



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Coordinator

(Mastercard Foundation Collaborative & Scholars
Program)

Cross School Initiatives Hub

Academic Division

Closing Date: Sunday 10 August 2025

Job Reference: XN46548



Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Coordinator

Salary:

£35,116 - £45,413

Contract:

Permanent but funding limited (until 31st July 2030.)

Location:

Cambridge

Faculty / Department:

CSIH/Academic Division

Responsible to:

Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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.

Purpose of the role

The Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Coordinator will work with the Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship around the operational delivery and content curation of the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF 2.0) and the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SI&E) activities of the Program.

The role will also be responsible for the operational delivery of all aspects of content curation, training delivery, stakeholder liaison, event management and programme coordination. They will be responsible for the design and implementation of the administrative systems and processes to ensure successful delivery of these diverse activities, working closely with a key Africa-based implementation partners and with counterpart role holders in the three Climate Collaborative partners on the African continent.

The Social Ventures activities are to be piloted during 2025 and to expand (in scope and volume) in the subsequent years of the programme (2026-2030), alongside the already running recurrent annual cycle of the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund training, competition and award for successful entrants who will deliver their projects over two years.

As such, this is a dual role, with responsibility for activities across both the Scholars Program and Climate Collaborative parts of the overall programme, requiring the role holder to work dynamically to respond to the evolving schedule of these varied aspects. The success of these activities will require the role holder to manage different complex projects in parallel, with the need for a high attention to detail and ability to balance priorities.

The role holder will utilise knowledge and experience of the landscape of African entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as excellent communication, planning and organisational skills to implement the varied SI&E programme offerings and activities until the current programme end-date of 31 July 2030.



Key responsibilities

1. Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF 2.0)

Acts as first point of contact for the Mastercard Foundation Scholars' Program Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF 2.0), communicating with applicants and responding to enquiries on the application process and awards. Works with the Communications Coordinator to prepare materials for the launch and promotion of programme activities.

Designs the structure and format of Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF 2.0) programme activities, working with key Cambridge collaborators (such as the Centre for Social Innovation and King's College Entrepreneurship Lab) to curate different sources of content to inform the training and development opportunities offered to scholars.

Delivers online and in-person speaker and training networking sessions on Africa-focussed innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E) and on the Cambridge I&E ecosystem involving Mastercard Foundation Scholars, Africa-based partners, the wider Cambridge community, and external audiences – in coordination with the Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Incorporate feedback in the iterative improvement of these activities – in coordination with the Monitoring and Evaluation Lead.

Shares best practice and contextual understanding of Africa-based innovation and entrepreneurship with other University initiatives, based on these activities – in coordination with the Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Identifies the mentors and judging panel for the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF 2.0), managing all paperwork and processes for the engagement in coordination with the Climate Collaborative Administration Lead.

Manages the process of the award of funds., create award letters, develop project timeline, reporting system and project follow up mechanism. Work with the Finance Coordinator to facilitate payments in line with University procedures.

Ensures that funded projects are monitored and evaluated in line with reporting requirements, advising awardees on enquiries and further opportunities. – in coordination with the Finance Lead.

Coordinates all necessary event arrangements such as speaker invitations, booking rooms, organising catering, preparing and circulating agendas.

Prepare annual report on the progress of SEF and the outcome/wellbeing of ventures that have been supported.

2. Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SI&E)

Identifies and builds partnerships with key Africa-based partners (innovation ecosystem coordinators, private sector, funders, advisors/mentors with sector-specific expertise) – in coordination with the Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Africa-based venture-builder and the Africa-based team.

Builds the Cambridge-based community committed to serving Africa-led climate innovation and entrepreneurship, namely through regular events that ensure a continuous bridge with the Program's Africa-based activity. Coordinates all necessary arrangements for these events, such as speaker invitations, booking rooms, organising catering, preparing and circulating agendas, monitoring event budgets. Identifies opportunities to productively integrate Cambridge capabilities in the innovation and entrepreneurship offerings developed by the Africa-based venture-builder and by the Climate Collaborative University partners – in coordination with the Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Key responsibilities continued...

Manages the program's partnership database for innovation and entrepreneurship-relevant partnerships (Cambridge- and Africa-based). Leads the management and efficient use of this platform across the Program – in coordination with the Transitions Lead (for use by the Scholarship arm) and with the Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (for use by the Climate Collaborative).

Supports the Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship in future proofing the impact of the Program – namely by (i) analyzing the portfolio ventures' growth journey in relation to barriers and opportunities they have faced and (ii) testing of blended finance solutions and inclusive knowledge & innovation governance solutions.

Works with the Monitoring and Evaluation Lead to collate and evaluate data to assist assessment of the programme.

3. Partnership Building

Provides stakeholder liaison for engagement with the three Africa-based Climate Collaborative anchor partners (including counterpart role holders in these Universities), with additional partner organizations strategically positioned to advance Africa-led climate SI&E and with the University of Cambridge innovation and entrepreneurship community. Building and sustaining these partnerships will be critical to the delivery of this programme. Acts as the first point of contact for enquiries, providing a consistent, constant and professional contact point to represent the programme at the University of Cambridge.

Ensures that the Head of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Programme Director are kept informed of the progress of projects, responding to and advising the team of any emerging risks.

4. Programme Coordination

Manages the separate budgets allocated for different activities, including responsibility for budget projections, monitoring expenditure and ensuring projects are delivered in line with available resources and in compliance with University financial procedures and regulations.

Works with the Africa-based team that implements events and programme activities on the continent, including the organization of activities both nationally and internationally that advance work with the anchor partners, the Mastercard Foundation, ventures, investors, institutions within Cambridge and other key HEI and private-sector organisations.

Organises and delivers events including training and networking sessions, workshops, presentations and conferences. Coordinates all of the necessary arrangements including booking venues, organising travel, accommodation, catering, attendee lists and agendas.

5. Governance

Coordinates the Africa Reference Group, an advisory group of leading innovation and entrepreneurship experts on the African continent, as well as those at the University of Cambridge, who inform the strategy of the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship arm of the programme. Manages the scheduling, preparation and delivery of meetings, preparing and circulating agendas and papers, taking minutes, tracking follow-up actions and keeping Terms of Reference and honorarium payments up to date.

Key responsibilities continued...**6. Reporting**

Analyses data for reports to the management board and Mastercard Foundation, undertaking preliminary research to present trends, developments and findings.

Creates and updates reports (e.g. papers for the management board and for the Mastercard Foundation) develops and improves management systems and processes to ensure quality and audit trails are maintained.

Works with the Monitoring and Evaluation Lead to collate and evaluate data to assist assessment of the programme and to inform policy and strategy.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Experience		
Experience of Africa-relevant entrepreneurship and innovation.	✓	
Experience of designing (program and content) innovation and entrepreneurship programs.	✓	
Experience of working with partners in external organisations	✓	
Experience in building strategic partnerships and liaising effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders.	✓	
Experience of organising and managing events.	✓	
Skills		
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.	✓	
Excellent planning and organisational skills.	✓	
Strong interpersonal skills including motivating, influencing, negotiating and networking.	✓	
Ability to analyse data and statistics.	✓	
Excellent presentation skills using a variety of media.	✓	
Team worker with the ability to work independently and prioritise own workload.	✓	
Cross-cultural mindset.	✓	
Education		
Degree level qualification in relevant subject or equivalent experience.	✓	
Additional requirements		
Availability to travel overseas.	✓	
Willingness to work outside of normal working hours and travel on weekends.	✓	

Behavioural Attributes

This section summarises the behavioural attributes (or competencies) that we expect the role holder to be able to demonstrate, at what level and whether this is an essential or desirable requirement. Full definitions are at: <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies-procedures/behavioural-attributes>

Please review these and provide specific examples in your application of how you have demonstrated these attributes in your work, education or other experience. It will assist your application if you explain the situation, what you did and what the outcomes were.

Attribute	Level
Valuing Diversity	A
Achieving Results	C
Communication	C
Innovation and Change	C
Negotiating and Influencing	C
People Development	C
Relationship Building	C
Strategic Focus	C

Professional Services Values

Developed by professional services staff, our values underpin everything we do. By living the values in the work we do, we hope to foster an environment where staff feel empowered. The values encourage staff to; work together and share skills to create a sense of community, act with integrity, take an inclusive and fair approach and develop honest and open relationships that are underpinned by our shared values. We encourage applicants to consider these values within their application.



Academic Division

Unified Administrative Service

The University's central Unified Administrative Service (UAS) works in partnership with Schools, Faculties and Departments, providing core professional and administrative services in support of Cambridge's academic and charitable mission. It also offers a range of expertise and skills that help support the development and implementation of policy across a number of functional areas.

The UAS is led by the Registry as the University's Principal Administrative Officer and consists of the following divisions:

- Academic Division
- Estate Management Division
- Health, Safety and Regulated Facilities Division
- Human Resources Division

Administrative staff within a number of these divisions, especially the Academic Division and Finance Division, are often physically located in Schools, Faculties and Departments, and are fully involved in their day-to-day operation.

Academic Division

The post is within the Academic Division of the UAS. The Division is responsible for supporting the General Board of the Faculties and for the academic administration of the University, including maintaining the excellence of its teaching and research. The Division is headed by the Academic Secretary and consists at present of some 300 staff, responsible for admissions, examinations, student services, education policy and quality assurance, international matters, research administration and School, Faculty and Departmental administration.

Further details about the Division can be found at:

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

The position will be supported by the Cross School Initiatives Hub. The Cross School Initiatives Hub provides a range of professional services support to key academic programmes within the University's Academic Division.



Terms of Appointment

Tenure and probation

Appointment will be made on a permanent basis of subject to the continuation of funding.

This is because your employment relies on the availability of finite funds for a specific purpose that are not part of the University's general revenues. The funds for this post are available until 31 July 2030 in the first instance.

Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a six-month probationary period.

Hours of Work and 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.

General information

Pre-employment checks

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.

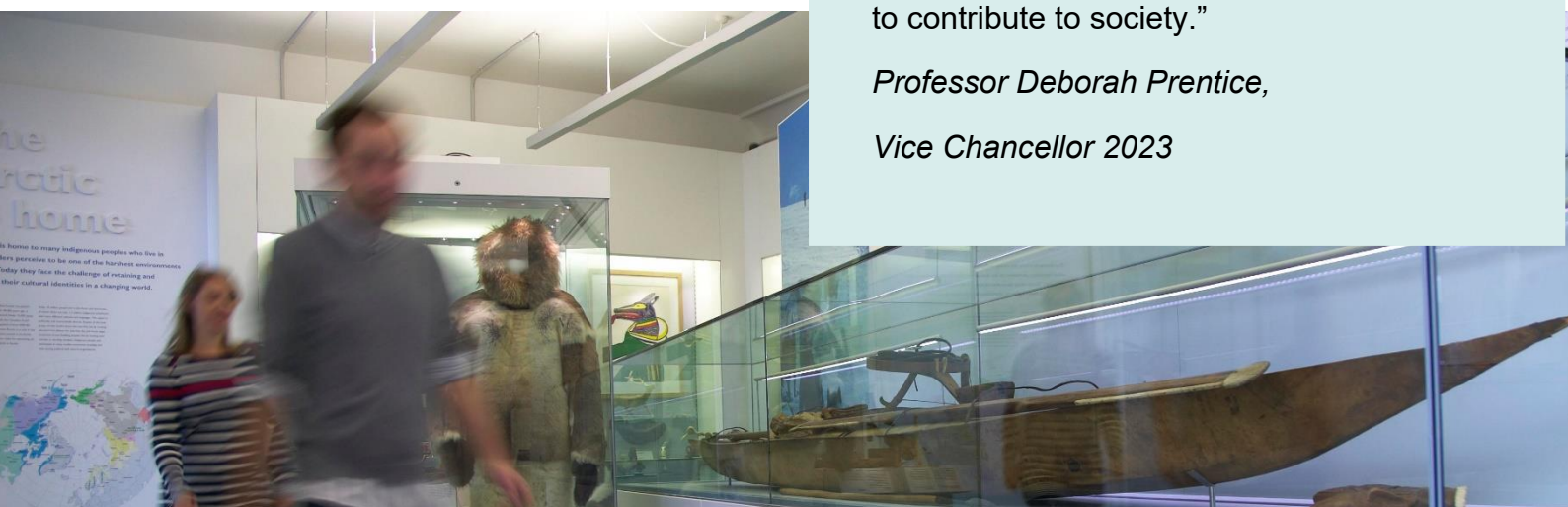
The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic 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

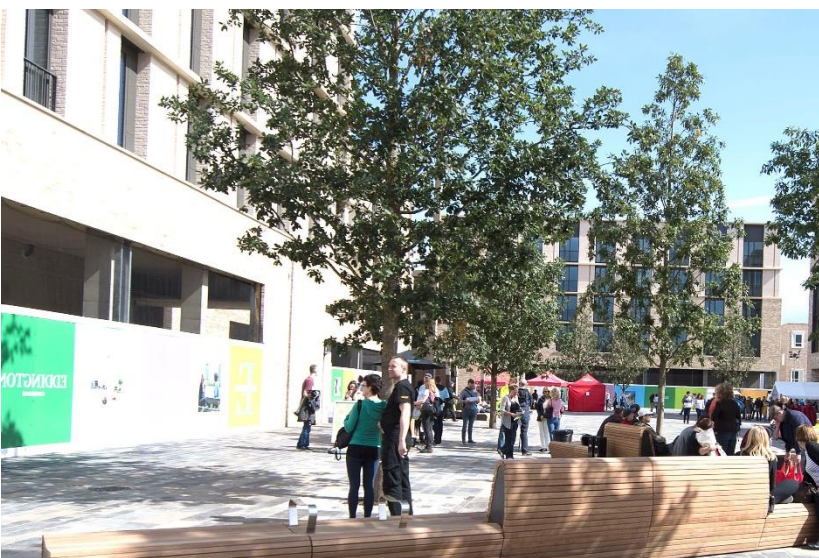
The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure 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

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 about the role are welcomed and should be directed to:
Robert Foster-Jones, Programme Administrator: Mastercard Foundation
Collaborative, **Email:** rjf58@cam.ac.uk

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact: Karin Kuchta, HR Coordinator, email: csihr@admin.cam.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is: 23:59, Sunday 10 August 2025

The interview date for the role is: w/c 25 August 2025

