

**Assistant Professor in
Sociolinguistics**
Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages
and Linguistics

Closing date: Friday 31 January 2025

Vacancy number: GP44019



Assistant Professor

Salary:

£46,485—£58,596

Contract:

Permanent

Location:

Central Cambridge

Faculty

Faculty of Modern and Medieval
Languages and Linguistics

Responsible to:

Director of the Linguistics
Section/Co-Chairs of the Faculty
Board

Working pattern:

Full-time

The University of Cambridge has a Hybrid Working Policy that aims to enable as many staff as possible to work in a hybrid way if they so wish, whilst recognising that some roles will include tasks that can only be performed on University premises.

The Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics (MMLL) seeks to appoint a full-time Assistant Professor in Sociolinguistics from 1 September 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter.

We invite applications from candidates who have a record, or clear potential, for outstanding, broadly sociolinguistic research using science-based methodologies (e.g., data science) and who have a strong formal linguistics background (phonology, morphology, syntax). The appointee will take an essentially cross-disciplinary approach to sociolinguistic issues such as language variation and contact, consistent with the ethos of TAL and its central role within the broader Language Sciences network within Cambridge.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop their own independent portfolio of world-class research commensurate with the international reputation of the University of Cambridge, and to collaborate with colleagues both in Cambridge (across the broader Faculty and/or the Language Sciences network). They will be expected to actively seek research funding appropriate to their career stage.

The appointee will be required to contribute to the delivery of a distinctive intellectual programme in Linguistics and the Language Sciences at the Master's and PhD levels in their field of expertise, as well as to contribute to undergraduate teaching and small group supervision. The role also includes an active contribution to the administration of the activities of TAL and the Faculty.

The appointee will be mentored and supported in their career development, and a range of programmes is available to help Early Career Researchers achieve their goals.



Assistant Professor

The successful candidate will hold a PhD in the field of the post (or will do so by the start of the contract). They will be expected to:

- engage in and direct research at a level commensurate with the international reputation of the Linguistics Section and Faculty
- seek opportunities to win external funding for that research
- publish excellent work in their specialist field
- be fully involved in teaching, supervision, and examining of Master's students
- supervise and examine PhD students
- contribute to undergraduate teaching through lecturing and small group supervision
- actively contribute to Section and Faculty administration

Assistant Professors are also expected to contribute more generally to teaching-related and research-related administration, including selecting, interviewing and advising staff and students (undergraduate and postgraduate), helping with outreach and initiatives to widen participation, and sitting on relevant committees.

The standard teaching load for Faculty lectures and classes is about 40-48 hours per year.

The University of Cambridge is committed in its pursuit of academic excellence to equality of opportunity and to a proactive and inclusive approach to equality, which supports and encourages all under-represented groups, promotes an inclusive culture, and values diversity.



Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Education		
PhD or equivalent in the field of the post (or completed by start date)	✓	
Specialist Skills and Knowledge		
Evidence of (potential for) outstanding research in Sociolinguistics	✓	
Demonstration of a clear plan for research and publication	✓	
A fluent or near-fluent command of English	✓	
Ability or potential to undertake collaborative research and to secure external research and funding	✓	
Broad and cross-disciplinary research interests		✓
Ability and willingness to contribute to and develop the teaching of Sociolinguistics and related fields at Master's and undergraduate levels	✓	
Ability and willingness to supervise postgraduate work	✓	
Ability and willingness to actively contribute to Section and Faculty administration	✓	
Ability to take an inclusive approach towards teaching and working with or supporting colleagues	✓	
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and ability to work in a collegial and collaborative manner	✓	
Relevant Experience		
Provision of lectures and seminars for undergraduate students and development of teaching materials		✓
Assessment and examination at undergraduate and postgraduate level		✓
Experience in the recruitment of undergraduate and/or postgraduate students (e.g. interviewing, preparation of prospectuses, outreach, diversity and widening participation work)		✓

Declaration on Research Assessment

The University of Cambridge is a signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), and in recruitment or promotion evaluations will assess research on the basis of its merits rather than the journal or venue in which it is published. Applicants should not include Journal Impact Factors or uncontextualized metrics in their applications. Full details are at: <https://www.research-strategy.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-policy/DORA>

The Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics



The Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, founded in 1879, is a world-leading centre for teaching and research in language, culture and linguistics at the University of Cambridge and is part of the School of Arts and Humanities. The Faculty comprises eight subject areas: French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Slavonic Studies, Spanish & Portuguese, Theoretical & Applied Linguistics, and Film. With nearly 1,000 students (over 770 undergraduates, 65 MPhil students and 140 PhD students) we are one of the largest humanities Faculties in the University and one of the largest languages Faculties nationally. The Faculty combines excellence in teaching, academic rigour and research with a strong tradition of pastoral support for its students. It is a vibrant place to study and work, and since 2016 these factors have regularly helped it top University league tables. In terms of research excellence, the Faculty has consistently been ranked among the very best in the world in national and international assessments. For example, in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) it was in clear first position for 'research power' among Faculties of its type in the UK.

Theoretical and Applied Linguistics Section

The Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (TAL) Section of the MMLL Faculty is an internationally recognised centre for research and teaching in the language sciences, ranked second in the QS World University Rankings in 2023 and 2024. TAL's mission is to span a comprehensive range of the language sciences, to promote excellent theoretical and empirical research and teaching across a broad spectrum of fields ranging from historical linguistics and comparative syntax to language development, language processing and computational linguistics, and to foster a broad and integrated approach to the study of linguistics. TAL is intrinsically connected to Cambridge Language Sciences which strengthens interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research bridging humanities, social sciences, health and natural sciences. TAL research spans across these fields and feeds into our teaching provision primarily at postgraduate levels. TAL hosts three laboratories that enable its multi- and inter-disciplinary research: Phonetics, Psycholinguistics (including high precision eye tracking and EEG equipment) and Language Technology.

The undergraduate program covers a broad spectrum of areas (with 35-40 students in each of the three years and an offering of around 16 different papers). TAL runs a taught MPhil in Linguistics and Language Sciences (requiring a dissertation as a major component), as well as an MPhil by research, with student numbers for the two programs combined projected to rise from 35 to 50 over the next 4 years. The PhD program comprises around 75 students with separate streams in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics and Computation, Cognition and Language. Hence, there is a high proportion of postgraduates within the student body, contributing to the active research culture within the Section.

Further information about staff, research clusters, facilities and courses is available at the TAL web pages: <https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/dtal>.

The School of Arts and Humanities



The School of Arts and Humanities is one of six schools in the University and it currently comprises of:

- Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Faculty of Architecture and History of Art
- Faculty of Classics
- Faculty of Divinity
- Faculty of English
- Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics
- Faculty of Music
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
- University of Cambridge Language Centre
- Institute for Technology and Humanity

The School's institutions together have over 700 staff and 3,500 students, with an annual budget in excess of £45 million. The School has recently agreed a new strategic plan, which sets out its overarching vision and objectives.

Vision

The Strategic Vision of the School of Arts and Humanities is to retain its position in the world top five. We see this not as a simple metric but as a challenge for which we must foster a culture and practice of openness: to countries and traditions around the globe, to major themes, to new ways of teaching, to diversity in our student intake and staff recruitment, to inclusiveness in our career development, and to the breaking down of structures that prevent us achieving the ambitious goals we set ourselves

Terms of appointment

Tenure and probation

Appointments are to the retiring age for established academic positions. For University Associate Professors and University Assistant Professors the appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of a five-year probationary period.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern The appointment is full-time. We welcome applications from individuals who wish to be considered for other flexible working arrangements.

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a defined benefits pension scheme. If you are already a member of the NHS Pension scheme, you may be eligible to continue in the scheme and should contact the Pensions section of the University: www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/.

Annual leave

Subject to compliance with the Statutes and Ordinances relating to leave, full time officers are entitled in any holiday year to take a minimum of 28 days annual paid holiday. These periods are inclusive of public holidays that fall outside Full Term.

Sabbatical leave

Cambridge is generous in having statutory provision for leave of absence of one term for every six terms of service. Academic staff use this opportunity for study and research.

College membership

Membership of a College adds an important social and intellectual dimension that many of the University's academic community find attractive. Appointment to a College fellowship is a separate matter from a

University appointment. Colleges expect all their teaching fellows to take part in undergraduate supervision and College administration, for which the College provides modest remuneration additional to University salary. Many academic staff will be invited to join a College as a teaching fellow, but it is not compulsory for academic staff to be a member of a College. The Head of Institution or senior colleagues can offer more advice.

