



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

The Russell R. Geiger Professorship of Crop Science

Department of Plant Sciences

Closing date: 17 November 2025

Job Reference: PD47445



The Russell R. Geiger Professorship of Crop Science

Background to the role

Research:

The University seeks to appoint a scientist of outstanding calibre who is recognised internationally for the originality and impact of their research in Crop Sciences. The Professor will provide leadership at the Crop Science Centre, which was established in 2020 as part of an alliance with the National Institute for Agricultural Botany (Niab) to translate discovery science into real world agriculture.

The appointee will initiate and maintain a thriving research programme, through successful grant applications to research councils and other funding sources. Their work will have synergies with research nationally and internationally as well as with the wider research community in Cambridge.

The new Professor will enhance, complement and broaden research within the Department of Plant Sciences, and across the wider research community in Plant and Crop Science at Cambridge. There are also significant opportunities for collaboration with staff across other faculties working in the AgriTech space. Preference will be given to applicants whose work adds value to ongoing research activities in the Department and has synergies with research beyond the Department. We particularly welcome applications from candidates whose research also offers scope for collaboration with colleagues in other Departments within the School of Biological Sciences, and that could capitalise on work across the wider University.



The Professor will lead the Crop Science Centre, and provide key inputs to leadership in the Department. There will also be opportunities to help lead research at a higher level within the University, for example by co-leading one of the School's inter-departmental research themes.

The appointment comes at an exciting time for the Department of Plant Sciences with recruitment of new research leaders, and after the successful foundation and growth of the Crop Science Centre to nearly 100 staff and students in less than five years. We seek a candidate who will capitalise on this momentum at a time when research in this area is critical for the future of our planet.

We particularly encourage candidates from under-represented groups to apply for this vacancy as they are currently under-represented at this level within our University.

Teaching :

The Professor will play a leading role in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in Plant and Crop Science by giving lectures, organising practicals, supervising research projects and organising discussion groups. Our undergraduates, postgraduates, post-docs and independently-funded research fellows are the life blood of the Department: energised, eager to learn and deeply committed. We are dedicated to nurturing this talent, extending our support beyond the lecture theatre and the lab to include a dedicated administrative team, internal seminar days, social events, and study spaces that foster peer-to-peer relationships and facilitate informal ways to learn.

We are deeply committed to undergraduate teaching, which is overseen by a dedicated deputy Head of Department for Teaching and involves all members of faculty. Students and external evaluators tell us we offer a supportive and effective learning environment. We teach in all three years of the Natural Sciences undergraduate course. Working closely with other Departments in the School, we deliver first and second year courses in Cell Science, Organismal Science, Evolutionary Biology, Cell and Developmental Biology, Ecology and Conservation, and Plant and Microbial Sciences. Our third year Part II Plant Sciences trains more plant scientists than any other in the country, is modular, and reflects the research interests of the Department.

The successful applicant will help design course content, provide lectures and offer seminars or class discussions. They will also supervise undergraduate research projects and dissertations, and potentially contribute to practicals.

The Professor will be expected to contribute to postgraduate training. We currently run a successful Crop Science MPhil that attracts applicants from around the globe. We are fortunate to have some trust fund support for postgraduate funding, in addition to the studentship funding available through the School, University or Colleges. In total, we are currently training around 90 postgraduate students. This process is overseen by our Postgraduate Education Committee, which both assesses applications and supports and monitors progress.



Formal duties of the post:**1) Teaching and research**

The Professor will be required to deliver lectures and give instruction in Plant and Crop Sciences and in particular to perform the following duties:

- i) to lecture, and to provide practical instruction, based on an equitable workload allocation;
- ii) to undertake original work and the general supervision of research and advanced work in their subject and Department, and to assist students in their studies by supervision or informal instruction.

2) Examining

The Professor will be required to undertake such university examining as may be required by the relevant Faculty Board or comparable body.

3) Supervision

The Professor will be required to supervise postgraduate research students, and to act as an advisor for postgraduate research students as and when requested. Undergraduate supervision in Cambridge is the responsibility of the Colleges of the University. A Professor may undertake such undergraduate supervision up to a maximum of six hours per week.

The Professor will be expected by the Department to supervise undergraduate research projects and dissertations each year.

4) Administration

Administrative duties are shared equitably. Professors are expected to play significant roles from time to time, on the Faculty Board and Faculty Committees dealing with such matters as academic and other appointments, admission of graduate students, research and teaching assessments, computing arrangements. They are also encouraged to accept appointment to University Committees.

