Queen Mary
University of London



Job pack

Message from the President and Principal



Thank you for your interest in this role and in Queen Mary University of London. Working at Queen Mary means being part of a unique, world-class global University with a long, proud and distinctive history.

Our founding institutions, the London Hospital Medical College, St Bartholomew's Medical College, Westfield College and Queen Mary College, were founded to provide hope and opportunity for the less privileged and otherwise under-represented.

Today, we remain true to the vision of our founders by continuing to improve lives locally, nationally and internationally through the seamless combination of our world-leading strengths in education and research.

The Queen Mary community – our staff, students and alumni – is the heart and soul of our University. We are proud to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment so that staff and students from all backgrounds can develop, flourish and achieve their full potential.

I look forward to welcoming you to our unique University and working with you to realise our ambitions.

Professor Colin Bailey, President and Principal

qmul.ac.uk

Queen Mary University of London

Our strategy 2030

In 2019, Queen Mary University of London launched a bold new Strategy with the vision to open the doors of opportunity. By 2030, we will be the most inclusive university of its kind, anywhere. We are doing this by building on our existing cultural diversity to create a truly inclusive environment, where students and staff flourish, reach their full potential and are proud to be part of the University. Continuing our long tradition of commitment to public good, we will generate new knowledge, challenge existing knowledge, and engage locally, nationally and internationally to create a better world.

We have five core values that will help us to reach this goal:

We are **inclusive**, supporting talented students and staff regardless of their background, and engaging with our local and global communities.

We are **proud** of the difference we can all make when we work collectively.

We are **ambitious**, fostering innovation and creativity, disrupting conventional thought, and responding with imagination to new opportunities.

We are **collegial**, promoting a strong community through openness, listening, understanding, co-operation and co-creation.

We are **ethical,** acting with the highest standards, and with integrity, in all that we do.

To enable our staff to flourish and to reach their full potential throughout their employment at Queen Mary, we offer a range of benefits:

Staff benefits

- Annual leave – the full-time annual leave annual entitlement is 30 working days (not including bank holidays).
- Season ticket loan scheme
- Pension scheme
- Reward and recognition schemes
- Staff Networks
- Cycle to work scheme
- Qmotion sport fitness centre
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Family friendly policies
- Flexible working practices
- On-site day nursery

Job description

Job details	
Job title	Research Assistant
School/Dept/Institute Centre/Faculty	School Of Economics & Finance
Reports to	**Dr Samuel Altmann**
Grade and salary	**Grade 4, Sp 25- 26, £39,187 - £39,802 per annum pro rata**
Hours per week	7
Appointment period	12 months fixed term
Current location	Mile End, London
Work activity type	Research only

About the School

The School of Economics and Finance is a leader in teaching and research at both the national and international level. It has a range of both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including programmes that are jointly run with other Schools. The School has over 1000 undergraduate students, and over 500 postgraduate taught students. It offers excellent facilities and resources to enhance learning, including offering training and access to real time trading software to both UG and PGT students.

Job context

The Research Assistant will support a research project led by Dr Sam Altmann in Econometrics, with a focus on empirical industrial organisation and structural econometrics.

The project investigates the empirical content of models of storable goods, such as laundry detergent, in the spirit of Hendel and Nevo's 2006 paper in Econometrica. The research aims to understand what can be learned about the demand for these types of goods from just standard panel data on household purchases. In particular, what restrictions must be placed on the purchasing and consumption process for to be able to identify the primitives of these models. Likewise, even if minimal restrictions are necessary, in practice which restrictions can be relaxed given the size and composition of standard datasets.

A key component of the project is the replication of the estimator used in Hendel and Nevo 2006, as well as a simulation study to validate their estimator.

Job purpose

The Research Assistant will play a central role in running a simulation study of Hendel and Nevo's estimator. In collaboration with and under the supervision of Dr Altmann, this will involve coding up a version of their estimation method, as well as writing code to allow the simulation of data from their model.

