

Job description

Post-doctoral Research Associate – Carbon Pricing

Role: Research support (Grade 7)

Location: UCL Energy Institute / ISR, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0NN

Salary: £34,056 pro rata including London weighting

Appointment: funding is available for 6 months at 50% FTE (hours to be arranged on an As and When basis with supervisor)

Main purpose of the job

The post is intended to strengthen research input and translation to international policy developments around carbon pricing, under the overall supervision of Professor Michael Grubb with input also from Dr Tristan Smith. The initial role is part-funded by the international research network Climate Strategies (CS), in support of Prof Grubb's role as a co-chair to the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC: Evidence-Base working group), and the candidate would work closely with the Climate Strategies' Secretariat in London to harness the wider expertise of this network.

The intention would be to secure additional funding to support these activities and related, stakeholder-led research into the challenges of implementing carbon pricing in different regions, as well as potentially wider expert support for new CS-related engagement activities directed by Prof Grubb.

The ideal candidate for the post would hold (or at least have submitted) a Doctorate in political economy of climate change policy, with some experience of carbon pricing and strong analytic capacity to engage with relevant economic debates. Some expertise in energy and international experience would be valuable, and candidates with previous experience in research on industrial sectors, international trade, institutional change or transition management are also encouraged to apply. We expect applications from persons with a strong interest in policy implications, proven ability with data analysis and related evidence-based methods, and excellent writing and interpersonal skills.

Main duties and responsibilities

Under guidance from Professor Michael Grubb supported by Dr Tristan Smith (who is co-chair of CPLC programme on carbon pricing in the maritime sector):

- Be the focal point for liaison with the Secretariat of the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition to understand key evidence needs of that stakeholder community.
- Gain familiarity with the research landscape on carbon pricing, and in particular liaise with the Climate Strategies' Secretariat to understand current and ongoing carbon-pricing-related research interests and expertise of relevant Climate Strategies' members.
- Review draft CPLC Executive Briefs and highlight particularly important comments or relevant research reports, particularly by Climate Strategies members, working where necessary with the CS Secretariat to provide research translation (ie. tailored products translating research for stakeholder use)
- Identify research gaps, key questions that require analytic attention, and develop a strategy for relevant analysis, including feeding back research needs through the CS Secretariat
- Develop and populate a section of websites for the relevant institutions for hosting objective, peer-reviewed information relating to competitiveness and carbon leakage, and related solutions particularly relating to carbon pricing
- Work with CS and its research network to support CPLC programme design for an international conference on carbon pricing to be held in first half 2018
- Work with the institutions concerned to develop a research-based work programme on carbon pricing, appropriate for funding proposals to continue and expand the position and related work.

The post may also involve some assistance with development of programme for international travel in support of the above work.

The post may also involve some assistance with securing additional funding to support the above-mentioned goals.

Person specification

Qualifications

Essential: A good (e.g. First or Distinction) first or higher degree and PhD (at least submitted) in a subject relevant to the post, with emphasis on international experience and ability to understand the political context within which programmes on carbon pricing have to be implemented

Skills

Essential: Ability to conduct high quality research
Ability to think laterally and integrate knowledge from different disciplines
Ability to do evidence-based policy analysis and draw conclusions
Ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds
Ability to undertake administration required to support the work programme
Ability to use own initiative
Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills

Desirable: Ability to listen and negotiate
Coordination and teamwork
Ability to prioritise workload
Ability to communicate in other languages
Ability to deal with different personalities
Ability to network

Previous experience

Essential: Experience of high quality research in a subject relevant to the research areas outlined in the description.
Experience of working in an international context

Desirable: Experience with international organisations, including potential funding entities
Experience of working with stakeholders, especially from policy
Experience of writing analytical reports