



## 1 Advertisement

**Post Title:** Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Law of Digitization and Trade

**School/department:** Law, Politics, and Sociology/Centre of Information Governance Regulation

**Hours:** full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1 FTE / 36.5 hours  
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

**Contract:** Fixed term for 12 months or 0.5 FTE for 24 months

**Location:** Brighton, United Kingdom

**Reference:** 9423

**Salary:** £36,333 to £43,155, pro rata if part time [current salary scales can be found here](#)

**Placed on:** 29 March 2023

**Closing date:** 14 April 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**Expected interview date:** To be confirmed

**Expected start date:** As soon as possible, by 01 September 2023

This is an exciting opportunity for legal expert in technical change - particularly digitalization 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 Research Fellow will work primarily on the digital services theme of the ESRC Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy (CITP): researching the interaction between UK digital services regulation and trade policy, and the use, scope and effects of Regulatory Coherence obligations in free trade agreements. 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.

The Department of Law seeks researchers with outstanding potential to work in a dynamic department which focusses on both research outputs and impact and attracts high-quality postgraduate and undergraduate students. The candidate should demonstrate the potential to conduct high quality research in the law of international trade, and to be able to communicate it clearly in writing and verbally. They should demonstrate ability in digital trade and trade policy.

The Research Fellows will be part of the CITP's Early Career Researcher cohort for which the Centre will organize 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 Dr. Phoebe Li ([Phoebe.Li@Sussex.ac.uk](mailto:Phoebe.Li@Sussex.ac.uk)), Co-Investigator, Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy.

The CITP's website is [www.citp.ac.uk](http://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

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.*

**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 Department of Law, Politics, and Sociology at:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lps/>

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>

### **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 Law of Digitization and Trade

**Department:** Law

**Section/Unit/School:** Centre for Information Governance Research, Law, Politics, and Sociology, University of Sussex

**Location:** Freeman Building, Falmer campus, Brighton, United Kingdom

**Grade:** 7

**Responsible to:** Dr. Phoebe Li. The post-holder will also be required to maintain close contact with other Members of the CITP team working on the projects listed, notably Professor Maria Savona and Dr. Ingo Borchert.

#### PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

The principal area of focus of work will be to map the international legal framework on the effects of digitalisation and digital automation on international trade. Particularly, the candidate will explore issues related to cross-border data flows and implications for trade and trade regulations within and beyond the European context.

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 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 and Agreements, as well as UK and WTO trade practices across technology and digital services trade regulation. In particular, this includes familiarity with UK Free Trade Agreements. It also requires familiarity with UK digital services and data protection policies and legislation.

4.2 Be up to date and contribute to the academic literature studying FTAs, as well as the way that trade and trade agreements intersect with digital services trade and national regulation. This will include analysis of the trade policy responses to data protection, intellectual property, and competition law.

4.3 Locate and analyse international trade agreements, primarily UK FTAs, including their relationship to WTO law. Undertake qualitative analysis of the implementation of UK FTA chapters.

4.4 Conduct and document empirical work in accordance with best practice. To develop and map the legal framework to assess the regulation 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.

4.5. To analyse cross-border data flows within digital trade, with the aim of identifying the issues that arise and require regulation. To assess 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 the UK National Data Strategy, with a view to identifying issues on which CITP expertise might be useful.

4.6. To conduct, in cooperation with The Sussex Business School 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.

4.7. 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.

4.8. Engage positively and constructively with CIGR, 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.

4.9. 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.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or being close to completion to doctoral studies, or other equivalent qualification in law, or relevant professional activity in Trade law or Technology Law.
2. Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
3. Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
4. Cooperating with others to enhance output and visibility.
5. Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
6. Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.

### **DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Excellent knowledge of methods and techniques applied in the fields of law of digital automation, Artificial Intelligence, and international trade and trade policy.
2. Knowledge of and interest in the relationship between digitization, intangible assets, services trade and goods trade, and how these impact on firms' engagement in global supply chains.
3. Key skills in legal analysis with knowledge of regulatory and socio-technical impacts of emerging digital technologies.
4. Interest in the practice of trade policy especially in post-Brexit Britain.