



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Head of Undergraduate and PGCE Office

Faculty of Education

Closing Date: **29 June 2025**
Job Reference: **JR46211**



Head of Undergraduate and PGCE Office

Salary:

£35,116 - £45,413 pro rata

Contract:

Permanent

Location:

Cambridge

Faculty / Department:

Education

Responsible to:

Thury Agustsdottir

Working Pattern:

Full Time

The University of Cambridge has a Hybrid Working Policy that aims to enable as many staff as possible to work in a hybrid way if they so wish, whilst recognising that some roles will include tasks that can only be performed on University premises.

The Undergraduate and PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate of Education) office is responsible for the administration of the PGCE and the Tripos, and for admissions into the PGCE, including all aspects of safeguarding and safer recruitment and other statutory requirements.

The role holder directly manages a team of eight administrative staff and works closely on a daily basis with the Director of Learning and Teaching and with academic course managers who are responsible for the delivery of the courses. The PGCE enrolls approximately 250 students each year which represents approximately one third of the Faculty's total enrolled students each year.

It operates in partnership with schools across East Anglia, where students engage in initial teacher education professional placements, and is subject to external regulation by the DfE and to inspection by Ofsted. The Tripos enrolls approximately 45 students per year. Teaching on the Tripos takes place in the Faculty and in colleges, in liaison with college Directors of Studies.

Purpose of the role

The post reports to the Business and Operations Manager. The overall purpose of the post is to ensure an efficient and effective administrative and admissions service to Faculty staff, students and partnership schools, to ensure the smooth running of the Undergraduate and PGCE courses, and to support the Director of Learning and Teaching, the Business and Operations Manager and the Head of Faculty in their work.

Key responsibilities

Head of Undergraduate and PGCE Office responsibilities, will include but are not limited to:

- Responsible for, in collaboration with the Director of Teaching and Learning and the course managers, the administrative processes underpinning all of the Faculty's Undergraduate and PGCE learning, teaching, examining, outreach / WP activities. This includes, but is not limited to, registration of students at the start of the academic year, the administration of assessment points throughout the year, the administration of examination, including adjusted examination arrangements and examination of professional practice, the appointment of examiners and the receipt of their reports, professional placements, including arrangements and liaison with partnership schools throughout the year.



Key responsibilities continued:

- The role holder works closely with the University's Education Quality & Policy Office (EQPO), the School's learning and teaching team and with the Student Registry to enable the role holder to provide advice and guidance on, for example, procedures and requirements for programme changes or complex matters regarding examination issues or adjustments. The role holder will actively contribute to the Faculty's submission for learning and teaching reviews, such as the University's Education Monitoring and Review process, and on any other programme quality assurance matters.
- The role holder will also contribute to the preparations for Ofsted inspections, including the presentation of documentation and making arrangements for inspection visits to the Faculty.
- The role holder supports relevant team members with student complaints matters and advises on more complex student complaints across the programmes. The role holder will ensure an understanding of University student complaints procedures and policies in order to advise staff and students as needed and act as main point of liaison with the University's Office of Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals.
- Ensure that systems are fit for purpose, and work with the Faculty IT team and the University Information Services team to contribute to the development of systems, e.g. CamSIS, Sharepoint and Moodle etc.
- Manage the administrators in the Undergraduate and PGCE office, including allocating work, explaining new processes and procedures, monitoring performance and progress, undertaking formal staff reviews, identifying and recommending necessary training, interviewing new applicants for the role, acting as first contact for staff grievances and disciplinary matters, resolving minor grievances and referring serious cases to the Business and Operations Manager as required. For new members of the team, prepare induction schedules and activities, and manage their probation processes.
- Manage the admissions process for PGCE, including safer recruitment checks on suitability, and Occupational Health checks on fitness to train to teach, in line with appropriate statutory requirements and relevant policies and practices of the Faculty and University, liaising with the University's Occupational Health Service as appropriate.
- Manage the student records, ensuring compliance with University and national requirements for recording and reporting data, for example the annual HESA return, and a range of internal reports to the Faculty and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Act as Disability Liaison Officer for UG and PGCE students.
- Contribute to the preparation and coordination of marketing, advertising and publicity materials, for example prospectuses, web pages and course information on national course databases.

Key responsibilities continued:

- Ensure that administrative processes are fit for purpose; this includes being responsive to changes to regulations and courses at national level as they occur. Ensure that course regulations are fit for purpose and that their publication is timely and appropriate. Create and implement new procedures/processes and systems as necessary; ensure that these are followed by staff; maintain and adapt filing system compliant with GPDR.
- Act as Designated Safeguarding Officer for the Tripos and PGCE, as defined in the Faculty's Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policy. Support the Designated Safeguarding Lead in ensuring all staff and students understand their responsibilities regarding safeguarding and safer recruitment. Ensure robust systems are in place for statutory checks, training, recruitment, and disclosures for all staff and students working with schools, or in relation to Faculty events.
- As Secretary, the role holder schedules meetings and prepares and collates agendas and papers for meetings, in liaison with the Director of Learning and Teaching and/or Programme/Course Directors, produces minutes in a timely manner, is responsible for ensuring follow-up actions are dealt with promptly and ensures that matters are referred appropriately to the Faculty Board;
- Act as Secretary to the Fitness to Practise Committee for the PGCE programme, as defined in the University's Fitness to Practise procedures.
- Represent the Undergraduate and PGCE office at the Senior Management Team and other meetings as needed.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Education		
Degree level/Level 6 vocational qualifications or equivalent level of practical experience	✓	
Experience		
Experience in a senior administrative role	✓	
Experience of managing and supervising staff	✓	
Experience of overseeing teaching and student administration		✓
Experience in working in HE		✓
Knowledge of initial teacher education		✓
Familiarity with preparations for reviews or quality assessments		✓
Skills		
Demonstrate advanced knowledge of administration involving a critical understanding of relevant theory and/or principles	✓	
Excellent organisational skills with the ability to prioritise effectively own workload and that of others	✓	
Excellent people management, communication & interpersonal skills	✓	
Excellent IT skills and experienced user of Microsoft Office	✓	
Proactive, flexible approach to role, including with problem solving and planning	✓	
Ability to work flexibly and to manage effectively parallel work streams and competing deadlines	✓	
Ability to think independently and to take initiative	✓	
Excellent written and oral communication skills with an ability to communicate at all levels across a wide variety	✓	
Ability to deal effectively with staff, students and external parties at times under pressure	✓	
Experience of leading and managing change.		✓

The Faculty of Education



Background

The Faculty of Education is a member of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) at the University of Cambridge. It is one of the largest groups of educational researchers and teacher educators in the country. Currently, the Faculty has an academic staff of 21 Professors and over 30 Assistant and Associate Professors, and over 90 research and other teaching staff. There are approximately 70 professional services staff in support of teaching, research, outreach projects, finance, library, IT, audio-visual, buildings, HR, finance and communications.

The wide range of academic expertise covers all stages of formal education from the early years to the primary and secondary stages of schooling. We are therefore well placed to make major contributions both to the advancement of knowledge and practice about issues of contemporary significance and to the development of individuals and educational institutions.

The Faculty occupies modern, purpose-built accommodation on a single site at Hills Road. It offers excellent facilities to support teaching and research, including a library service offering one of the best education collections in the UK, an extensive Learning Resource Centre, teaching rooms, offices and social facilities.

Terms of Appointment

Tenure and probation

Appointment will be made on a permanent basis. Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a probationary period which will be set dependant on the length of tenure.

Hours of Work/ Working Pattern

The hours of work for the position are full-time, working Monday – Friday.

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a hybrid pension scheme. For further information please visit: www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/

Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 41 days inclusive of public holidays. For new part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

Health declaration Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post, you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

References

Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment.

Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact, the Department Administrator, who is responsible for recruitment to this position.

The University

The University of Cambridge is consistently ranked one of the best universities in the world, achieving academic excellence through its Faculties, Departments and other Institutions, together with the 31 Colleges.

The University is renowned for its record of discovery and innovation. It is one of the great institutions, with a regional, national and global reach, attracting the very best and brightest minds. Our staff and students shape the world around us for the better: we attract and partner with like-minded people.

Whether contributing to the development of new anti-cancer drugs, adding to the understanding of how black holes are formed, revolutionising the study of ancient settlements, convening academic expertise to offer solutions to the climate crisis, or analysing public attitudes towards democracy around the world, the University's research is remarkable in its breadth, quality and impact. The University also sits at the heart of Europe's largest technology cluster and has catalysed more than 1,500 high-tech companies. And yet what inspires our 24,000 students and 13,000 staff is not what has already been achieved, but what is possible in the future.

The education and experience of our students, based on a partnership between the University's academic Departments and Faculties and the 31 Colleges, is second to none. Every student is a member of one of the Colleges, each a community of students, academics and staff drawn from across the University's comprehensive range of subject areas.



The University is a self-governing community, with a system for decision-making that provides a high degree of accountability and transparency to its members. Each Department and Faculty is part of one of six academic Schools, but each of them, and each individual academic, has a great deal of autonomy. The Colleges are independent and self-governing, working in a symbiotic relationship with the University.

The University has a number of Institutions that are independent of any Faculty or Department and are not part of the academic Schools. These include the Institute of Continuing Education (which provides high-quality education to adults throughout their lives), the Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle's Yard (an historic house and gallery that holds important collections of modern art) and the University Library. In addition to their diverse contributions to University and public life, these non-School Institutions are also important centres of teaching and research.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment provides academic publishing, examinations and learning materials worldwide, supporting the dissemination of research, academic development at school and in higher education, and international student mobility. Legally, the Press & Assessment is a department of the University. It provides very important funds to invest in the academic purposes of the University.