Residence

It is a requirement of the role that you are resident in the University during term-time. Further information can be found here: <https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/2019/chapter11-section1.html#indexterm-d358e257>

General information

Pre-employment checks

Right to work in the UK - we have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make will be conditional upon you gaining it.

Qualifications - the person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

References - offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

Health declaration - once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

Equality and Diversity

We particularly encourage women and /or candidates from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background to apply for this vacancy as they are currently under-represented at this level within our University.

Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities.

We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time. If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact the Schools HR team who are responsible for recruitment to this position on mmlpersonnel@admin.cam.ac.uk



The University

The University of Cambridge is consistently ranked one of the best universities in the world, achieving academic excellence through its Faculties, Departments and other Institutions, together with the 31 Colleges.

The University is renowned for its record of discovery and innovation. It is one of the great institutions, with a regional, national and global reach, attracting the very best and brightest minds. Our staff and students shape the world around us for the better: we attract and partner with like-minded people.

Whether contributing to the development of new anti-cancer drugs, adding to the understanding of how black holes are formed, revolutionising the study of ancient settlements, convening academic expertise to offer solutions to the climate crisis, or analysing public attitudes towards democracy around the world, the University's research is remarkable in its breadth, quality and impact. The University also sits at the heart of Europe's largest technology cluster and has catalysed more than 1,500 high-tech companies. And yet what inspires our 24,000 students and 13,000 staff is not what has already been achieved, but what is possible in the future.

The education and experience of our students, based on a partnership between the University's academic Departments and Faculties and the 31 Colleges, is second to none. Every student is a member of one of the Colleges, each a community of students, academics and staff drawn from across the University's comprehensive range of subject areas.



The University is a self-governing community, with a system for decision-making that provides a high degree of accountability and transparency to its members. Each Department and Faculty is part of one of six academic Schools, but each of them, and each individual academic, has a great deal of autonomy. The Colleges are independent and self-governing, working in a symbiotic relationship with the University.

The University has a number of Institutions that are independent of any Faculty or Department and are not part of the academic Schools. These include the Institute of Continuing Education (which provides high-quality education to adults throughout their lives), the Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle's Yard (an historic house and gallery that holds important collections of modern art) and the University Library. In addition to their diverse contributions to University and public life, these non-School Institutions are also important centres of teaching and research.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment provides academic publishing, examinations and learning materials worldwide, supporting the dissemination of research, academic development at school and in higher education, and international student mobility. Legally, the Press & Assessment is a department of the University. It provides very important funds to invest in the academic purposes of the University.

The University has made truly remarkable contributions to the sum of human understanding, with breakthrough ideas and discoveries that have changed the way we understand ourselves, our planet, and the universe around us. Yet the global and national contexts in which it operates are fast-changing and increasingly filled with uncertainty. In a world that is becoming - politically, economically, socially, and technologically – ever more interconnected but even less equal, the University's mission – “to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and



About Us

The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.

The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit undergraduate students, provide student accommodation and pastoral support and deliver small group teaching for undergraduates.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

“Through its outstanding education, research and innovation, the University of Cambridge has made - and continues to make - a lasting contribution to human knowledge and is flourishing. By working at the University of Cambridge, you will be joining a vibrant community of students, scholars and professional services staff, committed to supporting and enhancing the University's mission to contribute to society.”

Professor Deborah Prentice,
Vice Chancellor, 2023



Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 24,000 students and over 13,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment.

Equality & diversity

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity groups, including the Women's Staff Network, Race Equality Network and LGBT+ Staff Network. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a new science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is now expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.



The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with a framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's silver Athena swan award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting gender equality.

Living in Cambridge

Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances at the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the Visit Cambridge website.

