

RECRUITMENT PACK

This document includes the following information:

- Job Description
- Person Specification
- Additional information

Making an application:

Please complete the short on-line application form and attach the following 5 documents. Shortlisting is undertaken by a panel after the closing date on the basis of information provided and failure to upload the requested documents will result in an application being rejected.

- Please include a covering letter setting out how you meet the requirements of the role as set out in the person specification.
- Include a full curriculum vitae (CV) including any publications. You should specify your 4 most significant papers published within the past 5 years (or an equivalent number appropriate to being an early career researcher). Applicants from within the UK should indicate which publications have been submitted to the REF 2014 and any assessment of the rating for each piece of work; For more information about the REF visit www.ref.ac.uk
- Include a research statement of no more than two sides of A4 providing details of your research plans for the next three years. This should include details of books, chapters or papers in progress together with planned publication dates. For journal articles please provide details of target journals and planned submission dates. If you have papers that are currently under review please detail the stage these have reached and the timescale you expect those papers to be accepted for publication. If you have papers that have been accepted for publication but not yet published please provide the date the paper was accepted for publication.
- For Grade 9-11 posts, please include a document of no more than two sides of A4 setting out your three year plan for generating external funding to support your research.
- For posts with a teaching or graduate supervision component, please include an education statement of no more than two sides of A4 setting out your track record in terms of contribution to pedagogical developments and, where appropriate, the development of professional practice. You should also include a reflective statement on your approach to research-led education and how it draws on pedagogical research. Also indicate how you ensure your continuing professional development as an excellent teacher in higher education.

The University of Essex is proud to be part of the Disability Confident scheme and is committed to supporting diversity and equality, representative of our inclusive community. As part of our commitment to this scheme any candidate who has a disability and meets all the essential criteria for the role will be offered an interview. We also work in partnership with national disability organisation DisabledGo who provide detailed online access guides to many of our campus buildings and facilities which you may find useful.

Please note: We are only accepting on-line applications for this post. However, if you have a disability that makes it difficult for you to provide us with information in this way, please contact the Resourcing Team (01206-874588/873521) for help.

Closing Date: 12 June 2017

Interviews are planned for: 4 July 2017



JOB DESCRIPTION – Job ref REQ00568

Job Title and Grade:	Professor (Grade 11) / Reader (Grade 10) and co-Director of the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC)
Contract:	Permanent, full-time
Hours:	A notional minimum of 36 hours per week
Salary:	Professor: On the professorial salary scale and commensurate with skills and experience; Reader: £49,772 - £55,999 per annum
Department/Section:	Institute for Social & Economic Research (ISER)
Responsible to:	The Director of ISER
Responsible for:	By negotiation, but could be up to 3 Senior Research Officers (Grade 8) or Research Fellows (Grade 9)
Purpose of job:	To build on MiSoC's successful record of the past two decades, to provide research leadership and help shape a new research agenda, and to help lead MiSoC beyond 2019.

Role Description

The Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Essex is one of the world's leading quantitative social science research institutes, internationally recognised as a centre of excellence and expertise in the analysis of longitudinal data, and for its research across a range of social science disciplines. ISER is home to the ESRC-funded Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC), one of the longest-running ESRC-funded investments in the UK. The latest programme for MiSoC, described below, is funded until September 2019, and **we now seek a senior researcher who can make a substantial contribution to securing MiSoC's future beyond 2019**, as well as providing research leadership and fund-raising expertise within ISER. **We welcome applications from any disciplinary background relevant to ISER's research portfolio**, although the balance of the current co-Directors of MiSoC means we are especially keen to receive applications from quantitative researchers working in sociology, demography, social policy, political science, psychology, or other related disciplines. **ISER is a research department, and there are no undergraduate teaching duties associated with this post** (although there are opportunities to contribute to post-graduate teaching degrees).

