

Reward Adviser

Human Resources Division

Sunday 2nd March 2025
Job Reference: AH44326



Reward Adviser

Salary:

£41,421-£55,295

Contract:

Permanent

Location:

Central Cambridge

Department:

HR Division

Responsible to:

Head of Reward

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.

Purpose of the Role

This post will be part of the Reward Team which is currently made up of three Reward Advisers and one Reward Coordinator.

The role holder works closely with the Head of Reward to:

- Support the development of schemes aligned to HR and University objectives to enable the University to recruit, attract and retain staff of the highest calibre at all levels;
- Develop, implement and review financial and non-financial reward policies, exercises and initiatives to ensure the University remains innovative and at the forefront of the sector;
- Provide high quality data collation, modelling and presentation of results for decision making and reporting purposes and to ensure remuneration processes are underpinned with sound data and analysis;
- Provide analysis and modelling of University and international competitors pay and financial and non-financial reward strategies to ensure that the University remains competitive;
- Lead project working groups and serve on remuneration, promotion and related committees, fostering inclusive relationships with trade unions and other stakeholder groups.

Key Responsibilities**Data collation, analysis and presentation of results**

- Collect and analyse national and international pay and benefits benchmark data to inform remuneration decisions;
- Take forward the work of any reviews and findings, and consider how to use this comparator group for the purposes of conducting meaningful salary comparisons at the University;
- Provide comprehensive data and analysis to support University wide and local institution decision making;
- Provide pay, benchmarking and equal opportunities data to inform the various University reward exercises including promotion, contribution pay and market pay;
- Conduct data analysis on pay gaps;
- Produce statistical information about staff grades, additional payments, and market supplements;
- Annual and interim reporting for both financial and non-financial reward initiatives;
- Present the findings of any data analysis in a suitable format relevant to the audience.



Reward Adviser

Key responsibilities cont..

- Evaluate reporting and presentational techniques to continually improve the reporting process;
- Verbally explain and discuss the results of analysis and reporting to staff at all levels including to staff, HR School teams, working groups and Committees.
- Provide data and analysis to determine whether the single salary spine structure, supporting job evaluation scheme (HERA) and their local application are adequately aligned to the needs of the University and its employees;
- Produce presentations on new or revised reward policy, exercises and initiatives to senior managers, institutions and HR.

Review and development of new reward initiatives

- Provide input into the development and review of the total reward strategy to support the achievement of the University's goals;
- Lead project teams to deliver new and/or revised reward schemes and employee benefits in support of the HR Strategy;
- Use project management principles to plan, risk assess, implement and review reward-related projects;
- Conduct environmental benchmarking and reports to ensure the University remains innovative and at the forefront of the sector;
- Conduct procurement exercises, contract renewal exercises and maintain relationships with external benefits providers and pay benchmarking organisations;
- Conduct stakeholder engagement, consultation and effective communication and promotion to obtain University buy-in and approval;
- Actively contribute to union negotiating/consultative committees. This involves consulting and negotiating on changes to terms and conditions, reward and other policy and procedural changes;
- Serve on working groups and related committees, providing reports, options papers, data analysis and information to support decision making;
- Create new approaches to the communication of the total reward package to current and future employees e.g. total reward statements, website development, social media etc;

Implementation of reward and progression schemes

- Implement pay and progression exercises e.g. promotion and contribution-based schemes, market pay and annual pay reviews;
- Prepare formal correspondence and guidance notes, advise payroll and HR business services of salary changes, implement recommendations from reviews, collate data and maintain web-based systems, databases and formal records;
- Respond in a timely manner to questions from employees, institutions, external referees and others on the interpretation of scheme rules, guidance and criteria;
- Report results of remuneration exercises to University committees, trade unions and for publication in the Reporter;
- Analyse trends, review gender pay implications, respond to feedback on the operation of the schemes and consider appropriate scheme changes;
- Provide specialist reward and compensation support as and when needed.

Reward Adviser

Key responsibilities cont..

Survey returns, reporting and benchmarking

- Complete salary survey returns, liaising with the Head of Reward and the HR Reporting team to ensure timely completion and return;
- Identify any problems related to the sharing of salary data with external third parties considering data protection principles, liaise with third-party providers and suggest appropriate solutions to the Head of Reward;
- Provide training sessions to team members and members of the HR Schools teams in the use of benchmarking resources, spreadsheets and databases;
- Liaise and maintain relationships with external salary survey providers, benefits providers and benchmarking organisations;
- Conduct industry trend analysis, tracking and benchmarking. Ensuring that high quality market analysis based on valid benchmark material regarding total reward package is available to senior management as required (see duty 1 above);
- Provide responsive and accurate information and guidance on remuneration and broader HR matters to staff, trade unions, institutions and HR. Including the provision of information for Freedom of Information Act responses;
- Assist in responding to industrial action e.g. coordinating and reporting deductions from pay, advising institutions etc;

Other

- Keep up to date on reward-related employment legislation, tax changes and international best practice to inform work and in order to provide relevant advice and guidance;
- Actively participate in the broader work of the team, working cooperatively on team projects and team objectives.

