



Assistant or Associate Professor in Sociology

Department of Sociology

28 October 2024

Job Reference: JM43311



Assistant/ Associate Professor in Sociology

Salary:

£45,585 - 57,696 or
£61,198 - £64,914

Contract:

Permanent

Location:

Cambridge

Department:

Sociology

Responsible to:

Head of Department

Working Pattern:

Full Time

Start date:

1 September 2025

Role summary

The role is for an Assistant Professor or Associate Professor in Sociology, specialising in any area of Sociology.

You will support and maintain the University's national and international reputation for excellence in teaching and research. You will contribute to teaching within the Department of Sociology which will include course development and innovation, lecturing, conducting seminars, and supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students.

You will demonstrate both breadth and depth of experience in the field of Sociology. You will have an active research agenda with a proven upwards trajectory and either a developing or established international reputation that in the future will make you a world leader in the field.

Further information about the Department of Sociology may be found on our website at <https://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk>

Key responsibilities**Research**

- Undertaking high level research and contributing to the Department's research profile through regular publication of internationally excellent outputs;
- May lead a team of researchers – recruiting, selecting and managing the work of staff, implementing a research programme.
- Publishing research papers, books and other materials as appropriate
- Actively investigating funding opportunities within area of research – this will include submitting research grant applications;

Teaching

- Preparing, designing and developing course materials as appropriate
- Presenting information in lectures, seminars and workshops and other formats

Teaching cont. ...

- Leading on particular courses or subject areas including quantitative skills teaching
- Providing guidance and advice to students e.g. career advice or advice relating to progression in the degree

Examinations

- Writing examination questions in both traditional and alternative modes of assessment
- Marking examination submissions for postgraduate and undergraduate students;
- Writing examination reports for faculty/departmental review;
- Writing dissertation reports;
- Providing references for students
- Keeping up to date and developing your knowledge of pedagogical methods and technologies

Postgraduate students

- Mentoring and guiding the work and research of postgraduate students.

Administration

- Participating or leading in Departmental teaching planning, as appropriate
- Actively investigating funding opportunities within area of research – this will include submitting research grant applications;
- Taking on relevant roles and responsibilities within the Department as appropriate as assigned by the Head of Department
- Participating in School/University committees where appropriate and/or where invited

External:

- Attending, presenting and occasionally arranging sessions and papers at conferences in your specialist subject area to liaise and network with national/international colleagues
- Participating in collaborative projects on occasion
- Provide references for academic colleagues
- Participate in the peer reviewing process of publications if appropriate
- Participate in external examining and other academic advisory capacities where appropriate

Other:

Undertake additional duties as appropriate.

Person Specification

| Criteria | Essential | Desirable |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Education | | |
| Educated to degree level, normally with a PhD in Sociology or a cognate discipline. If the PhD is in a cognate discipline, then you must demonstrate the ability to make substantial contributions to research and teaching in Sociology | ✓ | |
| Academic – Research Skills | | |
| Evidence of excellence in research and demonstrated capacity to develop research objectives, projects and proposals | ✓ | |
| A developing or established bibliography of research publications | ✓ | |
| A track record of securing research funding or potential to obtain if an Early Career Researcher | | ✓ |
| Academic – Teaching Skills | | |
| A firm commitment to teaching at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels | ✓ | |
| Experience of designing and developing teaching materials | ✓ | |
| Ability to teach quantitative methods to undergraduate and postgraduate students | ✓ | |
| Willingness supervise MPhil and PhD students including those undertaking quantitative research projects | ✓ | |
| Leadership experience and achievements | | |
| Willingness to undertake management and administrative duties | ✓ | |
| Proven ability to lead and inspire a team and work with vision and foresight | | ✓ |
| Demonstrate an awareness of and ability to contribute to the future strategy of the Department | ✓ | |

The Department of Sociology



The Department of Sociology at the University of Cambridge is an internationally renowned centre for teaching and research in Sociology committed to public facing, theoretically strong, empirically orientated research.

Our research covers a wide range of areas including: social movements and political economy; health, medicine and biosociety; digital sociology; empire, decolonial and postcolonial theory; the sociology of war, conflict, inequality, race, gender and sexuality, work, emotions, beauty and the environment across the globe.

Further information about research interests and recent publications of staff and postdocs can be found on the Department's website: <http://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk>

Key teaching information

The Department of Sociology is part of a joint undergraduate degree programme in Human, Social and Political Sciences (HSPS) which has around 160 students. In the second and third year students may specialise or take a joint track in Sociology and Sociology papers are borrowed widely by other departments as well. [Human, Social, and Political Sciences - HSPS Tripos | \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://www.cam.ac.uk/human-social-and-political-sciences)

There is a vibrant MPhil and PhD programme. The MPhil in Sociology has an intake of 55 students, including a part-time offer, across the three strands

- The sociology of media and culture
- The sociology of marginality and exclusion
- Political and economic sociology.