The MiSoC research centre (<https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/misoc/>) has enjoyed continuous ESRC funding from its inception in 1989. Its current programme, from 2014 to 2019, is directed by Professor Mike Brewer, with co-Directors Professors Sonia Bhalotra, Paul Clarke, Emilia Del Bono, Adeline Delavande, Steve Pudney (Sheffield) and David Voas (UCL). Over the years, MiSoC has studied the micro-social causes and consequences of macro-social change through a wide-ranging and multi-disciplinary research agenda; a key unifying theme is the use of advanced quantitative methods and the analysis of longitudinal micro-data (i.e. individual-level data). MiSoC's research agenda has a UK focus, with international and comparative components. Existing MiSoC researchers have backgrounds in Economics, Sociology, Social Policy, Demography, Political Science, Social Statistics and Epidemiology, but there is no requirement that candidates should undertake inter-disciplinary work. MiSoC has an excellent record in communicating its research to stakeholders outside academia, and for achieving policy impact at the highest levels: MiSoC research provided the basis for 4 Impact Case Studies submitted by the University of Essex to the 2014 Research Excellence

Framework (REF; see <http://www.ref.ac.uk/>) exercise, with 3 others coming from other parts of MiSoC's host department, ISER. MiSoC has an active Advisory Board (<https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/misoc/about/advisory-board>), and our engagement with policy-makers is aided by three policy-advisory groups, covering the labour market and living standards, education and the family, and ethnic minorities and migrants. MiSoC has dedicated administrative support, and a professional communications, website and events team.

The successful candidate will have the ambition and ability to build on MiSoC's successful record of the past two decades, to provide research leadership and help shape a new research agenda beyond 2019. As described below, MiSoC's success in raising substantial amounts of co-funding means that it effectively acts as the umbrella for almost all substantive research undertaken within ISER, and that MiSoC's activities will involve the majority of researchers at ISER. **The successful candidate will join the current MiSoC programme as a co-Director, with the expectation of being a co-Investigator of the next MiSoC programme, the scope and content of which is currently open.** We recognize that the candidate's research interests might be not entirely aligned with the focus of the current MiSoC programme. This would not be considered a disadvantage: the main task is to enrich the research leadership within ISER so as to help secure MiSoC's future beyond 2019. **We are also open to considering candidates willing to act as the Principal Investigator of MiSoC beyond 2019, and candidates should make clear in their application whether this would be of interest to them.**

Co-funding is a key part of MiSoC's strategy: it substantially expands the reach of the MiSoC Centre, and assists with Knowledge Exchange and Impact. Research funding is also vital for the continuing strength of ISER, as it forms the majority of the department's income. MiSoC has an extremely good record of securing co-funding – during the previous 5 year programme, each £1 of the MiSoC grant was matched by £2.40 of additional research funding – and **the successful candidate will be expected to secure external funding to support their research, from a range of possible sources**, and will need to demonstrate their commitment to and experience in leading teams of researchers in raising funding to support their research.

The successful candidate will have an international reputation in their field of research, with a distinguished publication record, and **will be expected to make a strong contribution to the next Research Excellence Framework exercise** in their chosen unit of assessment (unless the rules change significantly from the REF2014, it is likely that staff from ISER will be entered for the next REF in the Units of Assessment of Economics, Sociology, Politics and International Relations, and Public Health). There are no undergraduate teaching duties associated with this post, but the successful candidate will be expected to supervise research students, and to contribute to teaching occasional postgraduate level courses. Alongside the role in MiSoC, the successful candidate will join ISER's senior group of 11 professorial staff and 1 Reader, and will provide research leadership within ISER, consolidating and extending ISER's international reputation in quantitative analysis of social science research issues within a vibrant multi-disciplinary research environment. Please see the ISER website for further details about MiSoC, and the other research programmes at ISER (<https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/>).

Candidates should also note that the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Essex has recently reaffirmed the University's commitment to being a cosmopolitan university committed to inclusivity and to internationalism. With the triggering of Article 50, it is clear that the context in which the University pursues its mission for excellence in education and research will be different, but our values remain unchanged. We remain a cosmopolitan university committed to inclusivity and to internationalism and we are proud to be a university where you can find the world in one place.

