Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Economics

About the role

The Open University is recruiting for a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer to play a key role in strengthening and building the pluralist economics education offered. Economics at the Open University offers a stimulating, inclusive and supportive intellectual environment for economists and contributes to a thriving community and interdisciplinary collaboration within the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. We are interested in applications from outstanding academics with several years of post-doctoral experience who are seeking new challenges associated with a leadership role in post-graduate teaching.

The successful candidate will work in a team presenting and producing innovative learning resources across our economics curriculum. It is envisaged that the post-holder will play a leading/integral role in the curriculum development, production and delivery of new post-graduate teaching. The post-holder may also be asked to contribute to interdisciplinary curriculum development within the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

In addition to contributing to teaching within the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies, the post-holder will be expected to conduct independent research (appropriate for the level of appointment) and to contribute to the Open University’s REF submission. They should undertake research that aligns with the School’s strategic research priorities in economics. We welcome applications from outstanding academics specialising in any area of economics but would particularly welcome applications from those with expertise in areas that complement and extend those of our existing team. The successful candidate will combine strong analytical ability with breadth of knowledge and understanding of different schools of thought in economics. We are interested to receive applications from excellent economists who can play an effective role in strengthening the pluralist economics education offered by the OU.

Key responsibilities

Teaching

• To contribute to the development, planning, delivery and updating of a high quality and successful curriculum at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels, in all aspects of economics, as well as econometrics, mathematics and statistics for economists.

• To prepare distance learning materials suitable for the teaching and learning methodologies used by the Open University.

• To contribute to the presentation of Open University modules. This includes: working closely with module teams and Associate Lecturers; the briefing, debriefing of Associate Lecturers; the direction of teaching and assessment / examination; monitoring of samples of marking by Associate Lecturers; membership of examination boards; contributing to discussion forums enriching the student experience and liaising with the Student Support Team.
Research and scholarship

- To enhance the Discipline’s, School’s and Faculty’s research and scholarship profile through high quality research related research publications suitable for inclusion in the REF.

- Working effectively and collaboratively to develop a shared research and scholarship culture.

- Generating grant and other external income supporting the post-holder’s research.

- Attracting and supervising postgraduate research students.

Administration, Management and other duties

- Engaging with appropriate academic leadership and administrative tasks, and playing an active role within the faculty, as required by the Head of School.

- Compliance with Statutory Requirements, Codes of Practice, University Policies and Health and Safety arrangements.

Skills and experience

Essential

- A PhD (or equivalent qualification or experience) completed in economics or a closely related subject.

- Evidence of teaching ability, and the capability and readiness to prepare printed and online teaching materials for distance learning, the preparation of assessment materials, and participation in Quality Assurance and examination processes.

- Enthusiasm for supporting distance learning by adults and for the application of new technologies to teaching and supporting students.

- Evidence of significant teaching experience at post-graduate level, including module leadership.

- Commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University including the principles and practice of equality and diversity.

- A track record of successful research that complements and extends existing economics research at the Open University, underpinned by a good publication record in major peer reviewed journals, commensurate with career stage.

- Evidence of applying for external funding, appropriate to career stage.

- Evidence of ability to develop new research collaborations.

- Ability to work collaboratively, collegially, adaptively and responsively with others in an interdisciplinary context for teaching or research.

- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written in a variety of contexts, including the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism.

- Ability to develop a leadership role in teaching and research, commensurate with stage of career.

- Ability to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines.
Desirable

• Experience of producing online and/or distance learning materials.

• Experience of supervising research students, managing post-doctoral workers and research budgets.

• Experience of convening undergraduate and/or postgraduate programmes in economics or related disciplines.

• Higher Education professional accreditation or equivalent qualification.

• Experience of working with and influencing policy makers, governmental and/or non-governmental institutions, industry partners.

