

Job Description – Professor of Economics

The Role

The Open University is recruiting a Professor of Economics to play an important leadership role in a successful and expanding economics discipline. Economics at the Open University offers a stimulating, inclusive and supportive intellectual environment for economists and contributes to the thriving academic community in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. We wish to appoint someone who can combine academic leadership in economics with a commitment to working collaboratively across the range of disciplines in the newly formed School of Social Sciences & Global Studies (SSGS), within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. We welcome applications from outstanding academics specialising in any area of economics.

The successful candidate will combine strong analytical ability with breadth of knowledge and understanding of different strands of thought in economics. They will have a commitment to using innovative learning materials to teach students from a very wide range of backgrounds.

The Open University's mission is to be open to people, places, methods and ideas and we promote educational opportunity and social justice by providing high-quality university education to all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential. The Open University has students across the world, and with its unique partnership with the BBC, and dissemination of teaching and research through the OpenLearn and FutureLearn platforms, our work routinely reaches millions of learners both within the UK and beyond. Through academic research, pedagogic innovation and collaborative partnership we seek to be a world leader in the design, content and delivery of supported open learning.

Research is central to the mission of The Open University, and our growing international profile was reflected in the outcomes of the 2014 REF exercise in which over 70% of submitted research was ranked as either internationally excellent (3*) or world leading (4*), including 58 impact case studies which demonstrated how our research is changing the world.

Applications are therefore welcomed from academics with either an established or developing research record that would contribute to The Open University profile and complement our existing research strengths. Further information about our research activities and strengths are detailed at the end of this document.

Key responsibilities

In addition to the role of Professor of Economics, you will be expected to undertake the duties associated with Head of Discipline (Economics) for 3 years, which attracts an allowance in addition to the proposed salary. As Head of Discipline (Economics) you will be taking a leading role on teaching, curriculum development and line management in Economics to ensure we continue to deliver modules and qualifications of the highest quality, as well as contributing to other social science courses from an

economics perspective. In return, the Economics Discipline, in conjunction with SSGS and Faculty, offers a stimulating and collegiate intellectual environment. Upon completion of the 3 year term as Head of Discipline (Economics), responsibilities for the Head of Discipline role will be reallocated internally, although it is expected that you will continue to play a significant leadership support role within the Economics Discipline and SSGS.

At a time when we aim to open our economics curriculum further to international engagement, you will play a key leadership and shaping role in the expansion plans of our economics curriculum at undergraduate level as well as planning the development of master's level curriculum, such as an MA Economics, within the Economics Discipline, and supporting postgraduate education within SSGS. Aligned with The Open University's mission to promote widening participation, equality and diversity, Economics at The Open University has a reputation for quality and breadth of teaching, including introducing undergraduate students to new developments in economics. A significant new initiative is under way to deliver a new BA (Hons) Economics, with a possible Masters in Economics under consideration, and you will help to lead and shape these strategically important initiatives for the Faculty, including all aspects of curriculum design, authoring and developing teaching materials, and enhancing teaching and learning through a Virtual Learning Environment.

You will have a compelling research agenda that engages with contemporary developments in economics and ideally would complement or extend existing research strengths within economics in the University. You will have an established or developing international research reputation and a strong record of publication, with a commitment to the development of economics and its contribution to social sciences more generally. You will also have a track record in securing external research funding. You will be expected to play an active role in further developing the strong research culture within the School and Faculty. You will develop your own research while providing intellectual leadership, helping to generate external funding, undertaking external engagement activities, fostering recruitment and support of research students, undertaking effective research mentoring of new and career-young staff and helping colleagues develop research and/or teaching and scholarship careers as appropriate.

You will have completed a PhD or equivalent in Economics, or a closely related subject or have equivalent experience. You will be able to provide evidence of good technical training in Economics and be able to demonstrate a successful record of economics teaching in order to contribute to the delivery of The Open University economics curriculum. Teaching at The Open University involves working closely with academics and OU colleagues such as editors, developers and digital specialists in teams to produce and present high-quality teaching programmes. It involves producing written teaching materials, including online and audio-visual module materials, as well as collaborative work with fellow academic authors and colleagues to produce the final module content. It thus requires academics to be able to work closely with colleagues as well as to plan and undertake independent work to deadlines. As a senior member of staff, you would be expected to contribute fully to the work of the Economics Discipline, SSGS and the Faculty, as well as providing leadership for, and support to, colleagues.

