

**Assistant Professor in
Philosophy of Life Sciences**
Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Closing Date: **2 February 2025**
Job Reference: **JN44452**



Assistant Professor in Philosophy of Life Sciences

Salary:

£46,485 - £58,596

Contract:

Permanent

Location:

Cambridge

Department:

History and Philosophy of Science

Responsible to:

Head of Department

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.

- Applications are invited for the position of Assistant Professor in Philosophy of Life Sciences at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge. The duties of this post will include lectures, supervisions, examining, and administrative duties for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, as well as conducting and leading research activities at the highest level. We are particularly interested in candidates with expertise in the philosophy of medicine and the biomedical sciences.
- The position will start on 1 September 2025. The completion of a PhD (or equivalent) is required before the start date. This is a permanent post, subject to the successful completion of a 5-year probationary period. The post-holder will have standard opportunities for promotion through the University's Academic Career Pathways (Research and Teaching) system.

How to apply

- Applicants should upload the following documents on the online system on www.jobs.cam.ac.uk:
- 1) Cover letter (including research plans) up to three pages, curriculum vitae and full list of publications, combined into one document;
- 2) Two samples of original written work (articles or book/dissertation chapters, up to a total of 30,000 words). If you are unable to upload your work samples, please e-mail these as attachments to hr@hps.cam.ac.uk, ensuring that you include your surname in the e-mail subject line and the filenames.
- References: Please provide the names and contact details of three referees on the online form. We will contact the referees of longlisted candidates directly to request references. Referees will be asked to comment specifically on the candidate's ability to undertake this particular role.



Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Education		
Completion of PhD in a relevant area by the starting date	✓	
Academic		
A strong record of research commensurate with career stage, and a promising and plausible plan for future work	✓	
A firm commitment to teaching and mentoring at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and proven ability to deliver effective teaching in the specified areas	✓	
A track record of securing research funding		✓
Ability and willingness to take a leading role in the supervision of PhD students	✓	
An interdisciplinary and collaborative research approach		✓
Ability to examine undergraduate and postgraduate work across a broad spectrum of topics in the philosophy of science and technology	✓	
Experience of one-to-one or small-group supervisions of students		✓
An international and intercultural outlook in teaching and scholarship		✓
Administrative		
Willingness and ability to undertake management and administrative duties, especially in the management of teaching programmes	✓	
Proven ability to work collaboratively with colleagues		✓

Declaration on Research Assessment

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

Professional Services Values

Developed by professional services staff, 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. The values encourage staff to; work together and 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.



The Department of History and Philosophy of Science



The Department is one of the oldest and largest centres of teaching and research in the field of history and philosophy of science in the world, with an outstanding international reputation. The Department incorporates the Whipple Museum, a world-class collection of scientific instruments, built on the gift of R.S. Whipple to the University in 1944. Whipple also gifted his large collection of rare scientific books, creating the Whipple Library which now functions as the Departmental Library and provides the basis for research and teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The Department is located in one building in the centre of Cambridge. It currently has 15 established University Teaching Officers. It has extensive links with other Departments and Faculties in the University in a range of subjects in the physical and biological sciences, the social and psychological sciences, and the humanities.

Currently the core of the Department's undergraduate teaching is offered as part of the Natural Sciences Tripos in the second, third and fourth years; the third year is a full-time specialist course (also open to medical students); the fourth year leads to the degree of MSci. Since 2021 the Department has also offered a new major for third-year students in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS). Total undergraduate numbers are over 150 in a typical year. The Department also contributes to the teaching of two other triposes: the Psychological and Behavioural Sciences (PBS) Tripos, and the Human, Social, and Political Science (HSPS) Tripos.

The Department offers two 9-month master's degree programmes, with approximately 50 students per year. The MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine is offered entirely within the Department, and the MPhil in Health, Medicine and Society is run jointly with the Departments of Sociology and Social Anthropology. At any one time the Department has approximately 60 PhD students. There are also a number of Visiting Students, Research Fellows, Affiliated Scholars and Visiting Scholars attached to the Department, so that the total number of persons engaged in postgraduate and postdoctoral research at any given time is around 200. The weekly Departmental Seminar series and many other seminars, workshops and reading groups are an important part of our research activities. In short, the Department is a hotbed of intellectual activity throughout the academic year.