Duties of the Posts:

1. To make a substantial contribution to securing MiSoC's future beyond 2019, and to act as co-Director or Director.
2. To undertake a programme of research and publication that consolidates and extends MiSoC's (and ISER's) international reputation in the quantitative analysis of social science research issues.
3. To publish research in high quality, peer-reviewed, journals and make a strong contribution to the next Research Excellence Framework exercise.
4. To secure external funding to support their research, from a range of possible sources, including the UK's research councils, charitable foundations and government agencies.
5. To contribute to MiSoC's impact strategy, engaging with policy-makers and disseminating research to users outside academia.
6. To provide research leadership within ISER.
7. To supervise research students, and to teach occasional graduate and training courses.
8. To maintain and develop links with other departments in the University of Essex and to establish and develop links with other similar world-class institutions.
9. To undertake senior management duties as appropriate to their grade.
10. Any other such duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Director of ISER or his/her nominee.

These duties are a guide to the work that the post holder will initially be required to undertake. They may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances.

It should be noted that there is a contractual requirement for some members of academic staff to undertake research duties. If this requirement applies to a post it will be clearly stated in the job description, which forms part of the contract of employment.

Terms of Appointment

For a full description of the terms of appointment for this post please visit:

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/hr/current-staff/terms.aspx#>

ISER is ISO27001:2013 certified. All ISER employees have a responsibility to adhere to the Institute's information security policies and procedures. This post may hold specific duties with regards to information security and may therefore be subject to a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) check, including verification of identity; nationality and immigration status; employment history (past 3 years) and criminal record.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

JOB TITLE: Professor (Grade 11) / Reader (Grade 10) and co-Director of the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC)

Qualifications /Training

	Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A PhD, or equivalent research experience, in a relevant social science discipline 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Experience/Knowledge

	Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A distinguished publication record and evidence of a strong personal contribution to the next Research Excellence Framework at a minimum 3* level 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence of successful leadership of research projects as PI 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An interest in applying research to policy issues 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well connected within UK and international networks 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience in the use of sample survey data 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience in the analysis of longitudinal and panel data 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience of working in sociology, demography, social policy, political science, psychology, or other related disciplines 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
In addition, at Professorial level	Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence of successful academic leadership and participation in large-scale research projects as PI 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A commitment to, and sustained performance in, winning external research funding 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Skills/Abilities

	Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ambition and ability to build on MiSoC's successful record of the past two decades, to provide research leadership and help shape a new research agenda, and to help lead MiSoC beyond 2019 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A substantial established professional reputation of international standing related to the applicant's main area of academic activity 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ability to work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary environment 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective leadership and management skills 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to lead a team, providing clear direction and support to junior colleagues and working with others to achieve common goals 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In addition, at Professorial level	Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A research reputation of international standing and recognition as an emerging authority within their research specialisation 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Other

	Essential	Desirable
▪ Ability to meet the requirements of UK 'right to work' legislation*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Can fulfil the staff vetting requirements for Government contracts (see general information for more details)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* The University has a responsibility under the Asylum, Immigration and Nationality Act 2006 to ensure that all employees are eligible to work in the UK. Prior to commencing employment, the successful candidate will be asked to provide documentary evidence to this effect. The University may be able to offer Tier 2 Sponsorship for this role. For further information about UK immigration requirements please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>

Additional Information

The Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER)

ISER, founded over 25 years ago, is a research department in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Essex. It has a worldwide reputation as a multidisciplinary centre of quantitative social science research and as a producer of household panel data of the highest quality (*'Understanding Society'* the UK Household Longitudinal Study and its predecessor the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)). ISER is also home to the long-running ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC) and EUROMOD, the tax-benefit micro-simulation model for the European Union. ISER's research excellence is demonstrated by its outstanding publication record and substantial research funding. ISER employs scholars of international prominence publishing in the top journals in their fields.

