JOB TITLE: RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN CORPORATE RISK AND RESILIENCE, CENTRE FOR RISK STUDIES (FIXED TERM)

REPORTS TO: PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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.

Based within the School, the Centre for Risk Studies provides frameworks for recognising, assessing and managing the impacts of systemic threats. The research programme is concerned with catastrophes and how their impacts ripple across an increasingly connected world with consequent effects on the international economy, financial markets, firms in the financial sectors and global corporations. To test our research outputs and guide our research agenda, the Centre engages with the business community, government policy makers, regulators and industry bodies.

The role

Centre for Risk Studies - Project Pandora: A Multi-Threat Risk Framework

We are seeking to employ a research assistant with a background in corporate finance to join our team of risk researchers within the Centre for Risk Studies at Cambridge Judge Business School, University of Cambridge.

Project Pandora is a multidisciplinary research project to develop a risk analysis framework, which estimates global macroeconomic, insurance and investment portfolio impacts from various natural and man-made catastrophes across different industry sectors. A primary output of the project is the Cambridge Global Risk Index that ranks a set of the world’s most important cities according to their overall risk from 22 different threats. The framework is being developed as a risk management and decision-making tool for corporates and financial institutions.

This role is initially to support a line of research within Project Pandora that extends resilience research beyond the scope of social and economic resilience to include corporate resilience, such as evaluating the impact of catastrophes on a company’s stock price or earnings and exploring different risk mitigation strategies such as insurance and supply chain reconfiguration.

The nature of this research will require the candidate to be able to work collaboratively with other research staff with expertise in other disciplines.

Visit the Centre for Risk Studies website: www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/faculty-research/centres/risk.
MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Research

- Assist in assessing and following up recent interviews with corporate decision makers.
- Carry out precedent studies and a literature review of corporate resilience and balance sheet management.
- Build a catalogue of corporate failure case studies.
- Research how financial risk management such as risk capital reserving and financial or operational hedging can be incorporated into our Pandora risk assessment model.
- Research the appropriate size/sector granularity for extending our model to organisations.
- Research how our model can be used to be analytic about risk of corporate failure.
- Study how threat indexes can be translated into meaningful metrics to support corporate decision making.
- Help conceptualise the corporate risk decision making process.
- Write up results of own research and research work for presentation and publication.
- Present information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research.
- Assist in the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes.
- Communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.
- Make use of standard research methods and techniques.
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism.
- Translate knowledge of advances in the subject areas into research activity.
- Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required.

Liaison and networking

- Liaise with colleagues and funding sponsors on routine matters.
- Build internal and external contacts and participate in networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.

Planning and organising

- Contribute to project management and associated tasks.
- Plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme.
- Coordinate own work with that of others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort.
- Contribute to the planning of research projects.

The person

The ideal candidate should have the following qualities, skills and attributes. You are asked to provide a covering letter demonstrating how your own experience meets these requirements. In addition, you are encouraged to explain your own research interests.

- Educated at postgraduate level with a background in corporate finance.
• Strong candidates would have experience in fields such as risk analysis and balance sheet shock.
• Strong writing skills are critical including ability to communicate technical detail to a broad audience.
• Strong Excel and data skills.
• Driven and committed, demonstrating initiative and self-motivation.
• Previous project management experience will be an asset.
• Good time management and planning skills with a commitment to delivery.
• Will continually update knowledge in the specialist area and engage in continuous professional development.

Benefits
The salary will be in the range £25,728-£29,799 per annum. There will be a six month probationary period. This is a fixed term appointment for one year in the first instance. Holiday entitlement is 33 days per annum plus eight days of public holidays.

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.

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 19 March 2018.
Applicants are required to provide details of two referees. These will not be contacted unless the applicant is shortlisted.

Applicants who do not hear from us within six weeks of the above date should assume they have not been 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) 768 497 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.