

Research Associate

Faculty of History

Closing date: 28 February 2025

Job Reference: JJ45121



Research Associate

Salary:

£36,924- £45,163

Contract: Fixed-Term (18 months)

Location:

Cambridge

Faculty / Department:

Faculty of History

Working Pattern:

Full Time

PST2

Applications are invited for a Research Associate position for a fixed-term of 18 months full-time or 36 months part-time to work on a new project funded by the ESRC. The post holder will be based with the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure in the Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge, and will work under the guidance of Alexis Litvine.

This project will provide the first comparable and interoperable multilingual dataset combining historical and modern occupational data for more than 20 countries over multiple centuries. These data will be immediately compatible with 'modern' coding schemes and open to all to use, visualise and download through a new online interface.

Our six goals for this project are as follows: **1)** to develop an enhanced and interoperable coding scheme for historical occupational data, PST2; **2)** to create the largest body of consistent historical occupational data (covering over 20 countries from 1300 to the present) compatible with the 16 most common modern occupational and industrial schemes worldwide; **3)** to provide a free online tool to convert occupational data coded in any of these schemes into our new standard, and vice versa; **4)** to embed and expand a new machine learning approach to automatic historical occupation labelling, allowing anyone to code raw historical occupational descriptors to any of the main occupational coding schemes; **5)** to offer historical occupational/skill descriptors in 28 languages by extending the EU ESCO scheme; **6)** to allow everyone to visualise, run calculations and download occupational data, making these data as open, re-usable and impactful as possible.

The position advertised relate to the fifth objective of this project. We expect the candidate will help us devise and design the integration of existing multilingual components, skills coding schemes, and occupational descriptors into our occupational graph. The person must be familiar with work on historical occupational data and should have a keen interest in their classification schemes.



Pre-existing experience manipulating data from several of these schemes would be valued. We also expect the person to have an expertise in the relationship between skills, task, and occupational schemes. Publications or forthcoming papers in highly-ranked economic and social history journals and conference/seminar presentations, including both co- and solo authorship are expected. The candidate should be able to engage both with recent economics literature and historical works on these themes.

The work will also require excellent writing skills since an important task associated to the position will be to participate in the drafting of two working papers, covering the work carried out with the rest of the team.

Knowledge of historical censuses (of Great Britain and/or elsewhere) is also essential. General data literacy and computer skills will be important. We also expect the candidate to be able to engage with data in multiple languages – although working language will be English.

Eligible candidates must have post-graduate research experience in sourcing, handling and processing a range of historical sources.

Experience working on externally funded projects with international collaborators would be appreciated as well as a record of institutional service and public engagement to promote research.

Eligible candidates for the position will be expected to have a PhD degree in History or Economics or related social science/humanities subject. Applicants must be highly motivated and should have excellent organisational and communication skills, excellent attention to detail and be able to both work well as part of a team, whilst at the same time work on independently on the tasks set.

The successful candidate will be based in Cambridge and have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of departmental and University activities, including departmental seminars, and reading groups across the University. Remote working, part time working and job sharing are all possible for suitable candidates.

Key Responsibilities

- Contribute to the integration of skill/task data into the new occupational graph.
- Contribute to the creation and integration of occupational descriptors.
- Contribute to the occupational mapping of multiple occupational schemes added to the graph.
- Contribute to the writing of two working papers.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Education		
Candidates will have a PhD degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline, e.g. History or related social science/humanities subject.	✓	
Specialist knowledge & skills		
Demonstrable experience in working with historical source materials relevant to social and economic history.	✓	
Work published or in-progress (e.g. working papers) that analyse historical occupational content and requirements	✓	
Excellent attention to detail.	✓	
Experience in handling historical sources and processing them in order to facilitate further analysis.	✓	
Ability to engage with economists	✓	
Experience of working with census data		✓
Interpersonal & communication skills:		
Ability to work as part of a team, whilst equally able to work independently on the tasks set.	✓	

The Faculty of History



The History Faculty's 100 academic staff (teaching officers employed by either the University or the Colleges) constitute one of the largest and best history departments in the world. Times Higher Education ranked Cambridge History third in the world and first in the UK in the TES World University Rankings 2021 - a measure of both quality and depth. The faculty was ranked first in subject in the Guardian 2020 guide and the Complete University Guide 2021. In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) the faculty submitted the work of 135 historians. In terms of 'research power' (GPA x FTE), it ranked second in the sector. 46% of the faculty's research was judged 4* ('world leading') and 34% as 3* ('internationally excellent'). Some 600 undergraduates study a single Honours degree in History or joint Honours degrees in either History & Politics or History & Modern Languages.

In October 2022, the Faculty launched a new first and second year undergraduate The Faculty of History programme (Parts Ia

and Ib of the History Tripos), which represents a significant modernisation of our curriculum and an opportunity to innovate and diversify in terms of content.

Over 100 MPhil students each year take one of the Faculty's eight MPhil programmes, and there are around 300 PhD students.

James Stirling's History Faculty Building (1968) is 'listed' as architecturally significant; the Seeley Library has over 70,000 volumes. The Faculty has more than thirty specialist research seminars.