An excellent record of high-quality research

ISER's research currently addresses topics including: income distribution and poverty; employment and self-employment dynamics; the family and intergenerational transmission processes; health and ageing across the lifecourse; social behaviour, beliefs and values; education, labour markets, and skill formation; social policy; social stratification and disadvantage; risky behaviour; ethnicity and migration; neighbourhood influences on individual outcomes; cross-national comparative research; the measurement and use of data on individuals' expectations; analysis methods; and survey methodology.

ISER has a strong publication record, with regular contributions to top-five journals in Economics and to leading journals in Sociology such as *European Sociological Review* and *American Journal of Sociology*. We have strong links with the University's departments of Economics and Sociology, both of which are recognised as being among the strongest in the country. ISER contributes to these two Units of Assessment in the REF, and in future is likely to support two more. ISER has its own seminar series and also runs joint seminars with Economics and Sociology and for health researchers across the University. It operates an active Working Paper Series providing an outlet for papers prior to publication: <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/publications>.

Substantial research funding

ISER is currently one of the largest single recipients of research and resource funding from the ESRC, with quinquennial core funding currently supporting our two primary activities: the Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC) for substantive research, and the UK Household Longitudinal Study. With its unique combination of research and resource functions, and a core focus on the use of advanced quantitative techniques applied to micro-data usually on individuals, families or households, ISER offers quantitative social scientists an ideal research environment.

The MiSoC research centre (<https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/misoc/>) has enjoyed continuous ESRC funding from its inception in 1989. The 2014-2019 research programme, "Understanding individual and family behaviours in a new era of uncertainty and change", is organised in three main strands:

- Vulnerability, social insurance, and the dynamics of family finances, employment and health;
- New members of society: the formation of capabilities in children and young adults, and social mobility and integration amongst immigrants;
- Values, preferences and expectations.

A cross-cutting strand will focus on advancing statistical methods to improve our ability to obtain robust empirical evidence from data analyses with statistical and econometric methods. It is directed

by Professor Mike Brewer, with co-Directors of Professors Sonia Bhalotra, Paul Clarke, Emilia Del Bono, Adeline Delavande, Steve Pudney and David Voas.

'*Understanding Society*' <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/> is a flagship ESRC initiative, which started with a sample of 40,000 households across the four countries of the UK and includes the former BHPS sample. The BHPS is one of the most heavily used social science data sets in the UK, and recognized as one of the world's highest quality longitudinal surveys. Unique features of *Understanding Society* are the *Innovation Panel* which is reserved for experimentation, immigrant and ethnic minority boost samples and the collection of objective health measures including biomarkers, direct physical measures and genetic data. The Study is underpinned by survey methodological research which is world leading. There is an extensive programme of data linkage to a wide range of administrative records. The Study also has its own Policy Unit which works directly with government departments to undertake research and share findings.

The EUROMOD micro-simulation project (<https://www.euromod.ac.uk/>), funded by the European Union, provides a major resource for European comparative tax-benefit policy research. As well as calculating the effects of actual policies it is also used to evaluate the effects of tax-benefit policy reforms and other changes on poverty, inequality, incentives and government budgets. EUROMOD is a unique resource for cross-national research, designed to produce results that are comparable across countries and meaningful when aggregated to the EU level.

In addition to our substantial funding from the ESRC, ISER has a strong track record of success in securing funding from other sources including the European Union, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Leverhulme Trust, the Nuffield Foundation, government departments such as the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Education, and the Home Office, and organisations such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Low Pay Commission, the Financial Services Authority, and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Research with impact

ISER has a very good record at communicating and disseminating its research, and our key audiences include policy-makers, government departments, opinion formers, data providers, the third and private sectors, national and international organisations, the media and funding bodies. Its research also has impact at the highest level (research from ISER underpinned 7 Impact Case studies submitted to the 2014 REF, for example). This is all achieved through a professional communications and web team, the Understanding Society Policy Unit, and activities that are part of the MiSoC and EUROMOD research programmes, working alongside University and Faculty staff.