Your main place of work will be the Open University's main campus: Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. You should be able to reach Walton Hall easily whenever required.

The appointment is expected to contribute positively to the teaching, research and academic management in the following ways:

Research and teaching

- Contribute significantly to the Faculty's research profile through a strong record of high

quality publications, alongside the effective dissemination and application of research by other routes;

- Play a leading role in the Faculty, School and Discipline in developing and consolidating research for the Research Excellence Framework, following on from their important contribution to the Faculty's successful 2014 REF submissions and helping prepare for future REF submissions;
- Play a leadership and mentoring role in the development and delivery of the research strategy of the Faculty including grant bidding;
- Supervise research students;
- Work effectively and collaboratively to develop a shared research and scholarship culture.
- Play a leading role in developing and implementing economics curriculum, both within the new School of Social Sciences & Global Studies, and in collaboration with other Schools and Faculties;
- Lead and contribute to teams producing economics modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels;
- Work with others in the developing and implementing innovative teaching methods and materials within the Faculty;
- Foster and sustain the effective integration of teaching and research;

Academic Management

- Provide core research leadership within Economics, the School and Faculty.
- Contribute to processes of academic management, taking leadership roles including Head of Economics;
- Support the discipline's research and scholarship culture by fostering existing research strengths and growing new excellence, including through the research mentoring of academics in economics, especially new and career-young staff;
- Represent the School and University externally in ways that enhance the standing and reputation of the University nationally and internationally;
- Consistently contribute in positive ways to the development of a collegial and engaged academic community in the Discipline, Faculty and University;

Person Specification

Skills and experience

Candidates interested in applying for the role of Professor of Economics, should be able to demonstrate the essential skills and experience listed below.

Essential

- A significant record of successful leadership, in both teaching and research;
- An established or developing international profile and an excellent record of research appropriate to a professorial appointment, including high impact publications ;
- Evidence of success in accessing external research grants and other research funding;
- An ability to produce and deliver high quality economics teaching materials at undergraduate and postgraduate levels;
- A completed PhD or equivalent in Economics or a closely related subject, or equivalent experience including evidence of good technical training in Economics;
- Ability to provide intellectual leadership in collaborative settings, including interdisciplinary teaching, research and scholarship;
- A commitment to The Open University's mission and values, including widening participation in HE and equality and diversity issues;
- An ability to produce work to a high standard and to agreed deadlines;
- Excellent writing and communication skills including ability to communicate complex economic ideas effectively, both orally and in writing;

Desirable

- Research interests that complement and/or extend the interests of the Economics and SSGS;
- A proven track record of successful post graduate supervision;
- Successful experience of leading staff development and mentoring new and career-young staff;
- Experience of working in open or distance-teaching particularly through a virtual learning environment and an understanding of factors related to student diversity and performance;
- An excellent understanding of the national and international contexts, challenges and opportunities relevant to teaching, research and scholarship at the Open University;
- Experience of design and delivery of teaching materials for professional development;
- Evidence of successful engagement with appropriate external networks – e.g. with professional practice, policy makers, leading researchers at other institutions;
- Evidence of engagement and innovation in curriculum design in higher education;
- Commitment to completing research that has demonstrable impact;

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) is the largest and most diverse at The Open University (OU), with some 50,000 students studying our modules with 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.

FASS is organised into three Schools:

- School of Psychology & Counselling
- School of Arts & Humanities
- School of Social Sciences & Global Studies

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.

The vigorous intellectual life in the Faculty is fostered by collaborative teaching and a shared interest in research and scholarship. The Disciplines and Schools work together and with other Faculties to produce a range of undergraduate and postgraduate distance teaching programmes and research degrees. We attract students from a wide range of educational and social backgrounds. Full-time research students are based on campus.

Open University students are supported by Student Support Teams, offering specialist study support for qualifications across the University. Student Support Teams include members of academic staff in Milton Keynes working with Open University academic colleagues and associate lecturers based in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and regional locations in England, to sustain and improve our 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. Academics in the Faculty are 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.

