

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

Postdoctoral Fellow in food price and food security impacts of dietary transition

Centre for Development, Environment and Policy

£32,862 - £38,795 p.a. inclusive of London Allowance

Vacancy No. 000626

The School of Oriental and African Studies is appointing a **Postdoctoral Fellow in food price and food security impacts of dietary transition** to work within the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH).

The Leverhulme Trust has provided one of its largest ever funding awards to the London International Development Centre to establish a new centre which will integrate research on agriculture and health in support of international development. The Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health is an inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary collaboration between the Bloomsbury Colleges of the University of London, involving staff and student appointments in the School of Oriental and African Studies, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Royal Veterinary College. It is led by a cross-College Management Team.

LCIRAH works closely with the Center for Development, Environment and Policy (CeDEP) in the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) on a variety of research topics at the intersection of agriculture, food, nutrition and health in developing countries.

Introduction

The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) is one of the colleges of the University of London. The 2008 independent assessment of the quality of research activities in UK universities (the REF) puts SOAS amongst the top research universities in the country. All departments assessed in Teaching Quality Audits in recent years have been awarded maximum or near-maximum ratings.

SOAS is located on the University's central campus at Bloomsbury, in the centre of London close to the British Museum, the British Library, the London Business School and other University of London colleges including the London School of Economics. The School was founded in 1916 and is the major European centre for the study of a highly diverse range of subjects concerned with Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

SOAS has the largest concentration of specialist staff (more than 300 academics) concerned with the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East at any university in the world. It has well established research programmes, postgraduate programmes, and undergraduate programmes in the social sciences and humanities. These include law, political studies, economics, business and management studies, finance, anthropology and sociology, art and archaeology, music, religious studies, linguistics, geography and development studies as well as the languages of Asia and Africa.

The School's library is the national resource for the study of Asia and Africa, holding over 1.2 million items and extensive electronic resources and taking 4,500 periodicals, and attracts scholars from all over the world. Faculty members may have access to the other libraries of the University and its colleges.

The London International Development Centre (LIDC)

The Centre was established in 2008 under a formal agreement between the six Bloomsbury Colleges of the University of London: Birkbeck, Institute of Education, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London School of Pharmacy, Royal Veterinary College and School of Oriental and African Studies. Its objectives include development of inter-College, inter-disciplinary research and training programmes on critical issues in international development, support to policy makers and strengthening of capacity in higher education and other institutions in low and middle income countries. LIDC is a membership organization open to staff, alumni and postgraduate students of its Colleges. Through workshops and other activities, LIDC helps to build and support new inter-College programmes. LIDC led the development of LCIRAH, and its Director Chairs the Management Committee. It provides administrative support and accommodation for LCIRAH staff at its premises at 36 Gordon Square. Further information on LIDC is available from the Director, Professor Jeff Waage, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD, UK (Telephone + 44 (0) 207 958 8252) or from the LIDC website at www.lidc.org.uk.

The Centre for Development, Environment and Policy (CeDEP)

The Centre undertakes research and postgraduate distance learning teaching in the fields of applied economics, environment, and sustainability and development. It brings together staff with strong but diverse specialist skills with experience in, and commitment to, the promotion of effective and sustainable development, policy and environmental management.

Research is conducted in a wide range of countries in Latin America, Africa, South and East Asia, and Europe in collaboration with a range of national and international partners and falls into three main thematic areas:

- Socio-economic, technical and institutional opportunities and constraints for agricultural and rural development, food systems and poverty reduction in poor areas
- Development and application of new institutional economics in guiding agricultural development and natural resource management policy and interventions
- Approaches for sustainable development and environmental management, particularly relating to the atmosphere, water resources, and the environmental and developmental impacts of intensive agriculture

CeDEP staff edit the multidisciplinary journal Food Policy, published by Elsevier.

CeDEP offers postgraduate Distance Learning programmes as part of the University of London's External System in Agricultural Economics, Applied Environmental Economics, Environmental Management, Managing Rural Development, Poverty Reduction, and Sustainable Development. Its programmes have been running for 20 years and continue to innovate and grow. In 2009 over 1,100 students were enrolled in more than 100 countries around the world,

CeDEP is a major contributor to the activities of the London International Development Centre (LIDC) and a participant in the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH).

The Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH)

The Centre was established in 2009 with the support of one of The Leverhulme Trust's largest-ever funding awards. LCIRAH works across sectors and disciplines to develop unifying concepts, methods and research programmes that link agricultural and health research, which it will apply to improve our understanding of complex international development issues, particularly in areas of:

- Poverty and development;
- Diet, globalization and food quality;
- Sustainability, environment and climate change
- Food borne and zoonotic diseases
- Common metrics for agricultural and health research and evaluation

LCIRAH is an inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary collaboration between the Bloomsbury Colleges of the University of London, involving staff and student appointments in the School of Oriental and African Studies, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Royal Veterinary College. It is led by a cross-College Management Team.

Candidates seeking further information, should contact Professor Andrew Dorward, Centre for Development, Environment and Policy, SOAS, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD, UK (Telephone: +44 (0) 20 3073 8330, Email : Andrew.Dorward@soas.ac.uk). They may also wish to consult the LCIRAH and CeDEP web sites: www.lcirah.ac.uk and www.soas.ac.uk/cedep

Job applicants who have been shortlisted would normally be notified within six weeks of the closing date. If you have not heard from the Human Resources Department by this date, please assume that your application for employment has been unsuccessful on this occasion.

SOAS values diversity and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

THE POST

Background

The post is funded by the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health and relates specifically to its core work areas on poverty and development and on diet, globalization and food quality. It also has links to work areas on

- sustainability, environment and climate change and on
- common metrics for agricultural and health research and evaluation.

Collaboration between different research communities is fostered by a cross-College programme of jointly supervised PhD students and postdoctoral fellows, conferences and course development. The position will be based in LIDC in facilities dedicated to the Centre. The work will be implemented in collaboration with the Food and Climate Research Network (FCRN) in the Environmental Change Institute of the University of Oxford and with support from Professor Jonathan Rushton of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC).

JOB DESCRIPTION

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It may be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the post holder.

Vacancy No: 000626

Job Title:	Postdoctoral Fellow in food price and food security impacts of dietary transition
Department:	Centre for Development, Environment and Policy
Grade:	G7
Tenure:	Fixed term for one year
Reporting to:	Professor of Development Economics
Accountable to:	Dean of Faculty of Law & Social Sciences

Job Summary:

To improve the academic standing of the School by carrying out and publishing research of the highest quality. The successful candidate will work within the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) and in close contact with colleagues in SOAS. He/she will work closely with the Professor of Development Economics and other SOAS and LCIRAH colleagues on two research topics investigating different aspects of the impact of dietary transition on food prices and food security. The work will be achieved through independent research and working with academics in LCIRAH and SOAS, including Dr Tara Garnett of the Food Climate Research Network and Professor Jonathan Rushton of the Royal Veterinary College.

Key Tasks:

- Undertake and lead, under the direction of the Professor of Development Economics, agreed tasks under two research projects,
 - 'Questioning Engel's law? Income elasticities for direct and indirect demand of food grains'

- 'Impacts of dietary transition and changes in livestock product consumption on food security and diets of the poor'
- Participate in and contribute to the research activities and academic communities in CeDEP and in LCIRAH

Specific Tasks:

The Postdoctoral researcher will accomplish the following during the tenure of the fellowship:

- Carry out a range of tasks to accomplish research initiatives: review literature, prepare datasets, apply empirical procedures, write-up results for team collaboration and/or publication.
- For project (a) *Questioning Engel's Law*:
 - a. Review literature on income elasticities for grain and livestock products
 - b. Examine main models of global food demand for strengths and weaknesses
 - c. Identify *population-specific* studies and/or data sets which allow:
 - i. Assessment of grain and livestock contribution to total food and household spending
 - ii. Analysis of grain and livestock income demand elasticities
 - d. Identify studies and/or data sets which show grain-to-livestock product conversion ratios for different livestock production systems
 - e. Link *c* to *d* to understand relationship between grain price changes, livestock price changes, and income elasticities of demand for these population-specific groups
 - f. Explore the implications and write up findings
- For project (b) *'Impacts of dietary transition and changes in livestock product consumption on food security and diets of the poor'*
 - a. Scope existing studies to see what has already been done on this topic and plan future work programme regarding the activities below
 - b. Identify and collate relevant data, including on: livestock carbon footprints, land (arable and non arable) and water use for livestock in different systems; livestock protein and energy values; grain protein and energy values; price elasticities
 - c. Construct relevant resource use budgets for human diets of studied populations (ie. those examined in Project A)
 - d. Drawing on (*inter alia*) analysis gained from project A (Questioning Engel's Law) examine impacts of changes in price and production effects on:
 - i. Food security – measured in terms of affordability of livestock and grain derived protein and energy - for different population groups in different regions
 - ii. Environmental impact – measured in terms of arable and non arable land use, water use and CO₂ eq. emissions.
 - e. Use analysis above to examine scope for undertaking a larger scale study involving different production and consumption scenarios
 - f. As appropriate write up the work as a paper, a briefing paper and/or project proposal for further work
- Prepare reports and policy briefs arising from research.
- Contribute ideas to funding proposals and assist with their drafting.
- Contribute to the LCIRAH, SOAS and LIDC communities by contributing to the planning and execution of events and initiatives.
- Prepare and make presentations on research undertaken.

Competency and Evidence

Communication

Oral:

- Ability to summarise and interpret complex, conceptual and specialist matters to suit different audiences drawn from various disciplines.

Written:

- Ability to summarise and communicate complex, conceptual and specialist matters using a range of styles and media selected to meet the needs of a diverse audience.
- Excellent analytical and writing skills.

Initiative and Problem Solving

- Ability and willingness to work in an interdisciplinary fashion
- Experience with working with large datasets and resolving problems with using such data in analysis
- Experience or willingness to carry out primary data collection if necessary.

Analysis and Research

- Strong empirical skills, particularly in microeconomics and micro-econometrics

Knowledge and Experience

- Good understanding of agricultural / food or health issues in development

Decision Making Processes and Outcomes

- Experience of using own judgement to make decisions, considering the impact, assessment of possible outcomes and chances of success.
- Experience of making collaborative decisions with a group or committee to reach conclusions, and ensuring that options are weighed, outcomes identified and chances of success considered.

Team Development

- Experience of providing advice and guidance to new starters (eg. PhD students) within the same area on conducting research, analysing data and writing up results.

Liaison and Networking

- Experience of disseminating information in an accurate and timely manner, and building relationships to facilitate the exchange of information through wide networks.
- Experience of actively seeking to build productive and enduring relationships between teams to strengthen working relationships and foster collaboration.

Pastoral Care and Welfare

- Support project team members and help colleagues resolve their research work concerns

The above list of job duties is not exclusive or exhaustive and the post holder will be required to undertake such tasks as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post. Job descriptions should be regularly reviewed to ensure they are an accurate representation of the post.

[December 2013]

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title: Postdoctoral Fellow in food price and food security impacts of dietary transition

Department: Centre for Development, Environment and Policy

Essential Knowledge, Skills, and Experience:

1. Evidence of being able to carry out high quality, publishable research which will improve, or at least maintain, the Centre's research rating in the Research Excellence Framework.
2. Substantial quantitative empirical focus in their previous work
3. Good training/experience in applied microeconometrics.
4. Good understanding of agricultural / food issues in development
5. Sound time management skills and the ability to plan and to meet deadlines.
6. Well developed written and interpersonal communication skills.

Essential Qualifications:

PhD or close to completion of a PhD in a relevant subject

Essential Personal Qualities:

1. Ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with students, staff, academic peers and external/professional organisations.
2. Commitment to providing quality outputs.
3. Flexibility and responsiveness.
4. High degree of professional judgement and integrity.
5. Ability to travel internationally if requested.

Closing date: 10th April 2014

Interviews are provisionally scheduled for week commencing: 6th May 2014

SOAS values diversity and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.