There are currently around 80 PhD students working on a wide range of studies. [Postgraduate Study | Department of Sociology \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://www.cam.ac.uk/postgraduate-study)

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences

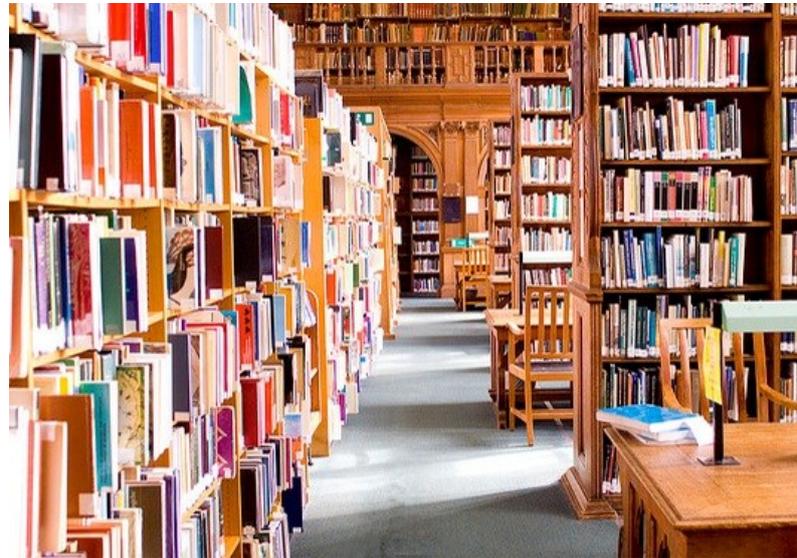
The School of the Humanities & Social Sciences is a diverse community of academics, students and staff from across all of our related subjects. Cambridge's reputation for excellence rests upon our outstanding teaching and our world-class research. The Institutions of the School support scholars who are leading authorities in their fields, and are home to innovative and collaborative research projects which continue to push the boundaries of our knowledge and refine how we think and see the world.

About the School

The six Schools of the University are administrative groupings of related subjects. The Council of each School acts as a coordinating organisation for the group, managing and prioritising requests from Faculties and Departments for consideration by the General Board.

The following institutions are within the scope of the Council of the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences:

- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of History
- Faculty of Law
- Department of Archaeology
- Department of History & Philosophy of Science.
- Department of Land Economy
- Department of Politics and International Studies.
- Department of Social Anthropology
- Department of Sociology
- The Institute of Criminology



The School's total annual expenditure from grants, fees, research grants and contracts and other sources is about £65m. The institutions in the School employ about 1000 staff (academic, assistant and contract). The School has more than 5,000 students, undergraduates and postgraduates, over a quarter of the University's total student population. The post holder will be an integral member of the School Office team.

The Council of the School is chaired by the Head of School, fulfilled by an appointment of a senior academic and supported by a Deputy Head with an education portfolio. The School Office is currently based at 17 Mill Lane, in central Cambridge

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.

Working Pattern

The appointment is full-time.

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:

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 many of the University's academic community find attractive. Appointment to a College fellowship is a separate matter from a University appointment. Most colleges expect their 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.

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

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

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.

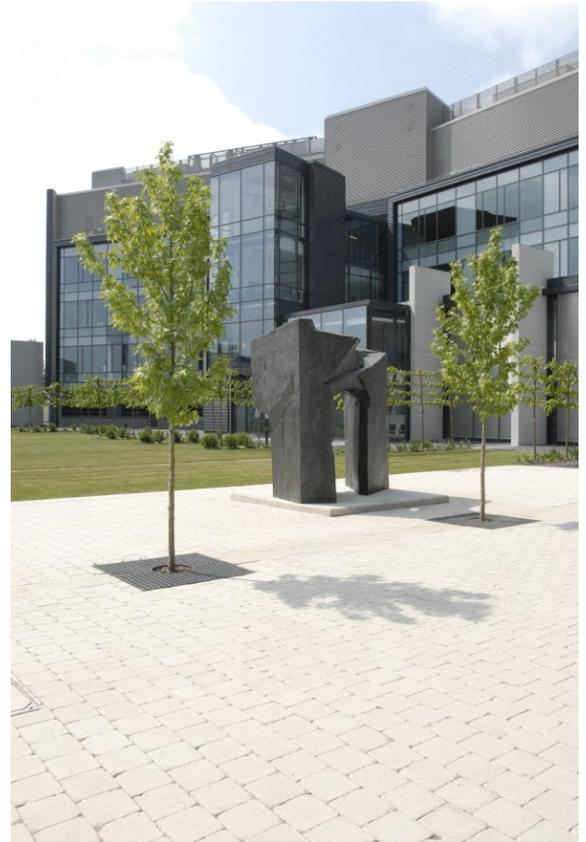
Information if you have a disability

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 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

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.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to:

Lara Gisborne, Department Administrator

Email: administrator@sociology.cam.ac.uk

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

The closing date for applications is: 28 October 2024

The interview date for the role is: 21 and 22 January 2025