About the Unit: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences comprises:

• School of Arts & Humanities
• School of Social Sciences & Global Studies
• School of Psychology & Counselling
• Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum, Research and Enterprise, Faculty Operations and Administration

The Faculty is the largest and most diverse at The Open University, with some 50,000 students studying our modules with excellent completion rates and consistently outstanding student satisfaction ratings. Noted for the strength of our interdisciplinary approaches, our scholars of international standing teach and research a very wide range of topics and themes in specific subject areas, recognized as world class or internationally excellent in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, and having a direct and profound influence on our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Students are supported by three Student Support Teams. These teams offer specialist study support to students undertaking our qualifications across the University. Members of academic staff, including academics based in all four nations of the UK, form part of these teams in sustaining and improving student progression and retention.

The Faculty works closely with important organisations and institutions in the UK and other parts of the world in a range of validated partnerships and collaborations. Engaged in world-class, agenda setting research tackling the most difficult challenges facing us in the 21st Century, with work in numerous subject-based and interdisciplinary research groups and projects.

With c.1800 members of staff comprising academics, associate lecturers, support staff and full-time research students working across the locations of the University, combining originality and innovation in research and curriculum, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is a vibrant and exciting place to study and work.

To find out more about the Faculty’s teaching, learning and research, please visit: http://fass.open.ac.uk/ or for general research at the OU, visit: http://www.open.ac.uk/research/
Economics at The Open University

Economics at The Open University has developed as a friendly group of economists within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. OU economists prepare and present undergraduate courses in economics, contribute to interdisciplinary teaching, undertake research and supervise postgraduate research students. The Economics Discipline has a strong reputation for applied research, increasingly with a significant impact on policy, and for economics teaching designed for adult learners undertaking single honours economics as well as multi-disciplinary degrees. A recent Department of Education survey also highlighted the high earning potential of OU students post-graduation.

Open University teaching involves several distinctive features. Students study independently at distance primarily within the UK, but also increasingly internationally. Lecturers at the OU are responsible for the development of all module materials and student study resources, including quality written, audio-visual and online study materials as well as designing assessment. Study resources are designed and produced by colleagues in module teams, including lecturers and editors, digital and online developers. Reading and discussing the work of other members of the module team is central to this role. For all undergraduate modules, and most postgraduate, almost all study material is purpose-written and originated by the module team.

OU academics need to be able to work closely with colleagues as well as to plan and undertake independent work to deadlines. They are also expected to be open to working across traditional disciplinary boundaries, and to taking on teaching within their subject which is outside of their research specialism. OU students are guided through their studies by our Associate Lecturers who deliver student tutorials face to face and online, as well as providing feedback on assessment. Lecturers at the OU work with our Associate Lecturers to improve the student study experience by refining the design and delivery of materials, assessment and tuition.

Economics Research

Most of the research of members of the Economics discipline are active within the interdisciplinary research collaboration for Innovation Knowledge and Development (IKD). IKD is a vibrant interfaculty research collaboration that has brought together academics from across the OU to pool expertise and undertake joint research since 2004. Economics colleagues are also very actively engaged with The Open University’s strategic research areas, particularly the International Development & Inclusive Innovation (IDII) and Citizenship and Governance Strategic Research Area. Colleagues are also members of the Institute for Innovation Generation in the Life Sciences (Innogen) and frequently collaborate with the International Development Office.

OU Economists made a strong contribution to two cross-faculty REF2014 submissions, Anthropology and Development Studies (UoA24) and Sociology (UoA23). The Anthropology and Development Studies submission achieved an overall quality profile of which 69% was world leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3*), and we were rated in 3rd place nationally for research environment. The Sociology submission achieved an overall quality profile of which 64% was world leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3*), and we were rated in 9th place nationally for impact. Details of these results and submissions are available on the [HEFCE website](https://www.hefce.ac.uk/).
The current academic members of the Economics Discipline, and their research interests, are:

Professor Paul Anand  Professor of Economics and Research Associate Oxford University: Foundations of Economic Theory, Behavioural Economics, Welfare Economics, Capabilities and Happiness, Health, Knowledge Transfer.