The University has made truly remarkable contributions to the sum of human understanding, with breakthrough ideas and discoveries that have changed the way we understand ourselves, our planet, and the universe around us. Yet the global and national contexts in which it operates are fast-changing and increasingly filled with uncertainty. In a world that is becoming - politically, economically, socially, and technologically – ever more interconnected but even less equal, the University's mission – “to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence” – has never been more relevant.



About Us

The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.

The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit undergraduate students, provide student accommodation and pastoral support and deliver small group teaching for undergraduates.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

“Through its outstanding education, research and innovation, the University of Cambridge has made – and continues to make – a lasting contribution to human knowledge and is flourishing. By working at the University of Cambridge, you will be joining a vibrant community of students, scholars and professional services staff committed to supporting and enhancing the University's mission to contribute to society.”

*Professor Deborah Prentice,
Vice Chancellor 2023*



Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 24,000 students and over 13,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

The University offers a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with their continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and continues to redevelop its historic city centre sites demonstrating a clear determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity groups, including the Women's Staff Network, Race Equality Network and LGBT+ Staff Network. More details are available here:

<http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with a framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's silver Athena swan award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting gender equality.

Living in Cambridge

Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances at the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the Visit Cambridge website.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45-minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Relocation Support

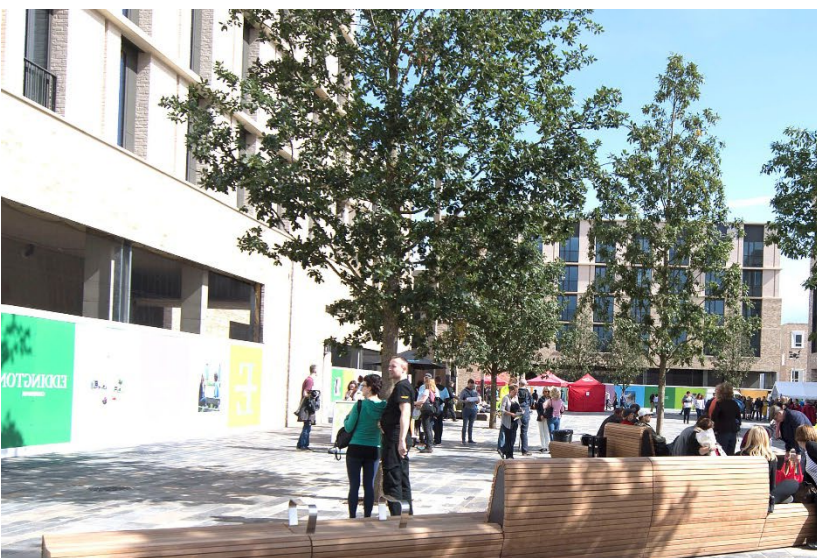
The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit

<https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/RelocationService/>. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the costs of relocating to Cambridge.

Accommodation Service

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit:

<https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>



What Cambridge can offer

We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a [career break scheme](#) for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.



Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings.

CAMbens employee benefits

The University offers employees a wide range of competitive benefits, known as CAMbens. CAMbens offers something for everyone across a range of categories, including:

- Financial Benefits, including shopping discounts (both local and national) and a Payroll Giving scheme;
- Relocation and Accommodation Benefits, including relocation assistance and interest-free Rental Deposit Loans;
- Travel Benefits, including Cycle to Work, discounts on train season tickets and interest-free Travel to Work loans;
- Family Friendly and Lifestyle Benefits, including support with childcare and family friendly policies;
- Health and Wellbeing Benefits, including a University Staff Counselling Service, discounts at the University Sports Centre, and other local gyms, and healthcare schemes.



What Cambridge can offer

Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 26 weeks' full pay, and paid emergency leave for parents and carers.

Other family-friendly support includes:

Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high-quality holiday Playscheme are available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here:

<https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group (<https://www.nvs.admin.cam.ac.uk/>) is an organisation within the University that welcomes the partners and families of visiting scholars and new members of the University. Run by volunteers, the group offers opportunities to visit interesting Cambridge venues, learn about the community, take part in social events and gain local knowledge while developing a strong support network of both residents and other newcomers.

Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. The University delivers The Festival of Wellbeing annually, which is a programme of stimulating talks and activities, which aim to promote wellbeing and good mental and physical health. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Festival](#), which is a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities as well as supporting their professional and career development on an ongoing basis. Our Personal and Professional Development (PPD) team provide development opportunities for all University employees, including face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. All employees also have unlimited access to LinkedIn Learning to support their development. Both new and existing employees can undertake funded Apprenticeships, which lead to a range of vocational and professional qualifications. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. A range of University training providers also offer specialist learning and development in their own areas e.g. teaching and learning, digital literacy, finance, health and wellbeing, safety.



How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page www.jobs.cam.ac.uk by clicking “Apply online” in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Conversations about flexible working are encouraged at the University of Cambridge. Please feel free to discuss flexibility prior to applying (using the contact information below) or at interview if your application is successful.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to: Thury Agustsdottir via BOM@educ.cam.ac.uk

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact the Faculty of Education HR via hr@educ.cam.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is: **29 June 2025**

The interview date for the role is: **11 July 2025**

