



## 1 Advertisement

**Post Title:** Research Fellow in the Economics of Trade

**School/Department:** UK Trade Policy Observatory, University of Sussex Business School, Economics Department

**Hours:** full time, hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0fte, requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

**Contract:.** Fixed term for 2 years

**Reference** 7343

**Salary:** starting at £34,304 and rising to £40,927 per annum, pro rata if part time

**Placed on:** 14 December 2021

**Closing date:** 25 January 2022. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**Expected interview date:** TBC

**Expected start date:** ASAP

The UK Trade Policy Observatory at the University of Sussex invites applications for the position of Research Fellow in the Economics of Trade in the Department of Economics. This is an exciting time to join a dynamic and rapidly growing unit undertaking advanced research on international trade and trade policy. Details can be found below.

Candidates should demonstrate the 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](mailto:M.Gasiorek@sussex.ac.uk) / [uktpo@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:uktpo@sussex.ac.uk) for informal enquiries. Details of the UKTPO's activities can be seen on our 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 University of Sussex Business School at: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/>

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

### **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 University of Sussex probably has the largest collection of academic expertise on the world trading system in the UK, and comprises scholars from a range of disciplines including economics, law, political science, and international business. 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.

The UKTPO is also a key part of a new forthcoming ESRC research centre, the Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy which is built on the precept that trade policy should be inclusive in both policy formulation and outcomes. As well as the UKTPO, the CITP 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 several overseas universities to create the UK's first interdisciplinary research centre focused on international trade. The Centre is supported by a £8 million grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and by funding from its contributing universities.

Find out more about the UKTPO: <https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/uktpo/> We are also on Twitter [@uk\\_tpo](#)

### **3. Job Description**

Leaving the EU has given the UK an independent trade policy for the first time in over 45 years. The aim of this project is to contribute to ongoing research analysing the way in which UK firms engage in value chains and in international trade. This includes the role of services in international trade – both directly and as an input (servicification and servitisation), and the implications of digitisation as more and more of UK services trade is digitally enabled (which again feeds back to UK productivity and the ability of firms to engage in international trade).

Hence, the primary area of research in this post will be working with UK firm-level administrative data from the Office of National Statistics and the HMRC. This will involve merging the firm level data-set from both sources and then undertaking analysis of that data using both descriptive statistics and formal econometric modelling.

This post is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders 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.

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## **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 and writing of UKTPO Briefing Papers and blogs.
- 1.6 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
- 1.7 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.
- 1.8 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.9 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 Director of the UKTPO 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, and/or firm level panel data 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 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: in blog-posts and op-eds for non-experts, Briefing Papers for a policy audience, and Working Papers for the research community.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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 UKTPO 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.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

## **ROLE-SPECIFIC INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- Cooperating with others in UKTPO to enhance its output and visibility.
- Generating interesting ideas for UKTPO'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. Be familiar with working with and the analysis of firm level administrative data, preferably with an application to international trade.
4. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
6. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
7. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
8. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
9. 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 international trade and trade policy
3. Ability to properly handle confidential information with diligence and circumspection.

4. 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.
2. Knowledge of and interest in the relationship between services trade and goods trade, and how this impacts on firms' engagement in international supply chains.
3. Familiarity with standard datasets on trade and trade barriers such as Comtrade, TiVA or ONS data products would be an asset.
4. Familiarity with ONS and HMRC administrative data.
5. Knowledge of modelling / computer programming such as GAMS, GAUSS or R would be an advantage
6. Evidence of good communication of technical subjects with non-technical audiences.
7. Interest in the practice of trade policy and in the trade aspects of Brexit.