Professor Vivienne Brown  Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Intellectual History: History of economics; intersubjectivity in economics; game theory; social norms; cooperation and social action.

Dr George Callaghan  Senior Lecturer and Staff Tutor: Labour economic.

Dr Alison Green  Staff Tutor: Economic policy, quantitative analysis and research methods. Equal opportunities and social policy. Third sector capacity building.

Dr Jerome De Henau  Senior Lecturer: Household economics, feminist economics, personal finance and econometrics.

Dr Martin Higginson  Senior Lecturer and Staff Tutor: Economics of governance; economics and social policy.

Ms Christina Laskaridis  Lecturer: Debt crises resolution, economic history, political economy, institutional governance, fiscal monetary and deby policy.

Dr Lorena Lombardozzi  Lecturer: Political economy, inequality, international development, gender and feminist economics, labour, work and wellbeing, agro-industrial policy and innovation, food system and commodity value chains, and research methods.

Ms Jonquil Lowe  Senior Lecturer: Financial capability; consumer interface with the tax system; pension systems; retail financial markets and regulation in the UK.

Professor Susan Himmelweit  Emeritus Professor of Economics: Feminist economics, economics of the household; models of caring labour and gender analysis of the tax/benefit system.

Prof. Maureen Mackintosh  Professor of Economics: Economics of public services; health system strengthening, industrial supply chains and access to medicines in Africa.

Professor Susan Newman  Professor of Economics and current Head of Discipline: Political economy; finance and industrial policy; commodity dependency and economic development; agro-food systems.

Dr Stuart Parris  Senior Lecturer: Economics of technological change, evolutionary theory, financialisation, financing of innovation.
Dr Rajiv Prabahkar  Senior Lecturer: Personal finance, financial education & inequality

Dr Cristina Santos  Lecturer: Household economics, labour economics, development economics, econometrics.

Mr Alan Shipman  Senior Lecturer: Personal finance, macroeconomics, nature of capital, economics and sociology.

Dr Roberto Simonetti  Senior Lecturer: Economics of technical change, economic growth and evolutionary economics, industrial development and innovation

Dr Andrew Trigg  Senior Lecturer: Political economy of Marx, Keynes and Kalecki; input-output modelling, economics and sociology of consumption.

Professor Smita Srinivas  Professorial Research Fellow: technological innovation, industrial policy, evolutionary economics, Schumpeterian perspectives, food-health systems.

Further information about staff and their research interests is available on the Faculty website.

A repository of research publications and other research outputs of all Open University staff can be viewed at The Open University's Open Research Online.

Economics Teaching

The Discipline has a responsibility for its own modules and contributes to interdisciplinary modules within the School, Faculty and University. The important reputation of The OU’s own ‘brand’ of Economics follows from successful modules produced by the colleagues in the Economics Discipline, including DB125 You and Your Money, DD126 Economics in Context, DD209 Running the Economy and DD309 Doing Economics: People, Markets and Policy. The high profile texts for these and other economics modules and qualifications are used extensively for the teaching of Economics in the UK and beyond. We recently launched a new single honours degree in Economics, with additional module production at all undergraduate levels.

Members of the Discipline also contribute to other modules in the Faculty, especially entry level interdisciplinary social science modules, but also at other levels. We also have input into the production of maths, statistics and business modules.

Students of economics modules mostly take qualifications in:

• BA (Honours) Economics
• BA (Honours) Politics, Philosophy and Economics
• BSc (Honours) Economics and Mathematical Sciences
• BA (Honours) Business Management (Economics)
• BA (Honours) Social Sciences (Economics)

Students can also study economics as part of the BA/BSc (Honours) Open degree

The Discipline has a strong commitment to supporting research and scholarship, and information about discipline staff and the discipline is available on the website and twitter: @Economics