

CENTRE *for* ECONOMIC P E R F O R M A N C E

Working for the Centre for Economic Performance

Dear Postgrad,

I am writing to you about opportunities in the Centre for Economic Performance. Established in 1990, the Centre for Economic Performance is one of Europe's leading economic research centres. CEP studies the determinants of economic performance at the level of the company, the national and the global economy. It focuses on the major links between globalisation, technology and institutions (above all the educational system and the labour market) and their impact on productivity and inequality. The Centre's work was recognised by the award in 2003 of a Queen's Prize in Higher Education and by being the first ever ESRC centre to win a fifth term of core funding until 2015.

Much of its success stems from the critical mass of expertise brought to bear on the major economic and social issues of our time. A key part of this expertise is provided by a dedicated team of LSE registered PhD students (mainly in economics) whom CEP recruits each year to work part-time on Centre projects whilst pursuing their thesis. A great advantage found by many of the PhD's who have worked in the Centre is that its programmes and projects can provide a useful structure to help them settle on a thesis topic quickly. In addition, the Centre offers an outstanding, cooperative research environment in which to learn from colleagues and senior experts in the field, an array of seminars and conferences to attend, quality open plan workstations, IT and data facilities, and frequent contact with senior academics and supervisors. Members also benefit from advice and training by a distinguished economics journalist who helps them write for the media and for the widely read research magazine of the CEP, *CentrePiece*.

If you have a keen interest in working in one of the Centres' main areas, please read http://cep.lse.ac.uk/about/overview/cep_programme.pdf for further information and complete and return the application form below.

I look forward to hearing from you.



John Van Reenen
Director of CEP, Professor of Economics

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Programme:	Director:
Education and Skills	Dr.S.McNally
Labour Markets	Prof.Stephen Machin
Community	Prof.Alan Manning
Globalisation	Dr.E.Ornelas
Macroeconomics	Prof. Francesco Caselli
Productivity	Prof. John Van Reenen
Wellbeing	Prof.Richard Layard
CEP Manager	Nigel Rogers

STAFF

The Centre has some 120 research staff, associates, postgraduates and administrative, IT & Data staff. Senior staff are drawn mainly from LSE faculty, with significant contributions from UCL and other UK universities, Harvard, Stanford and Princeton. They work with a core of 30 full time research staff and around 30 postgraduates registered for the PhD, mainly from continental Europe, working both on Centre projects and on their PhD's. Leading world economists including Krugman, Krueger, Freeman and Kahnemann are regular visitors to the centre.

POLICY IMPACT

The Centre's research contributes not only to the development of economics but has had significant impact on policy: providing the intellectual basis underpinning the New Deal, the Working Families Tax Credit and the Minimum Wage, the R&D tax credit as well as the EU's 1997 Luxembourg guidelines. CEP staff have been actively involved in policy advice: Layard advising the Department for Education and Skills on the New Deal, and the Department of Health on Mental Health Reform; Van Reenen in the Department of Health and Downing Street on productivity and enterprise; Metcalf chairing Migrant Advisory Committee; Machin a commissioner on the Low Pay Commission, Steedman an adviser to the DfES Skills Task Force; Nickell, Wadhvani, Bean, Buitter, Blanchflower and Sentance, all past members of the Centre, have served on the Monetary Policy Committee.

WORKING FOR CEP

Occasional Research Assistants are offered facilities and full membership of the centre and an hourly rate of pay (currently around £15 to £17 an hour) to provide on average a day or more's research assistance a week. Working on centre projects usually provides

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students with material, data etc for their Ph.D and helps them define a thesis topic more quickly. In some cases we will offer places to associate scholars who will not carry out research assistance but whose own research is well advanced and can contribute to the Centre's programme of work.

The facilities offered by the centre to its members are excellent and include access to its electronic data library, specialist journals library, first class computing set up and backup, including the expertise of a Data Manager expert in economic data sets, access to all centre conferences and seminar series (currently 6 per week) and plenty of opportunity of airing work in progress in seminars/workshops. The Centre is run by senior faculty members of the Department of Economics and students and staff work with and are supervised by these regularly: the whole setup of the Centre encourages frequent interaction between senior staff and postgrads. Equally important is the cooperative working environment and new staff and students derive enormous benefit from the expertise of others in handling data, statistical packages and using economic models, and can thereby get started with productive research really quickly. PhD's who have worked in the Centre have had an outstanding record in obtaining key posts afterwards in government departments, IFI's including a large contingent to the World Bank and the IMF, the Bank of England, top management consultancies and the financial services industry. 14 of its PhDs have moved on to work for the IMF.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the attached form and return to **I.f.cleavelly@lse.ac.uk** as soon as possible. Whilst theoretical work flourishes in the Centre, CEP is particularly interested in receiving applications from those with an interest in applied work and with experience of working with data, confidence in using STATA as well as those with a well formed interest in the major policy related questions it is tackling. For a listing of these see The CEP website at <http://cep.lse.ac.uk/> and CEP Programme of Work 2010 – 2015 at http://cep.lse.ac.uk/about/overview/cep_programme.pdf

Application for places is highly competitive, and restrictions on space are tight, but if you are not successful first time around, this does not preclude you from applying later in the year, as places sometimes become available.

Occasional Research Assistantship Application

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email:
Course & Year of Study:	
University qualifications, and awarding institutions:	
Options studied in MSc:/MRes:	
Research Interests and planned topic of research / thesis chapter titles:	
Published and unpublished writings:	
Which aspects of the CEP Programme of Work (http://cep.lse.ac.uk/about/overview/cep_programme.pdf) do you see your current or developing interests fitting into and how?	
Experience of statistical packages / data:	
Employment and research experience (e.g. details of research tasks you have undertaken, knowledge of data sets you are familiar with, presentation of statistical material from raw data, report writing, etc):	
Supervisor:	
Referees (Give 2 who have recent experience of your academic work):	

Please return to l.f.cleavelly@lse.ac.uk with the subject line marked 'ORA Your Surname' (e.g. ORA SMITH)