A top research environment in a leading university

ISER is a flagship social science department within the University of Essex, internationally recognised as a centre of excellence and expertise in the analysis of longitudinal data and providing a stimulating and innovative research environment. The University of Essex is one of the leading universities in Europe for social science research: the results of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) put it in the top 5 in the UK for social science, and the University is ranked 7th in the UK for economics. ISER makes a major contribution to the University's success. The University also appeared in the top 100 of The Times's World Social Science University Rankings ([World University Rankings in the Social Sciences](#)).

ISER contributes to three masters degrees run jointly with the departments of Economics and Sociology. Each has ESRC '1+3' recognition status.

ISER occupies a modern purpose-built building on the University campus. The building provides spacious office accommodation for all ISER staff and PhD students, meeting and seminar rooms, a common room, and a specialist research library. There are excellent IT facilities in ISER and throughout the university. The University's Albert Sloman Library is widely acknowledged to have

excellent holdings in the social sciences. ISER's two weekly multidisciplinary seminar series are regularly attended by some 30-40 researchers from ISER and other departments, and researchers from ISER also regularly engage in departmental seminars in other departments in the Faculty.

ISER has about 80 staff in total, including researchers from several disciplines (mainly economics, sociology, health sciences and survey methods), survey specialists, and computing and support staff. There are over 30 part- and full-time PhD students and ISER hosts a large number of visitors from around the world. Forty external Research Associates are actively engaged in collaborative research with ISER staff.

The ISER senior management team consists of the ISER Director (Nick Buck), the Director of MiSoC (Mike Brewer), the Research Director (Adeline Delavande), the Director of EUROMOD (Holly Sutherland) and the Director of Understanding Society (Michaela Benzeval).

Strategic planning and management are organised by senior staff. There are six Research Groups with a strategic role of promoting collaboration in our main areas of research interest: Work; Family and education; Policy, incomes and welfare; Ethnicity and migration; Health; and Methods. These groups also have a strategic role in planning research funding initiatives.

Further information about ISER, its staff, and its activities, is available from our website: <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk>. Information about the University of Essex is available from <http://www.essex.ac.uk>.

People Supporting Strategy

Please find a link to the People Supporting Strategy.

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/hr/policies/docs/people-oct15.pdf>

General information

Informal enquiries about the post and the work involved are encouraged: potential applicants should contact the Director of MiSoC, Mike Brewer (mbrewer@essex.ac.uk), or any of the other co-Directors of the MiSoC Centre, or the Director of ISER, Nick Buck (nhb@essex.ac.uk) or the PVC for Research, Heather Laurie (laurh@essex.ac.uk). However, applications for the post must be made online.

Removal and Relocation

A Removal and Relocation package is available.

Staff Vetting Procedures for Government Contracts

The University of Essex has Government contracts, some of which require it to access UK government systems, information or data. We have a duty to protect these assets and this obligation extends to our employees.

Due to the nature of the work in the Institute for Social and Economic Research, some job roles require a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) check before appointment is confirmed. Applicants who are offered employment to qualifying roles will be subject to a vetting procedure to enable the University to verify the following for the successful candidate:

- Identity
- Employment history (for a minimum of the past 3 years)
- Nationality and immigration status
- Criminal Record (unspent convictions only)

Information Security

Information is the lifeblood of ISER. All ISER staff and students are responsible for its security to the organisations and individuals who provide it. ISER is ISO27001:2013 certified and all ISER staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to the Institute's information security policies and procedures.

Benefits

Our staff and students are members of the University for life. We believe a person's potential is not simply defined by grades or backgrounds, but by a willingness to question, to collaborate and to push at the edges of knowledge and their own potential.

As an employer we offer a range of benefits and a commitment to career development and equal opportunities in an environment that both reflects and creates a rich interaction of people, disciplines and ideas.

- Pension scheme
- Generous holiday entitlement
- Competitive salaries
- Training and development Family Friendly policies
- On campus childcare facilities, for more information visit www.wivenhoeparkdaynursery.co.uk
- Childcare vouchers
- Relocation package for qualifying staff
- Interest free season ticket loan
- Range of optional salary exchange tax benefits (pension, childcare and bicycle schemes)

No smoking policy

The University has a no smoking policy.

This document is produced by:

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