Brexit/Covid19-related trade shocks on UK firms involvement in global value chains and the ultimate consequences for local communities
- Investigate the relationship between trade and markups both in the aggregate and at the local level and its consequences for firms' profitability and incomes

The second project, which concerns climate change and trade policy, is interdisciplinary with a colleague in Law – Dr Emily Lydgate. The Economics component is led by Professor L Alan Winters, Co-Director of CITP, and will mainly concern the potential economic consequences of border policies aimed at preventing the 'carbon leakage' that may arise from restrictions on carbon use within the UK. From there, it will comment on the design of such policies. Current UK data for undertaking this task are very poor, so part of the project will be to try to identify work-arounds and approximations that may be feasible. One possibility may be to extend the previous project to integrate information from UK firms subject to the UK Emissions Trading Scheme. As a second task, the economists may also need to examine and model the consequences of UK subsidies to fossil fuels and/or green technologies to contribute to the legal analysis.

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 projects 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 required to undertake analysis of large firm-level datasets, most of which will need to be conducted in the HMRC datalab in Stratford. Knowledge of Stata and data processing is essential.

4.2 She/he will also be required to work with other data, likely including UK and multi-country input-output tables, standard trade data sources, the European Union Transaction Log (EUTL) and UK ETS Registry.

4.3 Be up to date and contribute to the academic literature on the economics of international trade and trade policy, including issues of inclusivity and trade.

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

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 with researchers from project partners at other institutions.

4.8 Engage with stakeholders, the press and other media as appropriate.

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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. Proficiency in statistical data preparation and analysis, in particular familiarity with working with firm-level administrative data-sets.
2. Knowledge of Stata and data processing.
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 advanced data-processing techniques including machine learning, web-scraping, and text analysis is highly desirable.
2. Knowledge of advanced econometrics tools, and in particular panel data and productivity estimation methods, would be highly desirable.
3. Knowledge of and interest in the relationship between services trade and goods trade, and how this impacts on firms' engagement in international supply chains.
4. 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.
5. Knowledge of modelling / computer programming such as GAMS or GAUSS would be an advantage.
6. Evidence of good communication of technical subjects with non-technical audiences.
7. Interest in the practice of trade policy especially in post-Brexit Britain.
8. Interest in aspects of inclusivity in trade policy.