The Department currently has several active research grants including:

- Making Climate History (Leverhulme Trust Award)
- From Collection to Cultivation: Historical Perspectives on Crop Diversity and Food Security (Wellcome Trust Investigator Award)
- The Many Births of the Test-Tube Baby (Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship)

The Whipple Library and Whipple Museum



The Whipple Library

The Whipple Library is the University's specialist library for History and Philosophy of Science. It exists primarily to support the teaching and research activities of the Department. The collections are broad and include material on a range of interdisciplinary topics.

<https://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/>

The Whipple Museum

The Museum's holdings are particularly strong in material dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries, especially objects produced by English instrument makers, although the collection contains objects dating from the medieval period to the present day.

Instruments of astronomy, navigation, surveying, drawing and calculating are well represented, as are sundials, mathematical instruments and early electrical apparatus.

<https://www.whipplemuseum.cam.ac.uk/>

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 Economics

Faculty of Education

Faculty of History

Faculty of Human, Social and Political Science, which is made up of:

Department of Archaeology including the McDonald Institute for 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.

<https://www.cshss.cam.ac.uk/>

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.

Equality and Diversity

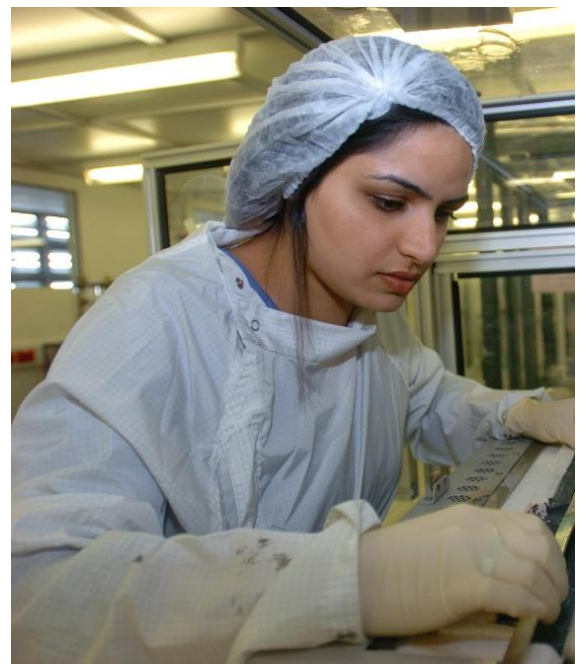
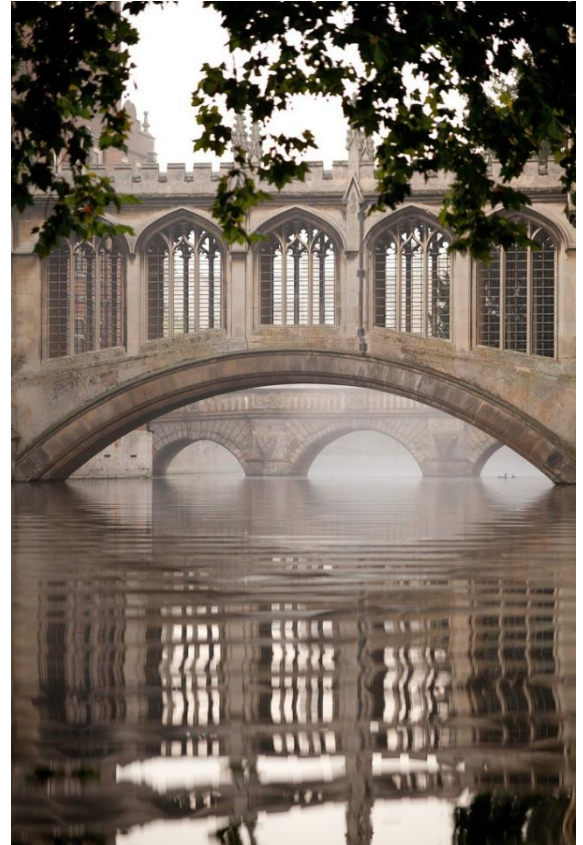
We particularly encourage candidates from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background to apply for this vacancy as they are currently under-represented at this level within our University.