Work Environment:

The Department of Plant Sciences offers a stimulating, supportive and friendly work environment in a highly successful academic community. We have exceptional strengths in plants sciences – from analysis of molecular processes, to how ecosystems function. We provide excellent research facilities – including some operated and provided at School level.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

We invest a great deal of effort in trying to make our community as supportive, welcoming and inclusive as possible – we understand that people only do their best work when they are happy and engaged. We offer a range of activities to support career development, promote staff wellbeing and foster a healthy research culture. We also embrace and value the immense benefits of diversity in the workplace and promote a wide range of diversity networks to support all staff and students in the Department.

Person Specification

Candidates will be considered for the post on the basis of the following selection criteria, which they are asked to address in their application.

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
An outstanding research record of international stature in Crop Science	✓	
The vision, leadership, experience and enthusiasm to build on current strengths to maintain and develop a leading research presence, and an established record in attracting research grant support in the UK and internationally, to further this development.	✓	
The ability to further the academic planning and strategic development of sustainable food security in the University and, where appropriate, to facilitate its development within the UK.	✓	
The ability to manage and interact effectively with staff and students at all levels.	✓	
An enthusiastic commitment to the recruitment, training and mentoring of the next generation of researchers including undergraduates, research students, and postdoctoral research fellows.	✓	
Candidates will hold a PhD or equivalent postgraduate qualification	✓	

The Department of Plant Sciences

The Department of Plant Sciences is one of the largest and most successful academic groupings of Plant Scientists in Europe. Our mission is to discover and explain the rules governing plant life in order to contribute to a sustainable future. Our 26 research groups are organised into five themes each of which addresses a grand challenge for our planet: Reducing Agricultural Inputs; Cutting Losses from Pests and Pathogens; Enabling Resilience to Environmental Change; Enhancing Production of Plant Derived Products; Delivering Sustainable Bio-diverse Landscapes.

The Department of Plant Sciences is one of the few remaining academic departments in the UK dedicated solely to research and teaching of plant biology. It currently comprises 22 Group Leaders, 4 Research Fellows, 3 Senior Research Associates, 75 Research Staff, 66 Professional Services Staff and approximately 90 postgraduate students. The Department also hosts academic visitors from many countries.

The Crop Science Centre is a new build on Huntingdon Road which opened in 2020. This location provides a key alliance between Niab and the main Department's Botany building on the University's Downing Site. The latter is in close proximity to the Departments of Zoology, Genetics, Biochemistry, and Physiology, Development & Neuroscience, among others. The Crop Science Centre has purpose-built Plant Growth facilities, and via NIAB access to field trial capability. There is also a major Plant Growth facility located in central Cambridge at the Botanic Garden.

The Sainsbury Laboratory University of Cambridge, an independent institute funded by the Gatsby Foundation, is also a thriving community of researchers who focus on understanding plant development, and offers additional opportunities for collaboration.

National Institute of Agricultural Botany:

The National Institute of Agricultural Botany (Niab) was founded in 1919 by Deed of Trust, and became an independent not-for-profit organisation in 1996. Niab is a charitable company limited by guarantee, with commercial activity generating a surplus which supports its charitable objectives. Niab's headquarters are at Park Farm in Cambridge, linked to the site of its experimental farm. It is the largest field trials operator in the UK with sites located throughout the arable growing area. In addition, Niab carries out fruit research at East Malling in Kent.

With a focus on adaptive and translational research, Niab provides applied research and information to the agricultural and horticultural crop sectors, working to improve the yield, efficiency and resilience of crops, and supporting national and global policy priorities on food security, climate change and sustainable development.

Niab has a number of departments devoted to the provision of services such as field and glasshouse trialling, variety evaluation, genetic transformation, and crop modelling across all major arable and fruit crops.

Niab employs around 400 people which includes 15 principal investigator-led research groups, and provides research, scientific services and technical advice to a diverse customer base such as Government departments, research councils, levy bodies, charitable trusts and the agri-food industry.

The School of Biological Sciences

The Department of Plant Sciences is part of the School of the Biological Sciences. The goal of the School of the Biological Sciences is to deliver education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Building on our record as a world class university for Biological Sciences we aim to work in innovative ways to achieve ongoing excellence in a supportive and collaborative research and teaching environment.

