JOB TITLE: RESEARCH ASSOCIATE FOR THE CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE FINANCE (FIXED TERM)
REPORTS TO: CCAF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Background

Cambridge Judge Business School is a world-class business school at the heart of the University of Cambridge. The School offers predominantly postgraduate degrees in management, finance, technology policy, and its full-time MBA programme is highly ranked in the world by the Financial Times.

Established in January 2015, the Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance (CCAF) is an international and interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to the study of alternative finance. It focuses on new financial instruments and channels of finance emerging outside of the traditional financial system in the areas of alternative financing channels, alternative approaches to credit analytics and alternative payment systems. The purpose of the CCAF is to provide academic thought leadership, evidence-based policy output and industry practice insights to improve global business practice in all aspects of finance. In addition to the focus on research and its dissemination to academics, businesses and policymakers, the Centre has a teaching agenda, delivering executive education courses, developing teaching material, both traditional and online, and developing lecture courses for the MBA and other business school programmes, as well as for programmes elsewhere in the University.

The role

The purpose of the role is to support and maintain the national and international reputation of the Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance for excellence in research and teaching. Contribution to excellence in research will be at the level of an experienced and skilled researcher demonstrating a high level of competence and an independent standing in top quality academic research. The role holder will be responsible for continue building and managing the Centre’s global alternative finance industry benchmarking programme spanning more than 167 countries, with full operational responsibility for research projects, and may hold research grants in his/her own right. The role holder will participate in the overall contribution of the Centre as appropriate.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Research

- Contribute to the development of research objectives, projects and proposals in the area of crowdfunding, peer-to-peer lending and other online alternative finance channels and instruments.
- Conduct collaborative research projects with our regional and national research partners.
- Identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds from corporate, government, and philanthropic foundations.
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities.
- Contribute to publications or disseminate research findings using other appropriate media.
• Make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events.
• Routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge and understanding as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media.

Teaching and learning support
• Contribute to the development of the CCAF alternative finance modules and Cambridge Judge Business School Executive Education courses.

Liaison and networking
• Collaborate actively within and outside the Institution to complete research projects and advance thinking.
• Develop links with external contacts such as other educational and research bodies, industry associations and their members, as well as public sector institutions.
• Originate and develop external networks, for example, to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.

Planning and organising
• Manage the use of research resources and ensure that effective use is made of them.
• Manage/monitor research budgets expected to be in excess of £350,000 annually by the middle of 2018.
• Help to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities.
• Build and manage research projects on top of our global alternative finance benchmarking research activities, for instance, with policymakers (e.g. the World Bank) and regulators (e.g. the FCA).

Managing people
• Mentor colleagues with less experience and advise on personal development.
• Coach and support colleagues in developing their research techniques.

The person

The ideal candidate should have the following qualities, skills and attributes. You are asked to provide a CV and covering letter demonstrating how your own experience meets these requirements.

• Have a PhD or an extensive experience in alternative finance research.
• Proven track record in conducting and delivering alternative finance industry and policy research.
• Proven track record in engaging with policymakers and regulators on a global and regional scale.
• Experience in researching crowdfunding, peer to peer lending in multiple regions and countries.
• Sufficient breadth/depth of specialist knowledge in the area of alternative SME financing, including a robust understanding of the economic, social and legal implications of online capital raising channels and instruments.
• Specialist knowledge of research methods and techniques to develop research objectives, projects and proposals.
• Experience of collaborating with and obtaining funding from corporate research partners.
• Will continually update knowledge in the specialist area and engage in continuing professional development.
• Experience of managing own workload.
• Administrative skills to manage project(s) including financial management.
• Additional language skills are highly desirable (e.g. Spanish).

Benefits

The salary will be in the range £29,799-£38,833 per annum depending on qualifications and prior experience. There will be a six month probationary period. Holiday entitlement is 33 days per annum plus eight days of public holidays.

This is a fixed term appointment for one year in the first instance.

The full incremental salary range for the position is advertised in order to demonstrate the progression for the Grade. In the majority of cases appointments will be made at the Grade minimum; only in very specific exceptional circumstances can a higher salary be offered.

The University of Cambridge comprises more than 150 departments, faculties, schools and other institutions, plus a central administration and 31 independent and autonomous Colleges. It is one of the world’s oldest and most successful Universities, with an outstanding reputation for academic achievement and research.

With excellent benefits, extensive learning opportunities and a stimulating and attractive environment, the University of Cambridge is a great place to work. Our employees are eligible for a wide range of competitive benefits and services. We give them access to numerous discounts on shopping, health care, financial services and public transport. We also offer final salary pensions and tax-efficient bicycle and car lease schemes.

We have two nurseries and a holiday play scheme to help support those with childcare responsibilities and we offer various types of family-friendly leave to aid employees’ work-life balance. In addition we operate a number of initiatives to promote career development, health and well-being. We have two nurseries and a holiday play scheme to help support those with childcare responsibilities and we offer various types of family-friendly leave to aid employees’ work-life balance. In addition we operate a number of initiatives to promote career development, health and well-being.

Further details can be found at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/benefits. There is also a range of information about living and working in Cambridge at www.jobs.cam.ac.uk.

Application arrangements

To submit an application for this vacancy, please search for this position on the University’s Job Opportunities website at www.jobs.cam.ac.uk and click on the “Apply online” button at the bottom of the relevant job description. This will route you to the University’s Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form.

The closing date for applications is 11 December 2017.

Applicants are required to provide details of two referees. These will not be contacted unless the applicant is shortlisted.
Equality of opportunity at the University

The University of Cambridge is committed to a proactive approach to equality, which supports and encourages all under-represented groups, promotes an inclusive culture and values diversity. Entry into employment with the University is determined by personal merit and by the application of criteria required for the post. No applicant for an appointment or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another on the grounds of sex (including gender reassignment), marital or parental status, race, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability (including HIV status), sexual orientation, religion, age or socio-economic factors.

The University has various diversity networks which help it to progress equality; these include the Women’s Staff Network, the Disabled Staff Network, the Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Staff Network. In addition, the University was ranked in the top 100 employers for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) staff in Stonewall’s Workplace Equality Index 2011.

Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities and is committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. Adjustments will be made, wherever reasonable to do so, to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability and, if successful, to assist them during their employment.

We encourage applicants to declare their disabilities in order that any special arrangements, particularly for the selection process, can be accommodated. Applicants or employees can declare a disability at any time.

Applicants wishing to discuss any special arrangements connected with their disability can, at any point in the recruitment process, contact, a member of Cambridge Judge Business School’s HR team who are responsible for recruitment to this position, on (01223) 339637 or by email on hr@jbs.cam.ac.uk. Alternatively, applicants can contact the HR Business Manager responsible for the department they are applying to via hrenquiries@admin.cam.ac.uk.