The Faculty is divided into eight Subject Groups: American; Ancient and Medieval; Economic and Social; Early Modern; Modern British and Irish; Modern European; Political Thought and Intellectual History; and World. All staff members belong to one or more Subject Groups.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is, in terms of student numbers, the largest of the six Schools in the University and is currently comprised of:

- Faculty of History
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Human, Social and Political Science, which is made up of:
 - Department of Archaeology including the McDonald Institute or Archaeological Research
 - Department of Social Anthropology including the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Mongolian and Inner Asia Studies Unit –
 - Department of Sociology
 - Department of Politics and International Studies, incorporating:
 - Centre of African Studies
 - Centre of Development Studies
 - Centre of Latin American Studies
 - Centre of South Asian Studies
 - Centre for Gender Studies
 - Faculty of Law, including the Institute of Criminology and the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law ·
 - Department of History and Philosophy of Science, including the Whipple Museum of the History of Science
 - Department of Land Economy



The School covers a wide range of disciplines with differing methodologies, from highly quantitative analysis of ‘big data’ to ethnography and the analysis of the material culture and thought of past societies. The geographical range is equally broad, with Centres of African, Latin American and South Asian Studies, and specialists within each Department or Faculty. Each institution has its own well developed research profile. The School is participating in university-wide Strategic Research Initiatives such as public health, global food security, energy and conservation which bring the insights of social sciences to bear on some of the major issues facing the world today; Cambridge is one of the world’s leading centres for science, technology and medicine, and the social sciences are now playing an increasingly important role in understanding the social, political and economic contexts.

Terms of Appointment

Tenure and probation

Appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis.

Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a probationary period which will be set dependent on the length of tenure.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The appointment is full-time (37 hours per week) working Monday—Friday.

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a hybrid 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. 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.

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 Department Administrator, who is responsible for recruitment to this position on hr@hist.cam.ac.uk

The University

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of world-leading teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people.

Our capital investment projects include academic and commercial growth at both the West Cambridge Innovation District, and the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. Eddington, in North West Cambridge, is a mixed-use development including key worker housing for staff, a community centre and a new primary school, managed by the University. Through these projects, the University is deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future.

Our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Our core values are:

- freedom of thought and expression; and
- freedom from discrimination.



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.

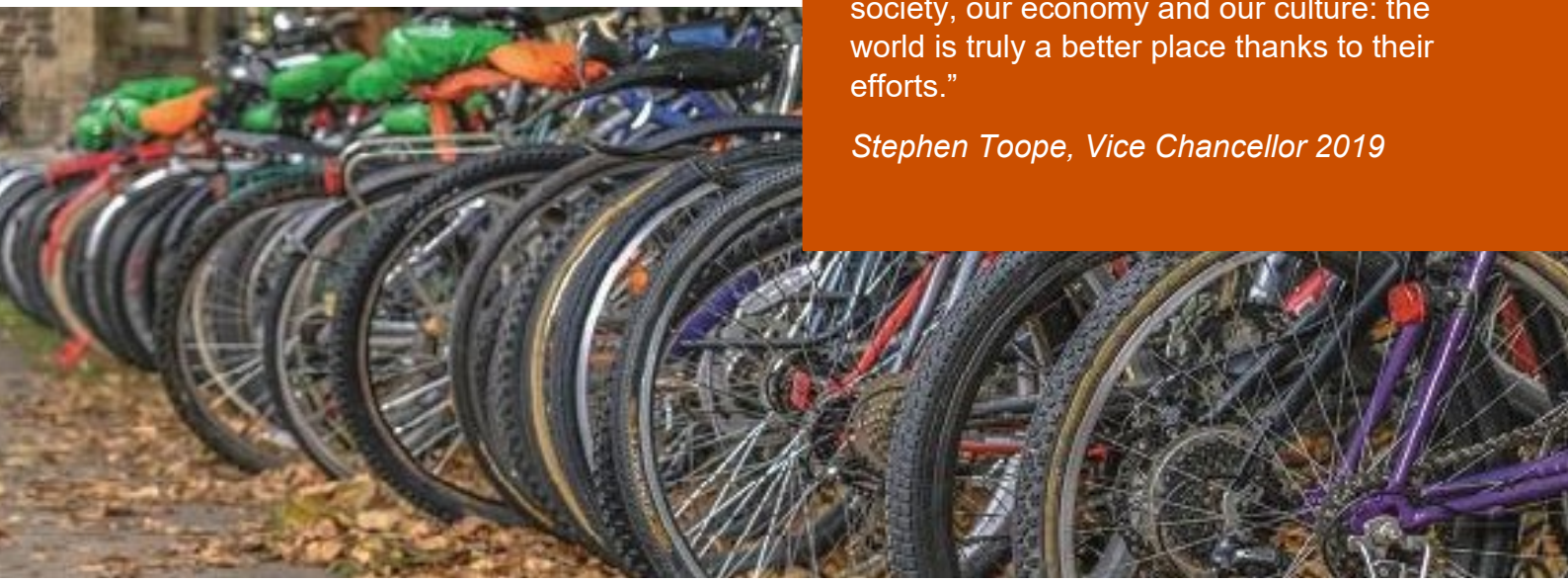
The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic 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.

“Cambridge graduates and researchers have made – and continue to make – a colossal contribution to human knowledge and the understanding of the world around us. Their work touches on the lives and livelihoods of everyone from patients diagnosed with life-threatening diseases, to residents of areas critically affected by climate change, to children growing up in conflict zones. It has a lasting impact on our society, our economy and our culture: the world is truly a better place thanks to their efforts.”

Stephen Toope, Vice Chancellor 2019



Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 23,000 students and over 16,000 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.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is 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.



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 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 18 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 may be 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](#) is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people. The Postdoc Academy supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available here: <https://www.postdocacademy.cam.ac.uk/>

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

To submit an application for this vacancy, please click on the link in the 'Apply online' section of the advert published on the [Job Opportunities - University of Cambridge](#) page. This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form.

Please ensure that you upload your Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a covering letter in the Upload section of the online application. If you upload any additional documents which have not been requested, we will not be able to consider these as part of your application.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact, hr@hist.cam.ac.uk

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to:

Dr Alexis Litvine email: adl38@cam.ac.uk

If you have any queries regarding the application process please contact hr@hist.cam.ac.uk

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: **28 February 2025**



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE