

Research Fellow

Department of Economics, Business School

Closing date: 6 January 2022

Interview date: TBC

Reference number: BUS184R



Version: Jul21

INTRODUCTION

This is an exciting opportunity for a talented Research Fellow (RF) to work on the ESRC-funded project **“The Economics of Marine Plastic Pollution: What are the Benefits of International Cooperation?”** The project is a collaboration between the Department of Economics at the University of Aberdeen Business School, the Institute of Biodiversity Animal Health & Comparative Medicine at the University of Glasgow, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, the Berlin School of Economics and Law, and the George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark University. The project is interdisciplinary by combining modelling from economics and marine sciences.

The role will be based in the Department of Economics at the [University of Aberdeen Business School](#).

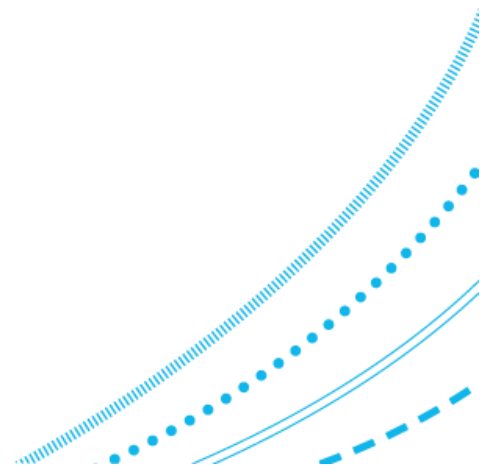
Economics at the Business School is a long-established discipline at the University of Aberdeen. The Department’s applied and theoretical research interests are many and varied, spanning areas such as Behavioural Economics, Energy Economics, Environmental Economics, Experimental Economics, Health Economics, Industrial Organisation, International Economics, Labour Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Public Economics. It has a longstanding tradition in Energy Economics. The Department of Economics runs and coordinates three research centres: 1) Aberdeen Centre for Research in Energy Economics and Finance (ACREEF) 2) The Centre for European Labour Market Research (CELMR), and 3) The Scottish Experimental Economics Laboratory (SEEL).

A strong research ethos runs throughout Economics and the School. Whilst research is centred around the disciplines, there is a developing culture of cross-disciplinary research that engages in ‘real world’ problems and issues. This fits into a broader research agenda that builds partnerships across the University, including close research ties between Economics and the [Centre for Energy Transition](#).

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The post holder will assist the project team address questions on the economic benefits of international coordination over reductions in marine plastic. The post holder will work closely with and report to Professor Frans de Vries (Principal Investigator) on the economic modelling of international cooperation in marine plastic reductions. The post holder is also required to work with the aforementioned project partners.



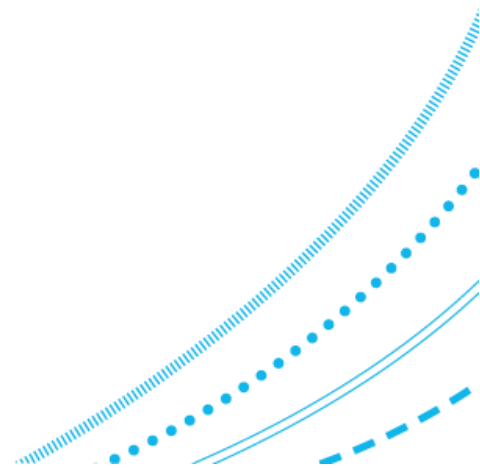
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

The post holder is expected to perform the following activities in conjunction with the PI and project partners:

- Take a leading role in the simulation modelling of international environmental agreements in the context of marine plastic reductions, in accordance with the project deliverables.
- Document research output, including analysis and interpretation of all data relating to the project, maintaining records and databases, drafting technical/progress reports, blogs and papers as appropriate.
- Take a leading role in developing and maintaining collaborations with colleagues across the research team and wider community (e.g., academic and stakeholders).
- Presentation of work at international and national conferences, at internal and external seminars, colloquia and workshops to develop and enhance our research profile.
- Keep up to date with current knowledge and recent advances in the field/discipline.
- Perform administrative tasks related to the activities of the research team.
- Undertake any other duties of equivalent standing as assigned by the PI.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Specific skills we are primarily looking for are candidates with experience of handling (large) data sets, operations research, simulation modelling, and programming, preferably with GAMS and/or Python. Candidates should have a PhD qualification in a relevant field, such as Economics, Applied Mathematics or Operations Research.



TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be £34,304 per annum, Grade 6 on the salary pay scale.

As the post is externally funded by ESRC it is available until 30th September 2022.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on an occasional or regular basis. For more information please refer to our [Homeworking Policy](#).

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Storey, HR Adviser (e-mail: lauren.storey@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 6, £34,304 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:

37.5 hours per week

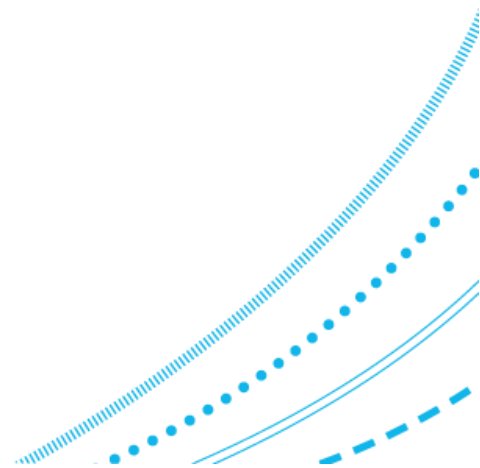
CONTRACT TYPE: Available until
30th September 2022