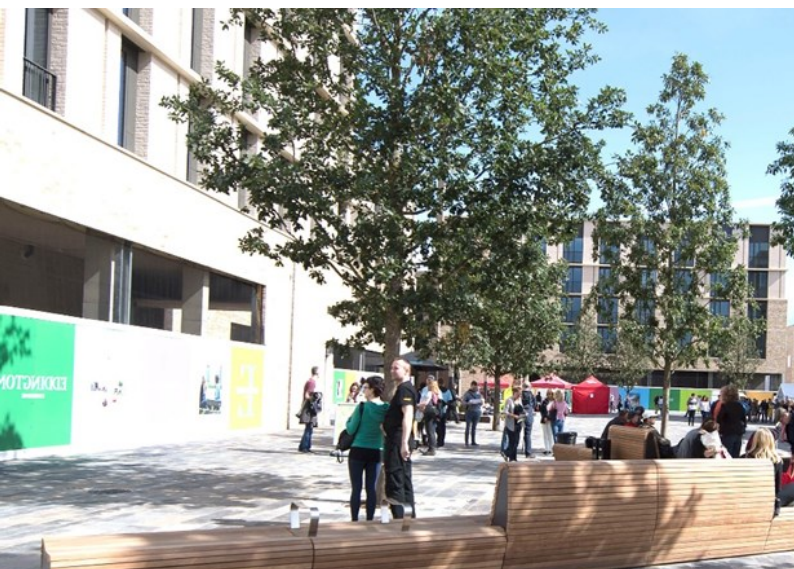
If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45-minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Relocation Support

The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/RelocationService/>. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the costs of relocating to Cambridge.

Accommodation Service

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit: <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>



What Cambridge can offer

We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a career break scheme for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings.



CAMBens employee benefits

The University offers employees a wide range of competitive benefits, known as CAMBens. CAMBens offers something for everyone across a range of categories, including:

- Financial Benefits, including shopping discounts (both local and national) and a Payroll Giving scheme;
- Relocation and Accommodation Benefits, including relocation assistance and interest-free Rental Deposit Loans;
- Travel Benefits, including Cycle to Work, discounts on train season tickets and interest-free Travel to Work loans;
- Family Friendly and Lifestyle Benefits, including support with childcare and family friendly policies;
- Health and Wellbeing Benefits, including a University Staff Counselling Service, discounts at the University Sports Centre, and other local gyms, and healthcare schemes.



What Cambridge can offer

Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 26 weeks' full pay, and paid emergency leave for parents and carers.

Other family-friendly support includes:

Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high-quality holiday Playscheme are available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here: <https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group (<https://www.nvs.admin.cam.ac.uk/>) is an organisation within the University that welcomes the partners and families of visiting scholars and new members of the University. Run by volunteers, the group offers opportunities to visit interesting Cambridge venues, learn about the community, take part in social events and gain local knowledge while developing a strong support network of both residents and other newcomers.

Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. The University delivers The Festival of Wellbeing annually, which is a programme of stimulating talks and activities, which aim to promote wellbeing and good mental and physical health. The University also hosts the Cambridge Festival, which is a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities as well as supporting their professional and career development on an ongoing basis. Our Personal and Professional Development (PPD) team provide development opportunities for all University employees, including face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. All employees also have unlimited access to LinkedIn Learning to support their development. Both new and existing employees can undertake funded Apprenticeships, which lead to a range of vocational and professional qualifications. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. A range of University training providers also offer specialist learning and development in their own areas e.g. teaching and learning, digital literacy, finance, health and wellbeing, safety.



How to Apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page www.jobs.cam.ac.uk by clicking “Apply online” in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Conversations about flexible working are encouraged at the University of Cambridge. Please feel free to discuss flexibility prior to applying (using the contact information below) or at interview if your application is successful.

For your application to be considered, please ensure you upload the following documents to your online application:

- A covering letter
- Your Curriculum Vitae (CV), including a full list of publications and the names of **three** referees
- An article-length example of your written work (max 8,000 words, e.g. a previous publication or thesis dissertation chapter)
- **Three references** are required, and applicants should ask their referees to send their reports to references@mll.cam.ac.uk by the closing date

The closing date for applications is midnight (GMT) on **Friday 31 January 2025**. We plan to hold interviews and selection activities in person during March-April 2025, subject to change.

Prospective candidates are welcome to seek more information beyond the Further Particulars by contacting Professor John Williams, Director of the Linguistics Section, at jnw12@cam.ac.uk. On questions of procedure, please contact the School’s HR team on MMLLPersonnel@admin.cam.ac.uk.