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Education		
Degree level qualification or equivalent experience.	✓	
CIPD qualification or equivalent experience.	✓	
Skills		
Proven data manipulation and analysis skills including advanced excel spreadsheet skills e.g. able to work with formulae, v-lookups, graphs, models and manipulate data.	✓	
Strong analytical and problem solving skills.	✓	
Ability to interpret and communicate complex information and data to people at all levels.	✓	
Effective planning and organisation skills and the ability to prioritise effectively when under pressure.	✓	
Diplomatic communicator, sensitive to the needs of different groups i.e. trade unions, staff, internal and external customers.	✓	
Experience		
Experience of managing reward programmes.	✓	
Experience of interpreting and producing high quality, accurate management information, including the provision of recommendations and report writing.	✓	
Experience of working in Higher Education or in the public sector.	✓	
Experience of working to tight deadlines.	✓	
Additional Requirements		
High degree of initiative and a proactive approach.	✓	
A quick learner who can quickly get to grips with new reporting tools, systems and processes.	✓	

Human Resources Division

The Human Resources (HR) Division supports the University to deliver its goals of excellence in education, learning and research via the recruitment, retention, reward, recognition and development activities of our staff.

Together with HR colleagues embedded in Departments, the staff of the Division form a University-wide HR community dedicated to ensuring that the University continues to maintain and enhance its reputation as a leading employer. Our people are the University's greatest asset and the Division is committed to attracting and developing talented individuals, working as a cohesive whole to ensure all staff are supported at all times during their careers at the University.

At the heart of the Division is the HR Business Partnering team, which pro-actively supports managers and senior leaders across all the University's academic and non-academic departments in achieving their people-related strategic goals.

Alongside the HR policies, procedures and guidelines in place throughout the full lifecycle of employment, the Division offers a wide range of HR services to staff, with teams providing specialist support, guidance and administration for a wide range of functions, including but not limited to:

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Organisational Development
- Learning and Development
- Resourcing
- Reward
- HR Policy
- HR Shared Services and Analytics
- Postdoc Academy and Research Culture
- Childcare

In addition, the Division manages a diverse programme of strategic projects and initiatives, which may be short or long term in nature, but are usually complex, involve a broad range of topics, and make a significant impact at University and/or Department level.



Terms of appointment

Tenure and probation

Appointment will be made on a permanent basis. Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a probationary period which will be set dependant on the length of tenure.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The hours of work for the position are full-time working Monday – Friday.

We welcome applications from individuals who wish to be considered for part-time working or other flexible working arrangements.

We have hybrid working practices so there is some flexibility in where and how people work. This generally means a mix of remote and office working.

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a defined benefits pension scheme. For further information please visit: www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk

Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 41 days inclusive of public holidays. For new part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

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 to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

Health declaration

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

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.

Screening Checks

This role requires a basic disclosure check and a security check. Any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon the satisfactory completion of these checks; whether an outcome is satisfactory will be determined by the University.

Equality and Diversity

We particularly encourage 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 Department Administrator, who is responsible for recruitment to this position.

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 research at the highest international levels of excellence” – has never been more relevant.



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.

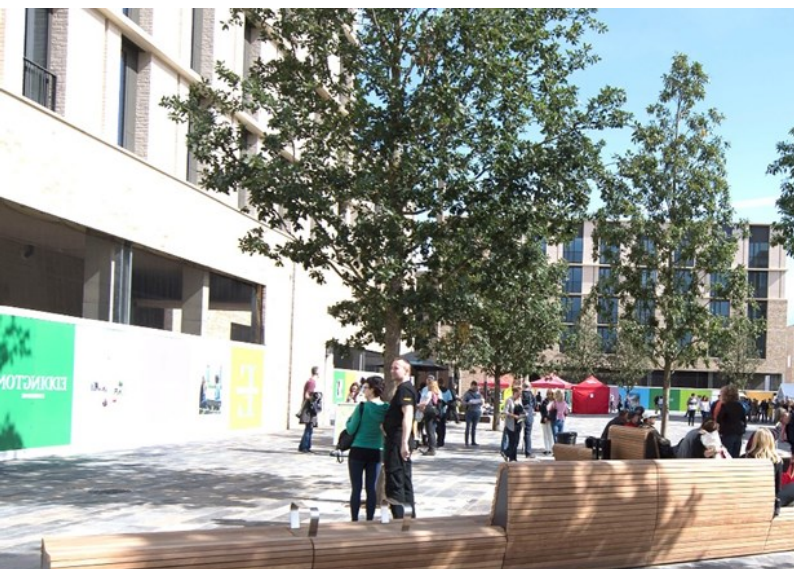
If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45-minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races 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. Please upload a CV and covering letter with your application.

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.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to:

Seema Haria, Head of Reward

Email: Seema.Haria@admin.cam.ac.uk

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact:

hrdivisionaladmin@admin.cam.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is: Sunday 2nd March 2025

Interview date: Monday 10th March 2025