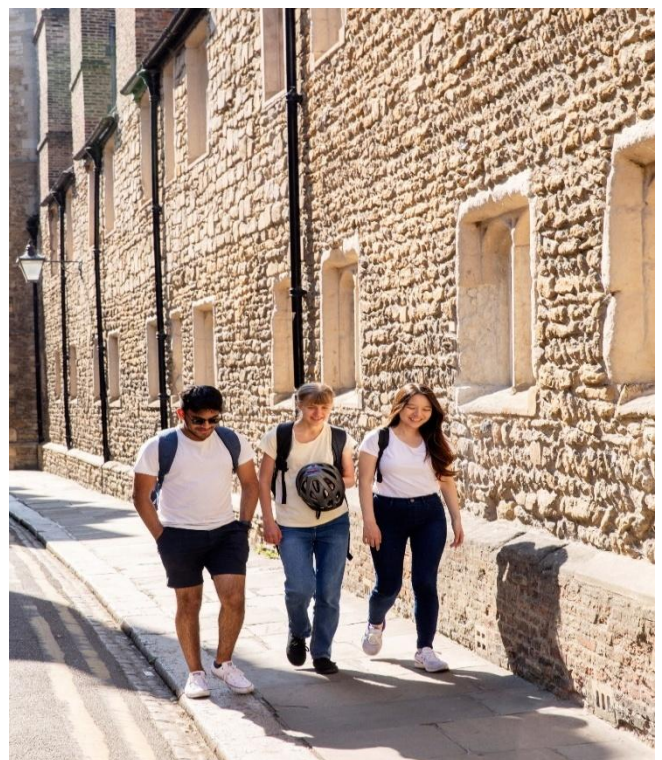
The research and teaching carried out in the School is diverse and covers animal, human, plant and microbial science from the atomic, molecular and cellular levels through to tissues, organs, whole organisms, populations, ecosystems, biodiversity, and human behaviour. This research has impacts on health and disease across species, agriculture, conservation and the environment as well as on the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, with direct translational relevance to the clinic, public services and social policy, and the bio-economy.

The School of the Biological Sciences employs around 2000 staff teaching over 4000 students (split roughly evenly between undergraduates and postgraduates). It consists of nine Departments (Biochemistry; Genetics; Pathology; Pharmacology; Physiology, Development and Neuroscience; Plant Sciences; Psychology; Veterinary Medicine; Zoology) and four research institutes (Gurdon Institute, Cambridge Stem Cell Institute, Sainsbury Laboratory and the MRC Toxicology Unit) all of which are involved in fundamental biological research alongside undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

[Research in the School is organised in six major themes](#) designed to provide integration across the School, encourage new conversations and enhance interdisciplinary networking critical for major innovation:

- Organisms, Evolution and Planetary Resilience
- Functional and Evolutionary Genomics
- Infection and Immunity
- Neuroscience, Psychology and Behaviour
- Reproduction, Development and Lifelong Health
- Molecules and Cells: The Building Blocks of Life.

The School has teaching responsibilities in four undergraduate triposes: Natural Sciences, Medical Sciences, Veterinary Sciences and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences. It is part of the Postgraduate School of Life Sciences, which organizes and manages the postgraduate training and monitoring for Masters and PhD students, along with the Degree Committee.



Terms of Appointment

All appointments to University Offices are subject to the Statutes and Ordinances of the University.

Salary

Salary on appointment will be determined by the Vice-Chancellor at an appropriate point on the University's salary spine for grade 12, taking into account the criteria for the respective contribution band.

Professorial salaries are reviewed periodically, on the basis of research, teaching and general contribution, by the Vice-Chancellor with the assistance of a small Advisory Committee.

Headship of the Department

Should a Professor be appointed to the Headship of a Department, a pensionable payment is made in addition to salary.

Recruitment Incentive

The University has a scheme whereby a single recruitment incentive payment may be made on appointment at the Vice-Chancellor's discretion.

Tenure and probation Appointments are to the retiring age for established academic positions.

Working Pattern

The appointment is full-time.

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a hybrid pension scheme. If you are already a member of the NHS Pension scheme, you may be eligible to continue in the scheme and should contact the Pensions section of the University:

www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/.

Annual leave

Subject to compliance with the Statutes and Ordinances relating to leave, full time officers are entitled in any holiday year to take a minimum of 28 days annual paid holiday. These periods are inclusive of public holidays that fall outside Full Term.

Sabbatical leave

Cambridge has a generous statutory provision for leave of absence of one term for every six terms of service. Academic staff use this opportunity for study and research.

College membership

Membership of a College adds an important social element that many of the University's academic community find attractive. Appointment to a College fellowship is a separate matter from a University appointment.

Further details about a Professorial Fellowship are set out below and more details about college membership are provided in a separate section of this document. The scheme for newly-appointed University Officers seeking a College Fellowship is set out at: <https://www.ois.cam.ac.uk/uto-scheme>.

Residence

It is a requirement of the role that you are resident in the University during term-time.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/pdfs/2020/ordinance11.pdf>

Removal Expenses

If the person appointed is not resident in Cambridge, a contribution from University funds will be made towards expenditure incurred in removal to Cambridge to take up a University office.

Consultancy Work

The University's policy on consultancy work is that consultancy arrangements must be entered into privately between the employee and the organisation concerned. The consultancy work must not interfere with the duties required of the officer under the officer's contract of employment with the University. Consultancy work is not covered by the University's insurances, even when the University has knowledge that such work is being done. The University must not be regarded as being directly or indirectly involved in any consultancy arrangement through the use of University letterheads, advice given or work done in the individual's capacity as an employee of the University. Individuals undertaking private or consultancy work are advised to take out personal insurance.

