 Further particulars 

JOB TITLE: RESEARCH ASSISTANT - MODELLING OF ELECTRICITY AND GAS MARKETS (FIXED TERM)

REPORTS TO: DIRECTOR OF ENERGY POLICY FORUM

Background

The EPRG (Energy Policy Research Group) is a joint centre of the Faculty of Economics and Cambridge Judge Business School at the University of Cambridge and is one of the leading energy economics and policy research groups. The EPRG research team have broad expertise in economics, technology policy and political science. Their core research discipline is economics, within a framework that encourages collaboration between experts from different academic traditions, drawing on insights from engineering, political science and law.

The Centre is looking to appoint a Research Assistant within the Economics & Policy subject group. The Research Assistant will support ongoing research on modelling of electricity and gas markets for policy and regulatory analysis.

A masters degree in a related area such as energy economics, economic modelling, applied economics, operations research or operations management is essential and additional knowledge or background in electricity and gas market design is not necessary but would be desirable. In addition, good writing skills and attention to detail are prerequisites for this role. The successful candidate will be expected to work independently and may also contribute to other aspects of the work of EPRG.

The role

The Research Assistant is expected to contribute primarily to EPRG’s work on electricity and gas market modelling. It is expected that the successful candidate will help in producing at least three high-quality academic papers over the course of the year under the guidance of the Assistant Director and the Energy Policy Forum Director. This research includes but is not limited to:

- literature survey relevant to specific research papers
- data gathering and processing of large data bases
- analysis of electricity and gas market data (pricing and market fundamentals)
- processing modelling outputs and results and write up of main findings.

The research papers will build on our existing work and expertise within EPRG.

In addition, the research assistant will be expected to contribute to other aspects of EPRG’s work programme, participate in our weekly seminars, publish in our working paper series, and engage with other researchers at EPRG and the School more widely.
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. In addition, you are encouraged to explain your own research interests.

- Masters degree in Economics, Operations Research or other relevant discipline (e.g. public policy, systems engineering, etc.).
- Strong quantitative skills, particularly in economic modelling and data mining and processing of large data sets.
- Knowledge of energy economics and policy and good knowledge of operations research (e.g. equilibrium models of energy markets and unit commitment electricity models).
- Excellent writing skills and attention to detail.
- Able to work independently and as part of an interdisciplinary and collaborative project.
- Driven and committed, demonstrating initiative and self-motivation.
- Good time management and planning skills with an aim to produce relevant academic papers in leading international academic journals.

DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS

- Excellent data mining skills and knowledge of python, VBA/Excel and/or other programming languages to effectively process large data sets.
- Knowledge of geographic information system (e.g. ArcGIS).
- Familiarity with UK and European energy policy including electricity and gas market design and regulation.
- Knowledge of GAMS/AIMMS/MATLAB modelling environment.
- Knowledge of Bloomberg and/or Thomson Reuters Eikon.

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.

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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 3 September 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) 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.