To find out more about the Faculty's teaching, learning and research, please visit: <http://fass.open.ac.uk/>

School of Social Sciences & Global Studies

The School's vision is to enhance our cutting edge, research-led, digitally enhanced curriculum addressing some of the major national and global challenges facing the world today and the UK's place in that changing world, drawing together historical and contemporary insights to provide a rich, contextualised understanding of societies and culture, in ways that further social justice.

School of Social Sciences & Global Studies (SSGS) consists of approximately 130 academics, including Staff Tutors (OU academics who contribute to our teaching and scholarship and also manage our Associate Lecturers), and research staff. It is formed of eight disciplines: Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Religious Studies, Development, Geography, Social Policy & Criminology and Sociology. It is expected that the new

Professor of Economics will work with colleagues in Economics and neighbouring Disciplines to help realise this vision.

The School's curriculum is informed by our disciplinary strengths across a broad swathe of the social sciences and humanities - from Economics, Politics, Social Policy & Criminology, Sociology through to Geography, Development, Religious Studies and Philosophy - as well as by the interdisciplinary potential such breadth generates. Our curriculum is designed to enable students to develop intellectually as critical and creative thinkers and lifelong learners, honing the skills that will benefit them, as scholars and citizens, and additionally meet the future skills needs of society generally, as together we face a challenging future. Our vision is enabled and enriched by our ability to blend nationally and internationally acclaimed research and teaching to produce qualifications highly relevant to students and employers alike.

In addition to offering single and joint honours qualifications, the School is noted for its interdisciplinary teaching in social sciences, particularly at introductory undergraduate level; staff in Philosophy and Religious Studies also contribute to first year modules in the School of Arts and Humanities. SSGS is a research intensive School with a rich range of clusters and collaborations, as well being home to two of the Universities Strategic Research Areas: in International Development and Inclusive Innovation, and Citizenship and Governance (<http://fass.open.ac.uk/research/strategic-research-areas-sras>). The School's Disciplines have contributed to highly successful Units of Assessment in REF 2014, and as would be expected the School actively supports staff's research and scholarship.

Economics Discipline

The Economics Discipline 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 Faculty and University 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.

Research

Most of the research of members of the Economics discipline are active within the interdisciplinary research collaboration for Innovation Knowledge and Development (IKD) <http://www.open.ac.uk/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) <http://www.open.ac.uk/research/main/our-research/international-development> and Citizenship and Governance Strategic Research Area <http://www.open.ac.uk/research/main/our-research/citizenship-governance>. Colleagues are also members of the Institute for Innovation Generation in the Life Sciences (Innogen) <http://www.innogen.ac.uk/about/> and frequently collaborate with the International Development Office <http://www.open.ac.uk/about/international-development/>.

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: <http://results.ref.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 economics.
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.
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.
Professor Maureen Mackintosh	Professor of Economics: Economics of public services; health system strengthening, industrial supply chains and access to medicines in Africa
Dr Stuart Parris	Senior Lecturer and current Head of Discipline: Economics of technological change, evolutionary theory, financialisation, financing of innovation
Dr Rajiv Prabahkar	Senior Lecturer: Personal finance, financial education and inequality
Dr Cristina Santos	Lecturer: Household economics, labour economics, development economics, econometrics.

Dr Hanna Szymborska	Lecturer: Inequality, financial macroeconomics, consumer theory, history of economic thought, gender economics, development economics, econometrics, economic modelling.
Mr Alan Shipman	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.

Further information about staff and their research interests is available on the Faculty website: <http://fass.open.ac.uk/economics/people>

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: <http://oro.open.ac.uk/>

Economics Teaching

At the heart of OU teaching processes of module production is the Module Team, comprising a Module Team Chair, several members of academic staff and, where relevant, members of other Disciplines, and a Curriculum Manager. For all undergraduate modules, and most postgraduate, almost all study material is purpose-written and originated by the Module Team. The 'main text' material of modules in economics requires a standard of writing and presentation that is appropriate to a public and wider academic readership as well as to OU students. Module Teams and the Learning and Teaching Innovation Unit nonetheless retain full editorial control over content, teaching and design.

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: <http://fass.open.ac.uk/economics> and twitter [@Economics](#)