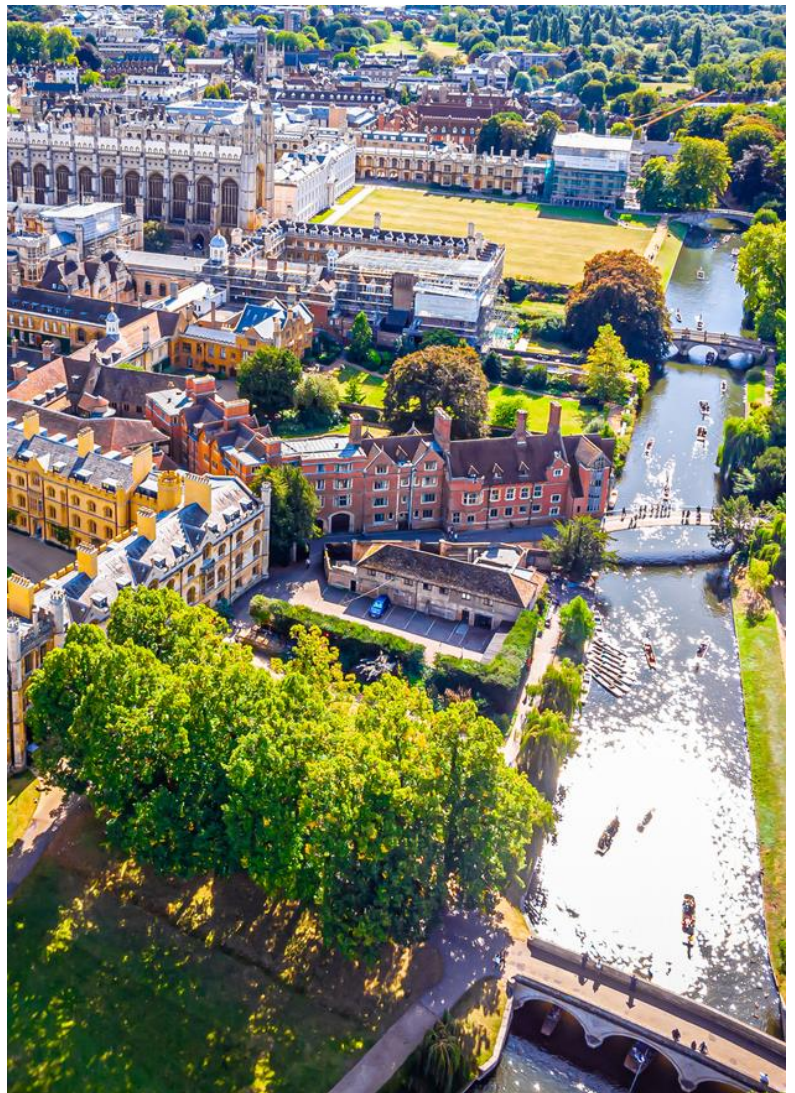


Research Associate / Senior Research Associate

Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
(CISL)

Closing Date: 19th January 2025
Job Reference: EN44448



Research Associate / Senior Research Associate

Salary:

RA £36,924 - £45,163
SRA £46,485 - £58,596

Contract:

Fixed Term for 12 months
(extension subject to available funding)

Location:

Cambridge/Whittle Lab
Hybrid Remote

Department:

Institute for Sustainability
Leadership

Team:

Foresight

Working Pattern:

Full Time

Purpose of the Role

CISL works to develop pioneering ideas, research and resources for better decision-making and system design, including through [The King's Global Sustainability Fellowship Programme](#).

The Programme brings outstanding individuals into CISL to research its 'Transformation 2030 Agenda' in zero carbon, circular economy, protection of nature, inclusive and resilient societies. Each Fellowship develops real-world solutions, encompassing relevance, practicality and research impact to enable private sector action on sustainability. Funding for the Fellowships has been secured through philanthropic donations from visionary companies, foundations and individuals.

This role will be closely affiliated with a flagship initiative run by CISL in partnership with Cambridge's Whittle Laboratory, [the Aviation Impact Accelerator \(AIA\)](#). The AIA's mission is to accelerate the journey to sustainable aviation by developing evidence-based tools and insight that allow people to map, understand, and embark on the pathways towards sustainable flight.

The Role

As the [King's Global Sustainability Fellow in Climate Risk in Aviation](#), you will work on translating the AIA's [2030 Sustainable](#)

[Aviation Goals](#) into policy action. You will conduct research on policy levers and incentives to drive sustainable aviation. Transforming aviation to make it sustainable is a huge challenge and the development of effective policies supporting pathways to sustainable aviation are essential, given the scale of change involved. The research aims to understand the current policy making process aligned with each goal and identify options to enable and deliver them.

