



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: Research Officer in Gauge and the Edge of the Universe (Philosophy of Physics 1)

Department/Centre/Institute: CPNSS

Accountable to: PI – Prof Bryan W Roberts

Job Summary

This post is part of the *Philosophical Foundations of the EDGE of the Universe* (EDGE) project (<https://edgeoftheuniverse.org>) led by Prof Bryan W Roberts (PI) and funded by the European Research Council (ERC). The purpose of the post is to carry out a fixed piece of research over the course of 3 years. The research is a study of the philosophical and conceptual foundations for an analysis of the edge of the universe, viewed as a boundary of the universe on the largest scale. The post holder will work as part of an exciting new collaboration of postdocs, PhD students, visitors, and a broader research network all led by the PI. It is based in the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences at the London School of Economics campus in London, UK. The post holder will enjoy a research and travel budget and all the career development and mentorship opportunities of an early career researcher at the LSE.

Duties and Responsibilities

Range of Research Activities and Responsibilities

- Conducting significant, innovative research as part of and in collaboration with the EDGE team and playing a central role in developing the gauge and boundary condition themes of the project in collaboration with the PI.
- Authoring and coauthoring research articles suitable for submission to leading philosophy, philosophy of science, or philosophy of physics journals on EDGE project research topics, including: boundary conditions, gauge, duality, and/or the application of these techniques to cosmology.
- Presenting EDGE project research results and promoting EDGE project research at national and international conferences and lecture opportunities.
- Fostering collaboration with external researchers in philosophy and in physics on EDGE project research topics.
- Contributing to the EDGE project's knowledge exchange, impact initiatives, and public engagement activities.

Activities relating to administration and management and/or School service include:

- Participating constructively in the life of the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences and the broader research environment at the London School of Economics.
- Participating in person in Department and CPNSS seminars that overlap EDGE research topics.
- Organising and co-organising conferences, workshops, and lab meetings.



To uphold the EDGE project's obligations to the European Research Council, this position implements the principles of the European Charter for Researchers ([Council Recommendation C/2023/1640](#), Annex II) and Code of Conduct for Recruitment ([Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC](#)).

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.

Free Speech

[The Code of Practice on Free Speech](#) outlines the responsibilities of LSE to protect and promote freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law for students, faculty, staff, and visiting speakers. It applies to all activities on LSE premises and those conducted in the name of the School or LSE Students' Union at any location. The Code confirms that LSE does not take formal positions on political or international issues but provides a platform for critical debate within the law, taking account of the various legislative requirements and the context provided by policies and procedures. Procedures are set out in the Code on how events must be arranged and conducted.