



## Job Description

<b>Job title</b>	Research Associate
<b>Department/School</b>	Institute for Policy Research (IPR)/Economics
<b>Job family</b>	Research
<b>Grade</b>	7
<b>Reporting to</b>	Julie Barnett, Eleonora Fichera, Eirini Petratou
<b>Responsible for</b>	There may be a requirement for: day to day supervision of other staff e.g. technical staff or, co-supervision of doctoral or undergraduate students
<b>Location</b>	University of Bath, IPR

### Background and context

This is a 24-month, fixed term research position funded by a grant by the [Food Standards Agency](#) (FSA) awarded to the [Institute for Policy Research](#) (IPR), the [Department of Economics](#) and the [Department of Psychology](#). The successful candidate will be managed and co-located on a 50:50 basis between the University of Bath and the Food Standards Agency in London.

The fellow will work full-time at the University of Bath and will be obliged to travel to and work at the FSA's offices at Clive House, London on a regular basis.

Flexible working, including remote and multi-site working, is encouraged (during the coronavirus outbreak, the fellow will follow FSA guidelines on alternative ways of working).

You will work closely with [Professor Julie Barnett](#) (Health Psychology, Department of Psychology and Institute for Policy Research) and [Dr Eleonora Fichera](#) (Health Economics, Department of Economics) at the University of Bath. IPR is a leading public policy research institute with extensive expertise of research into evidence-based policy. You will also collaborate with the [Department of Economics](#) which has strong expertise in behavioural and health economics, and the political economy, as well as the [Department of Psychology](#), which has leading expertise on behaviour change. The combination of expertise in Psychology and Economics with a strong policy focus will be ideal to support your training and the implementation of the FSA's behavioural science strategy.

The FSA is an independent non-ministerial government department, set up by the [Food Standards Act 1999](#)<sup>1</sup>. The main objective of the Agency is to "protect public health from risks which may arise in connection with the consumption of food

(including risks caused by the way in which it is produced or supplied) and otherwise to protect the interests of consumers in relation to food”. The FSA’s Analytics Unit sits within the Science, Evidence and Research Division and ensures that evidence and research are embedded in the recommendations for future policy and delivery options. FSA Analysts, i.e. Economists, Social Scientists, Operational Researchers and Statisticians, provide research advice, management and support to policy divisions, as well as other internal stakeholders, across the Agency (including the devolved nations) and respond flexibly to ad hoc requests for assistance.

### Job purpose

You will actively work at the interface between social science research and policy design and implementation. As such, you will have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the protection of public interest by applying quantitative skills to the analysis of consumer and firm behaviour, whilst equipping policymakers with the tools to apply your findings. In particular, you will investigate how to apply behavioural science to food policy in order to a) maximise food business compliance, and b) improve consumers’ food hygiene and safety behaviour and advise how these insights should inform food policy. You will be leading on the design and evaluation of effective food policies based on insights from behavioural economics, health psychology and other social sciences. This will require quantitative policy evaluation using secondary data, design and evaluation of trials, incentive design, literature reviews, communication of findings to policymakers as well as advising them on implementation. Relevant training opportunities across the Departments of Psychology, Economics and Social and Policy Sciences will be offered by the University of Bath and the FSA.

### Main duties and responsibilities

Responsible to the PI/CI for (as appropriate to discipline):

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| <b>1</b> | Conduct individual and/or collaborative research projects. Contribute to the design and execution of the project e.g. timetabling and meeting project milestones; participating in regular discussions with collaborative partners. Generate, collect and analyse existing data related to the project using qualitative and/or quantitative techniques.   |
| <b>2</b> | Writing up results of research and contributing to the publication of results in high-quality peer-reviewed academic literature.   |
| <b>3</b> | Disseminating results of research project as appropriate to the discipline through activities such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• overseas research visits</li> <li>• conference presentations</li> <li>• public engagement activities</li> <li>• Advise policymakers in national government and other partner collaborators on how behavioural insights can be applied to policy-making</li> <li>• Communicating economic theory, quantitative analysis and behavioural insights clearly and succinctly to policy-makers</li> <li>• Upskill other analysts and policy-makers in the theory and application of behavioural science</li> </ul> |

<b>4</b>	Participate in departmental/group meetings and prepare and deliver presentations/seminars to project team, internal and external stakeholders or funders.
<b>5</b>	Assist with the supervision of postgraduate students and undergraduate project students and the assessment of student knowledge.
<b>6</b>	Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism to inform research activity.
<b>7</b>	Identify sources of funding and provide assistance with preparing bids to funding bodies. Develop ability to secure own funding e.g. travel grants.
<b>8</b>	Contribute to the development of research objectives and proposals for own or joint research projects, with assistance of a mentor, if required.
<b>9</b>	Disseminate knowledge of research advances to inform departmental teaching.
You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance.	

## Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>		
A PhD degree in subject area of direct relevance for the project, or equivalent significant relevant experience and professional qualification (e.g. Economics, Health Economics or other quantitative social science)	✓	
<b>Experience/Knowledge</b> These criteria will be referenced to the appendix 3 of the Career Progression in the Education and Research Job Family document.		
Postdoctoral experience	✓	
Demonstrated significant depth and breadth of specialist knowledge of subject matter to contribute to research programmes and to the development of departmental research activities		✓
Demonstrated awareness of latest developments in the field of research and in research design	✓	
Experience of engaging policymakers at national government level		✓
Strong quantitative research skills	✓	
A strong track record of applying their research skills to policy problems	✓	
Experience in data visualisation and analysing large survey datasets	✓	
Experience in applying experimental and non-experimental quantitative methods		✓
Demonstrated potential to publish in high quality, peer reviewed journals	✓	
<b>Skills</b>		
Excellent presentation and communication skills (e.g. in publishing and presenting research, training and outreach activities) – both oral and written	✓	
Strong quantitative research skills	✓	
<b>Criteria</b>		
Ability to prepare research proposals, conducting individual research work and the dissemination of results and impact		✓
Ability to organise and prioritise own workload to meet deadlines	✓	
Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes	✓	
Proficiency in IT skills (as appropriate to discipline)	✓	
Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills	✓	
Excellent interpersonal skills, communication style and team working	✓	
Excellent organisational and communication skills and the ability to explain complex ideas clearly and without jargon	✓	
Evidence of positive working relationships within the University, community, business and other partners		✓
<b>Attributes</b>		

Versatile, innovative and developing creative solutions	✓	
Ability to be an effective team worker	✓	
Commitment to safe working practices	✓	
Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct	✓	
Commitment to collaborative and interdisciplinary research	✓	