You will work closely with the AIA team who have developed a whole system model for the aviation sector transition through regular collaboration and insights from industry, policy and academia. They use this modelling and convening capability to develop evidence-based insight for stakeholders to inform their decisions and accelerate the sector to net zero. The team can facilitate introductions and context setting.

Funding for the Fellowship has been secured through a philanthropic donation from Heathrow Airport Ltd but academic stewardship of the Programme lies with CISL.

This post will be offered as either a Research Associate or Senior Research Associate dependant on level of qualifications and experience.



Research Associate

Main Responsibilities

1.	<p>Research and scholarship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research in collaboration with AIA colleagues; • conduct individual and collaborative research projects; • write up research work for presentation and publication; • continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism; • translate knowledge of advances in the subject areas into research activity; • manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required. • assist in the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes; • communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.
2	<p>Teaching and learning support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may assist in the supervision of student and junior colleague's projects; • provide limited supervision/instruction to classes; • may assist in the development of student and colleague's research skills; • may plan and deliver seminars relating to research area both within the University and externally to business and policy audiences.
3	<p>Liaison and networking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • liaise with colleagues and students; • build internal and external contacts, working with colleagues to ensure alignment with existing relationships, and participate in networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration across academia, policy and business.
4	<p>Planning and organising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan the use of research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate; • plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others; • contribute to planning of joint research projects.

Person Profile

Essential knowledge, skills and experience required for the role

- Holds a PhD in a relevant specialist subject (or be 'post viva' with a clear timetable for completion).
- The role holder would possess some research experience with sufficient breadth/depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
- The role holder would ideally have direct experience of working with industry and or policy makers in a research context and or to inform strategy and policy making.
- Will continually update knowledge in the specialist area and engage in continuous professional development.
- Experience of managing own workload

Senior Research Associate

Main Responsibilities

1	<p>Research and scholarship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop research objectives, projects and proposals in collaboration with AIA colleagues; • act as principal investigator on research projects; • conduct individual or collaborative research projects; • identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds; • extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities; • write or contribute to publications or disseminate research findings using other appropriate media; • assess, interpret and evaluate outcomes of research; • make presentations at conferences, exhibit work in other appropriate events and present to business and policy audiences in small workshop formats; • routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge and understanding as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media; • responsible for the delivery of own research programmes;
2	<p>Teaching and learning support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributes to the teaching and learning programmes in the department; • Supervises and or supports postgraduate research students, colleagues and summer placement students.
3	<p>Liaison and networking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collaborate actively within and outside the Institution to complete research projects and advance thinking; • develop links with external contacts, working with colleagues to ensure alignment with existing relationships. This may include other educational, research, business or policy bodies; • originates and develops external networks across academia, policy and business and philanthropy, for example to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.
4	<p>Planning and organising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan, co-ordinate and implement research programme/s; • manage the use of research resources and ensure that effective use is made of them; • manage/monitor research budgets; • help to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities.
5	<p>Managing people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mentor colleagues with less experience and advise on personal development; • coach and support colleagues in developing their research techniques; • carries out appraisals; • supervises other researchers.

Person Profile

Essential knowledge, skills and experience required for the role

Holds a PhD in a relevant specialist subject.

The role holder would have at least three years of postdoctoral research experience at the level of Research Associate, or equivalent experience.

The role holder would ideally have direct experience of working with industry and or policy makers in a research context and or to inform strategy and policy making.

The role holder would possess sufficient breadth/depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to develop research objectives, projects and proposals.

Will continually update knowledge in the specialist area and engage in continuing professional development.

Experience of managing own workload.

The role holder would possess sufficient administrative skills to manage project/s including financial management.

Appointments will be at one of the following levels, depending on experience:

Research Associate (Grade 7) – Junior Fellow: The successful candidate will hold a PhD (or be 'post viva' with a clear timetable for completion) or equivalent, and have conducted high-quality research in a field of relevance to the research area outlined above.

Senior Research Associate (Grade 9) – Fellow: The successful candidate will hold a PhD or equivalent and have substantial postdoctoral experience, with a proven track record of research excellence (including publication record, or direct policy and business application and engagement) in a field of relevance to the research area outlined above. In addition, they will have sufficient project management skills and experience to oversee a substantial research project, including financial management, establishing and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, reporting and overseeing more junior staff, as required.

