



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in the Economics of Digitalization and Trade

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 48 months

Reference: 9184

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

Placed on: 26 July 2022

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

Expected interview date: week commencing 26 September, expected to be on 28 September.

Expected start date: ASAP, certainly by 01 January 2023

This is an exciting opportunity for Economists expert in technical change - particularly digitalisation and digital automation - and 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 post-holder will be based in the Department of Economics and SPRU 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. They should demonstrate knowledge of, and competency in, digital trade and trade policy.

The post-holder, along with other 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 Professor Maria Savona (m.savona@sussex.ac.uk), Co-Investigator, 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 9183. 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/>

further information regarding the Economic Department at: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/people-and-departments/economics>

and further information regarding SPRU at: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/people-and-departments/spru>.

The CITP's website is www.citp.ac.uk and on Twitter @centre4itp

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)

The Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)

Founded in 1966 by Christopher Freeman, SPRU is 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 are shaping today's world.

3. Job Description

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

Department: University of Sussex Business School, Department of Economics and Science Policy Research Unit,

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

Location: Jubilee Building

Grade: 7

Responsible to: Through Professor Maria Savona, to the Co-Directors, CITP

Responsible for: N/A

The principal focus area of work will be to develop a conceptual framework and derive empirical evidence on the effects of digitalisation and digital automation on trade, including digitally-enabled services trade and with a particular focus on Global Value Chains. In addition, the candidate will explore issues related to cross-border data flows, the measurement and valuation of data and intangible assets, and their implications for trade and trade regulations within and beyond the European context.

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. To develop conceptual and empirical tools and evidence to assess the value added of data in digital production and digital trade, including the perspectives of individual personal data, the use of big data in large platforms, other intangible assets and how this affects trade and integration in Global Value Chains.

4.2. To analyse cross-border data flows within digital trade, with the aim of identifying technical, economic or policy issues that arise and that may require regulation in areas such as personal data protection, competition policy, and intellectual property protection, amongst others.

4.3. To conduct, in cooperation with The Sussex School of Law and other partners within CITP, interdisciplinary research to produce a taxonomy of the trade, digital rights and competition regulatory framework required to tackle the issues identified above, including, but not limited to, personal data protection, local access requirement, cross-borders interoperability, and the various FTAs on digital trade, with a particular emphasis on the EU regulation and the role of the US and China in this landscape.

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

4.5 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.

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

4.7 Remain well informed about the ongoing debate as it relates to EU data regulations, such as the Digital Markets Act, the Artificial Intelligence Act, the Data Governance Act, the Digital Services Act, the European external policy, and developments in the UK such as the UK National Data Strategy, the UK Digital Strategy, or the CMA's Digital Markets Unit, with a view to identifying issues on which CITP expertise might be useful.

4.8 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).
- 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 the broader CITP community 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. Excellent knowledge of methods and techniques applied in the fields of Economics of technical change, digital automation and international trade and trade policy.
3. Ability to seek appropriate data sources by web scraping, text mining and non-public sources of data, and to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.
4. Knowledge of policies that affect services trade and knowledge of the regulation of data value, digital trade and trade policy in the realm of digitalisation.
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 and interest in the relationship between digitalisation, intangible assets, services trade and goods trade, and how these impact on firms' engagement in global supply chains.
3. Familiarity with standard datasets on trade and trade barriers such as Comtrade, TiVA, ITPD-E, or ONS data products would be an asset.
4. Knowledge of modelling / computer programming such as GAMS or GAUSS would be an advantage
5. Evidence of good communication of technical subjects with non-technical audiences.
6. Interest in the practice of trade policy especially in post-Brexit Britain.
7. Interest in aspects of inclusivity in trade policy.