

Job Description

Job title	Research Fellow
Department/School	Institute for Policy Research (IPR)/Economics
Job family	Research
Grade	8
Reporting to	Julie Barnett, Eleonora Fichera, Eirini Petratou
Responsible for	Research students and/or other research staff
Location	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](#)¹. 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

1	Conduct individual and/or collaborative research projects that result in high impact research in. Develop research objectives, projects and proposals. Set standards by scoping projects and managing its delivery (e.g. timeline, budget, quality) to fulfil research grant proposals.
2	Publish in high quality peer-reviewed journals appropriate to the discipline.
3	Attract sources of funding either individually or as part of a team.
4	Contribute to the supervision, training and research of graduate students and undergraduate project students and the assessment of student knowledge. Train and support colleagues in developing their research techniques.
5	Develop and sustain an external research profile and reputation and international research links through activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas research visits • Conference presentations • Conference organisation • Refereeing • Public engagement activities • Advise policymakers in national government and other partner collaborators on how behavioural insights can be applied to policy-making • Communicating economic theory, quantitative analysis and behavioural insights clearly and succinctly to policy-makers • Upskill other analysts and policy-makers in the theory and application of behavioural science

6	Promote and engage in interdisciplinary research activities.
7	Bring funding into the department through consultancy, exploitation of intellectual property rights, or other knowledge or technology-transfer activities (where appropriate).
8	Disseminate knowledge of research advances to inform the departmental teaching effort.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
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)	✓	
Experience/Knowledge These criteria will be referenced to the appendix 3 of the Career Progression in the Education and Research Job Family document.		
Postdoctoral experience in relevant research field	✓	
Established area of independent expertise in research demonstrating a commitment to the highest standards of ethics and integrity in research		✓
Demonstrated expertise and knowledge in the latest developments in the field of research and in research design	✓	
Demonstrated potential to attract research funds		✓
Demonstrated a sustained and auditable research record of outputs and a portfolio of articles published in high quality peer-reviewed journals and/or conference proceedings (or other outputs appropriate to the discipline, e.g. books/book chapters/portfolio of commercially sensitive reports) based on their work.		✓
Record of successful supervision of researchers		✓
Experience of engaging policymakers at national government level	✓	
Strong quantitative research skills	✓	
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	✓	
Engagement with relevant national and international research communities	✓	
Skills		
Excellent presentation and communication skills (e.g. in publishing and presenting research, training and outreach activities) – both oral and written	✓	
Strong quantitative research skills	✓	
Criteria		
Leadership, organisational and administrative skills		✓
Strong expertise and ability in the preparation of research proposals, conducting individual research work and the dissemination of results and impact		✓
Ability to organise and prioritise own and others' workloads	✓	
Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes	✓	

Proficiency in utilising IT to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of research work (as appropriate to discipline)	✓	
Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills	✓	
Excellent interpersonal skills, communication style and team working	✓	
Excellent evidence of working as part of a team, motivating others and managing the delivery of work across a group of colleagues		✓
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	✓	
Attributes		
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	✓	