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 University's Job Opportunities pages. 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 upload the following documents to the University's Recruitment System:

1. Cover Letter including a short outline of how you would approach the research and ensure integration and alignment with the AIA's existing work (250 words maximum) that would be understandable by a general audience.
2. CV

If you have any questions about this vacancy or the application process, please contact the CISL Research Team research@cisl.cam.ac.uk or [consult the FAQ section on our website](#)

Behavioural Attributes

This section summarises the behavioural attributes (or competencies) that we expect the role holder to be able to demonstrate.

Please review these and provide specific examples in your application of how you have demonstrated these attributes in your work, education or other experience. It will assist your application if you explain the situation, what you did and what the outcomes were.

- Building Effective and Collaborative Relationships

Develops collaborative and cooperative team working by showing concern, respect and recognition towards those working towards the same goal, building beneficial long term relationships internally and externally to achieve the desired results.

- Communication

Ensures the content and style of both verbal and written communication suits the intended audience and is delivered in a clear, interesting and appropriate way that inspires confidence and enthusiasm from others.

- Strategic & Creative Thinking

Thinks through and considers new/creative ideas, viewpoints and perspectives, understanding and evaluating a situation quickly to visualise a way forward and ensure the right actions are taken.

- Delivering Results

Delivers actions and required results through proactive accountability and responsibility, following through tasks at the pace required in any given situation.

- Planning & Organising

Plans ahead realistically, determining and prioritising what needs to happen, how and when, and organises activities / resources to deliver organisational and customer tasks and objectives effectively and on time.

- Customer Focus

Understands the customer, delivering and exceeding their expectations to support our brand reputation and integrity.

- Leadership

Inspires, motivates and demonstrates a sense of direction, vision and energy with confidence, trust and commitment to enable teams and individuals to achieve a plan or goal.

Professional Services Values

Our values underpin everything we do. By living the values in the work we do, we hope to foster an environment where staff feel empowered to work together, share skills to create a sense of community, act with integrity, take an inclusive and fair approach and develop honest and open relationships that are underpinned by our shared values. We encourage applicants to consider these values within their application.



About CISL



CISL is the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, founded in 1988. We activate leadership globally to transform economies for people, nature and climate.

We are impact-led, independent and evidence-based. Through a unique combination of Foresight, Education, Convening, and Innovation we build movements for impact. Movements that connect disruptors and incumbents. Movements that align the levers of business, finance, policy and technology for faster, scalable results.

We are known, respected and trusted because of the credibility of our purpose, our independence within a leading research university, our commitment to bridge divides and forge alliances, and the safe space we create for critical discussions and speaking truth to power.

With our [headquarters](#) in Cambridge, now an internationally recognised exemplar for sustainable retrofit, and offices in South Africa and Belgium, CISL is poised to catalyse positive [impact](#) at ever higher levels. Our [global community for action](#), with over 30,000 leaders and pioneers, is central to this vision.

What we do

Our four levers to catalyse change and accelerate the path to a sustainable economy:

Education: We empower thousands of individuals and hundreds of organisations each year to take leadership and drive systemic change.

Foresight: We harness research and develop new thinking and resources to support innovation and transformation in sustainable business and policy practice.

Convening: We engage governments, business and finance to establish new norms and reshape policies that benefit society and the environment.

Innovation: We provide the space, support and networks for innovations in sustainability to thrive and grow.

Our global community of over 40,000 leaders and innovators is committed to taking individual, collaborative and collective action to accelerate the movement towards sustainable societies and economies.

About CISL

Who we work with

CISL works with organisations and individuals with the potential to catalyse, lead or influence transformative and systemic change at pace and scale. We work with businesses, governments, and financial institutions, with potential for influencing economic, social and environmental systems. We also work with thousands of individuals internationally who are seeking to build their capability to contribute to change.

We recognise that delivering system change at scale is complex and multifaceted. Almost every organisation or individual is currently working inside a context that is deeply unsustainable and there is therefore a need for them to change their own actions, improve their own organisational performance, and work to change the context itself.

Our global community for action include over 40,000 senior leaders and practitioners from business, government and civil society who have an impact in every sector and on every continent.

Our work also draws upon an expert group of [Fellows](#) and [Senior Associates](#), comprised of business leaders, academics and other influential thinkers who have direct experience of working to address sustainability challenges.

His Majesty The King is Royal Founding Patron of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and has been actively involved in a range of our work.