LOCATION: Aberdeen



PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD in relevant field 	
Work and Other relevant experience (including training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of specialist IT software for simulation modelling (GAMS and/or Python) Extensive IT and data analysis/interpretation skills as appropriate Sufficient breadth and/or depth of knowledge in specialist subject/discipline and of research/teaching methods and techniques relevant to project subject area Experience in undertaking research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theoretical and practical knowledge of applying game theory in the context of international environmental agreements
Personal qualities and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to deliver quality outputs in a timely and efficient manner Highly motivated, ability to use initiative and quick to learn new techniques Ability to demonstrate a degree of independence as illustrated by identification of project objectives Excellent communication skills (oral and written) Excellent interpersonal skills including team working, the ability to form and maintain international collaborative relationships and a collegiate approach Willingness and aptitude to work on a multidisciplinary project Problem solving skills including a flexible and pragmatic approach Appropriate workload and time management skills 	



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad-based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.



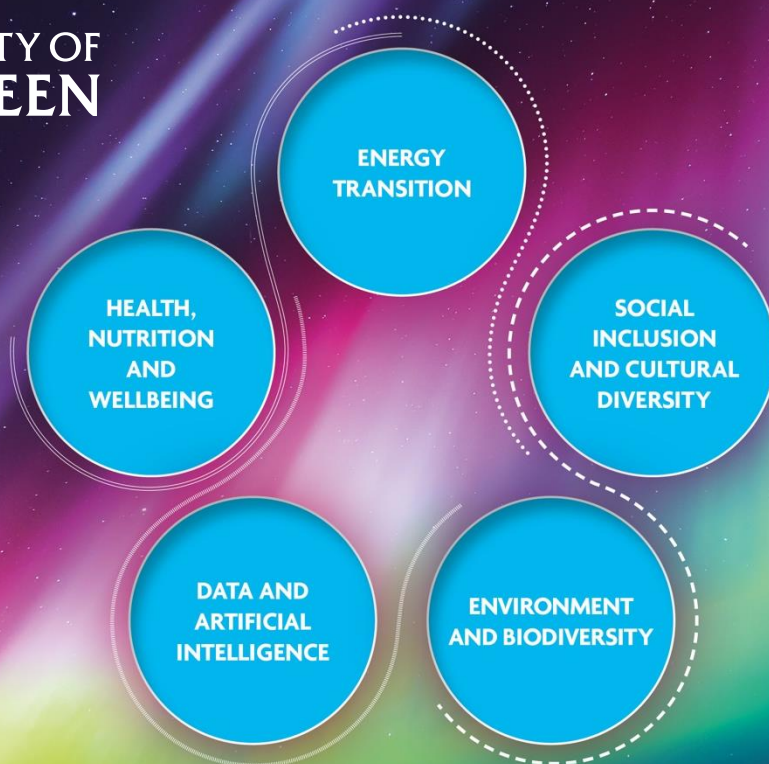
CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on its achievements. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen's estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts and in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched [Aberdeen 2040](#), our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- Inclusive**
 We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- Interdisciplinary**
 We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- International**
 We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- Sustainable**
 We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances. We work responsibly.



OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in, e.g., Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 32nd in the world for International Outlook². The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to operate on a dedicated campus in Qatar. Phase 1 of this partnership with AFG College has successfully recruited over 600 students. Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus visit www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT

Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17 . to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

¹ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021

² QS World University Rankings 2021

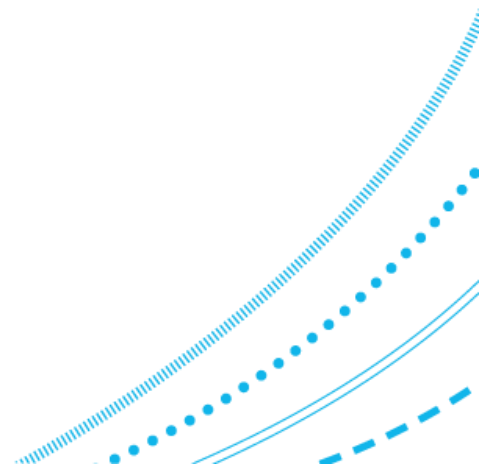
³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021



THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS WITHIN THE BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Department of Economics is situated within the Aberdeen University Business School.

While proud of the University's 525-year history, the Business School is a core part of the University's future plans. In order to facilitate its further growth and development, the Business School is now a stand-alone unit within the University. The Business School is comprised of several related disciplines: Accountancy, Economics, Finance, Business Management, and Real Estate. The School is consistently high-ranked in national league tables, often among the top 20 for most of its subjects. A strong research ethos runs throughout Economics and the School. Whilst research is centred around the disciplines there is a developing culture of cross- disciplinary research that engages in 'real world' problems and issues. This fits into a broader research and scholarship agenda that builds partnerships across the University, including close ties between Economics and the Centre for Energy Transitions <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/energy/> and the Health Economics Research Unit <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/heru/>.



ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [Music Hall](#), [Art Gallery](#), [the P&J Arena](#), [Museums](#), and [Beach Leisure Centre](#). The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php>.

The University's commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using [contact SCOTLAND-BSL](#).

The University is delighted to be accredited as a [Disability Confident](#) employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should include a curriculum vitae and personal statement of no more than two sides of A4, outlining your reasons for making an application.

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is **6 January 02022**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Frans de Vries, Chair in Environmental and Resource Economics

frans.devries@abdn.ac.uk

Please do **not** send application forms or CVs to Professor Frans de Vries.

Please quote reference number BUS184R on all correspondence

