Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant in Finance

Centre: Financial Markets Group (FMG)   **Accountable to: Kim Fe Cramer, Amil Dasgupta, Cameron Peng, Dimitri Vayanos**

Job Summary

The successful applicant will be based at the London School of Economics (LSE) and will closely collaborate with Kim Fe Cramer, Cameron Peng and Dimitri Vayanos on ongoing and new projects. Projects involve theoretical and empirical work and range from financial intermediation and the real economy (Cramer) to behavioural finance (Peng) to capital markets with frictions (Vayanos). Projects on financial intermediation and the real economy include the role of banks and fintech in developing countries; and how financial systems affect climate change adaptation. Projects on behavioural finance include the formation of beliefs among retail and institutional investors and their impact on trading behaviour and asset prices; bargaining among individuals with heterogeneous preferences and beliefs; and the role of memory and other psychological forces in financial decision-making. Projects on frictional capital markets include the measurement of capital flows to mutual funds and asset management firms, and the flows' asset pricing effects; dynamic contracting in asset management in asset market equilibrium; and open economy macroeconomic models with imperfect capital markets.

The successful applicant will be involved in many aspects of the above projects, including literature reviews; data collection, cleaning and merging; statistical analysis; and numerical analysis and model calibration. Much of the empirical work will be done in Stata, so strong skills in that software are essential. Strong skills in Matlab and Python or Julia are also a big plus, as some empirical and numerical work will be done using these programmes. The successful applicant should also have strong skills in communicating the respective results in written form and should be familiar with Latex for that purpose.

The above tasks provide very good preparation for a PhD program. Beyond that, the successful applicant will have the opportunity to attend PhD classes in Finance and Economics at the LSE; interact with PhD students in both departments; interact with Finance faculty; and obtain advice and support from faculty about the PhD application process. Vayanos will be the applicant's line manager. Amil Dasgupta, the FMG Director, will also be providing advice and support.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Collecting data and managing databases.
- Interpreting and analysing patterns or trends in data.
- Writing code for the numerical computation of economic models.
- Conducting literature reviews
- Conveying complex conceptual ideas or complex information which may be highly detailed, technical or specialist.

- Assisting in the writing of reports
- Assisting in the writing of presentation slides
- Contributing to the organisation of conferences, seminars and workshops.
- Managing own research and administrative activities, with guidance.

All of the above are subject to the contractual obligations imposed by the external funding agency and with the agreement of the grant-holder, Principal Investigator and/or Head of Centre.

Flexibility
To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code
Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: click here

Environmental Sustainability
The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.