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 Deputy Departmental Administrators who are responsible for recruitment to this position on hr@hps.cam.ac.uk



The University

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

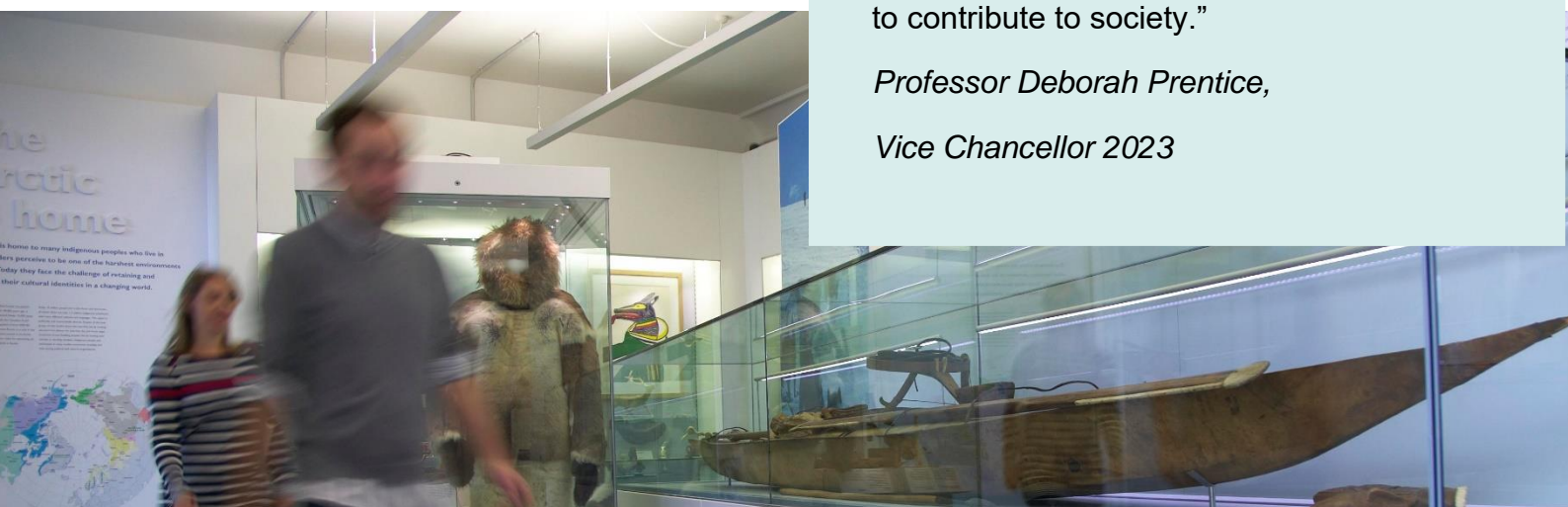
The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic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

The University offers 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 and Inclusion

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 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 their 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 continues to redevelop its historic city centre sites demonstrating a clear 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.

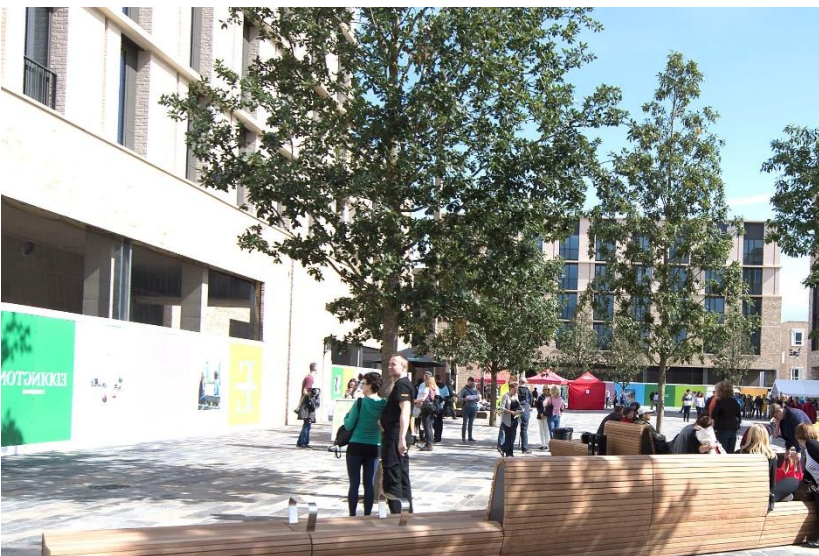
Relocation Support

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

Accommodation Service

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

<https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>



What Cambridge can offer

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

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

Pay and benefits

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



CAMbens employee benefits

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

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



What Cambridge can offer

Family-friendly policies

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

Other family-friendly support includes:

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

<https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

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

Your wellbeing

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

Development opportunities

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



How to apply

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

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

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to: the Deputy Departmental Administrators

Tel: 01223 334500

Email: hr@hps.cam.ac.uk

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

hr@hps.cam.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is: 2 February 2024

The interview date for the role is: 20 March 2025