Terms of Appointment

Tenure and probation

Appointment will be made on a fixed term basis for a period of 12 months due to limited funding.

Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a probationary period of 6 months.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The hours of work for the position 37 hours per week, working Monday – Friday.

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-rated based on days worked.

Working Location

Hybrid working basis with at least 2 days a week in our award-winning Cambridge office or at the Whittle Laboratory

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.

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.

Environmental Statement

It is the responsibility of all employees to minimise the University's environmental impact wherever possible. This includes recycling, switching off lights, computers, monitors and equipment when not in use. Helping to reduce paper waste by minimising printing/copying and reducing water usage, reporting faults and heating/cooling concerns promptly and minimising travel.

Where the role includes the ordering and use of supplies or equipment the post holder will consider the environmental impact of purchases. For more information on University of Cambridge procurement, sustainability, biodiversity and environmental areas of action please visit: <https://www.environment.admin.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 first-class 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 the West Cambridge site, the Eddington development and the growth of the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. The Eddington development includes the opening of a primary school – the first in the UK to be managed by a University. So we are 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 students, provide student accommodation and deliver small group teaching.

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

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



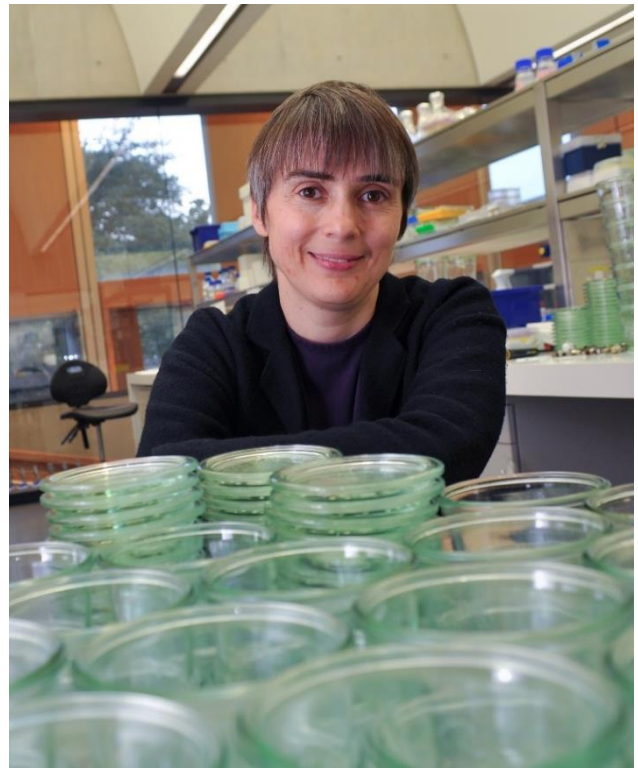
Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 18,000 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 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.



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 networks for women, black and minority ethnic and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

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

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/relocation>. 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. Following obtaining pre-approval, CISL reimburse relocation expenses up to a value of £1,000.

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. Payroll giving is also a simple, tax-efficient way for employees to make monthly donations to charity.



CAMbens employee benefits

We offer a CAMbens scheme for University employees, providing access to online and in-store shopping discounts and cashback. With more than 2,000 participating retailers, employees can save money on a wide range of household expenses, from groceries and clothes, to holidays and insurance and much more. A range of local discounts are also available, helping employees to save money whilst also supporting local Cambridge businesses and a CAMbens Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme is also available, which enables employees to save money on transport costs. A 10% discount rate on the [purchase of train season tickets, bulk buy tickets](#) and an interest free travel to work loan are also available for staff of the University.



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 emergency family care support via My Family Care.

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 Office of Postdoctoral Affairs supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available here: <https://www.opda.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. There are many societies in Cambridge catering for almost every taste and interest. Whether you want to take part in a sport, participate in music or drama, pursue a hobby, or join a political group, you will almost certainly find that a society exists for this purpose. The University also hosts [Cambridge Festival](#), as well as [Open Cambridge](#) weekend, which together attract over 50,000 visitors per year. The festivals are 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. The encouragement of career development for all staff is one of the University's values and we put this into practice through various services and initiatives. Our Personal and Professional Development Department provides development opportunities and courses for all University employees. These include face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. Employees may also apply for financial support to undertake training that will lead to a qualification. 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. The CareerStart@Cam programme also supports employees in assistant staff roles who do not hold higher education qualifications to develop their skills, experience and qualifications.



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 at interview if your application is successful.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to our Human Resources team:

Email: Recruitment@cisl.cam.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is: **19th January 2025**