The role predominantly involves the coding of dynamic demand models, as well as Generalised Method of Moments estimators. Prior experience of both aspects is not necessary, but some familiarity or experience of coding dynamic choice problems (such as Bellman or Policy Iteration) and/or experience of coding maximum likelihood or method of moments estimators (such as multinomial logit) is required.

The position requires a high level of attention to detail, experience of statistical programming, and the ability to follow and refine systematic coding procedures. The Research Assistant will also contribute to ensuring the reliability and reproducibility of the simultation study through careful documentation and validation.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. Contribute towards the research project at all stages where relevant by applying agreed research principles, protocols and assisting in the planning and delivery of the programme of research.
2. Responsible, under the general guidance of Dr Altmann, for undertaking specific research activities relating to the programme of work.
3. Prepare reports of research results for public presentation through seminars and conferences. Contribute to writing papers summarising research findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals (of high international standing where appropriate) and other reports where required.
4. Develop, in collaboration with Dr Altmann, such new techniques as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of the research.
5. Collate evidence and undertake any appropriate analysis as requested by Dr Altmann.
7. Maintain appropriate code and data files, keeping accurate records and to ensure that these records are stored in a secure place, and to maintain confidentiality of all electronically stored personal data in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.
8. Undertake literature and database searches for the research project, and to be able to interpret and present the findings of the literature searches and advise the research teams appropriately regarding potential projects as required by the supervisors.
9. Work closely with colleagues e.g. Joint Research Management Office, Impact team, to provide assistance with, and ensure delivery of, the administrative aspects of the research activities as required by the needs of the research programme.
10. Keep up to date with subject related and appropriate academic/professional matters, in particular, developments in the specific subject area.
11. The duties of the post outlined above are not exhaustive, and the postholder will be expected to be co-operative and flexible, undertaking such administrative and other duties as may from time to time be reasonably expected of a member of research grade staff in a university.
12. These duties will be subject to review in line with the changing requirements of the School, and with the development needs of the postholder as identified through regular review/appraisal processes.

The above list of responsibilities is not exhaustive and the jobholder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of the role, as reasonably requested by their line manager.

This job description accurately reflects the duties and responsibilities of the role at the time the job description was written. These duties and responsibilities may change over time without significantly impacting on the character of the role, the overall level of responsibility, or its grade.

Depending on strategic or operational needs, the jobholder may in the future be required to work for another existing or new organisational unit and/or at a different site within Queen Mary. This may be on a temporary or indefinite basis and may involve a change in line management and / or regularly working at more than one site.

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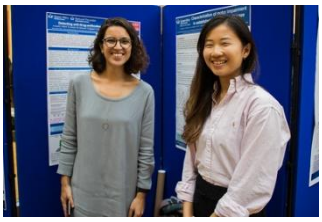
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Person specification

This table lists the essential and desirable requirements needed in order to perform the job effectively. Candidates will be shortlisted based on the extent to which they meet these requirements.

Essential: Requirements without which the job could not be done.
Desirable: Requirements that would enable the candidate to perform the job well.

Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
PhD (or close to completion) or research qualification/experience equivalent to PhD level in relevant subject area	☐	☒
Educated to postgraduate degree level in relevant field	☒	☐
Qualifications in economics	☒	☐
Experience/Knowledge		
Relevant knowledge and experience in statistical programming	☒	☐
Understanding of the research process and knowledge of appropriate research protocols	☒	☐
Experience in planning and delivery of own work allocation, to agreed timescales and quality standards	☒	☐
Experience of the research environment	☒	☐
Experience in report-writing, utilising appropriate styles/approaches to suit the audience	☐	☒
Experience in collating, maintaining and deploying datasets to produce, interpret and present data reports and analysis.	☐	☒
Skills/Abilities		
Effective report-writing, written and verbal communication skills. Able to adapt style/approach appropriately to suit the audience. Effective team working with a collaborative style.	☐	☒
Proven ability to maintain accurate and up to date records	☒	☐
Ability to organise and prioritise own work and organise research within the project timetable	☒	☐
Experience of using statistical programming languages, including Python, R, Julia, or Matlab	☒	☐
Practical coding experience with dynamic (discrete) choice problems or Generalised Method of Moments estimators	☒	☐
Other		
Willingness to work flexibly in order to achieve the demands of the research programme	☒	☐
Self-motivated and able to work without close supervision	☒	☐
*The ability to meet UK 'right to work' requirements.	☒	☐
Organised and methodical, and able to use own initiative where appropriate	☒	☐
Ability to maintain confidentiality when handling sensitive data	☐	☒





* The University has a legal responsibility to ensure that all potential employees can provide documentary evidence of their legal right to work in the UK prior to commencing employment. Candidates shortlisted for interview will be asked to bring their passport or another acceptable form of evidence to verify their right to work.

Visa Sponsorship

For those who do not have a right to work in the UK, the University is a UKVI licensed sponsor and is able to issue a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) to successful candidates who are offered skilled roles and meet the eligibility criteria. The CoS enables candidates to apply for a Skilled Worker visa. Further information on the Skilled Worker visa can be found via: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

Global Talent Visa Route

The Global Talent visa is an alternative route to sponsorship, directly applied for by the applicant. It is open to those wishing to work in the UK and who are a leader or potential leader in the fields of academia or research, arts and culture, and digital technology. Further information on the Global Talent Route can be found via: https://www.gov.uk/global-talent

For additional information on both visa sponsorship and non-sponsorship visa routes, please visit the UK Visas and Immigration website: https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

Academics and Researchers applying for Skilled Worker visas and Sponsored Researchers applying for Government Authorised Exchange visas who will be undertaking research activities, at PhD level or above, in the one of the ATAS listed subject areas will be required to obtain an ATAS certificate before they can apply for a visa to work in the UK.

Exemptions will exist for nationals from the EEA, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland and USA and those applying for Global Talent Visas. For further information on this, please visit the UK Visas and Immigration website: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-out-if-you-require-an-atas-certificate






EDI Initiatives

Queen Mary is committed to advancing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). We hold a Silver Institutional Athena SWAN award for advancing gender equality and champion a number of EDI initiatives across the University. We also offer a number of development programmes including Springboard, Aurora and B-MEntor. We are committed to championing EDI relating to all protected characteristics and other underrepresented and marginalised groups under the Equality Act 2010. We offer 'Introducing Inclusion' training for staff to give them an understanding of EDI related issues and provide them with the tools needed to champion inclusivity and embed best inclusive practice in all the work they do. EDI is built into everything we do at Queen Mary, and is championed through a well-established governance structure. If you are interested in learning more about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Queen Mary and how to get involved then please contact hr-equality@qmul.ac.uk.

Flexible Working

Queen Mary is proud of the diversity of its staff and students. We encourage inclusive practices in everything that we do, to ensure that everyone who works here feels valued and enabled to have a positive working experience. We are therefore open to considering applications from candidates wishing to work flexibly, balanced against business need. Our Flexible Working Policy includes examples of some of the flexible working arrangements that could be considered. If you feel that this is something that may be of benefit to you, please do ask.

Family Friendly Policies

Queen Mary recognises the commitments that staff have to their family and the importance of work-life balance. To support this Queen Mary offers a range of family friendly policies with enhanced rates of pay available for family-related leave, following a qualifying period of service.

Further Information

Details about us can be found at:

www.qmul.ac.uk/

Informal enquiries should be made to:

Name: Dr Sam Altmann

Tel:n/a

Email: s.altmann@qmul.ac.uk

General Information

Please note that we advertise our salaries on a range to indicate the trajectory of progression that can be made. Appointments are usually made at the start of the salary range. The Queen Mary salary structure includes automatic pay progression within the published grades, subject to service, funding and performance. In addition to this, there are performance related annual pay review schemes in place.