Alternatively, professional indemnity cover may be obtained by channelling private work through the University company Cambridge Enterprise Ltd. Anyone wishing to do so should, in the first instance, contact them at www.enterprise.cam.ac.uk.

Professorial Fellowships

The great majority of Professors at Cambridge hold a professorial fellowship of a college. Although election to a fellowship is a matter for an individual college, the University takes active steps to draw the attention of Heads of House to the names of those Professors eligible for election. The Scheme for newly-appointed University Officers seeking a College Fellowship is set out at: <https://www.ois.cam.ac.uk/uto-scheme>

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 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.

Offers of appointment made to prospective University officers whose work will fall within certain categories are conditional on the completion of a medical questionnaire and, if necessary, on a satisfactory health check by the Occupational Health Service. Only the person elected will be asked to complete the questionnaire, at the time of election.

References

References will be requested prior to the final meeting of the Board of Electors. *Please note:* references are not required from your current employer.

Equal Opportunities

The University of Cambridge appoints solely on merit. No applicant for an appointment in the University, or member of staff once appointed, will be treated less favourably than another on the grounds of sex (including gender reassignment), marital or parental status, race, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability, (including HIV status), sexual orientation, religion, age or socio-economic factors.

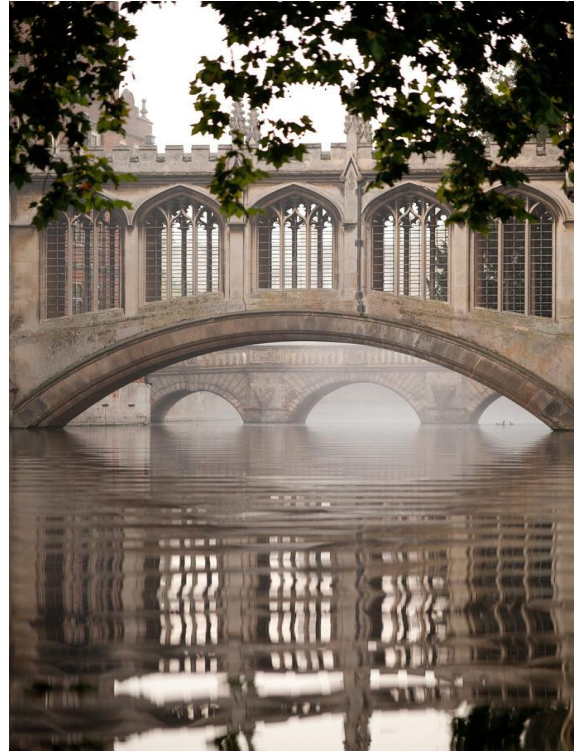
Information if you have a disability

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:

<https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies-procedures/disabled-applicants-and-members-staff>

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.

Applicants wishing to discuss with or inform the University of any special arrangements connected with their disability can, at any point in the recruitment process, contact Dr Gosia Wloszycka, who is responsible for the administration of the recruitment process for this position, by email on: mw425@admin.cam.ac.uk



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.

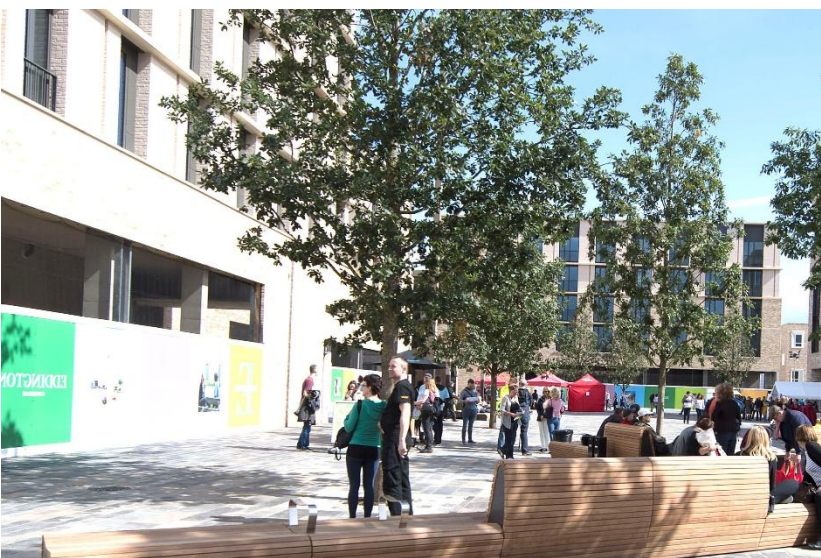
The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure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

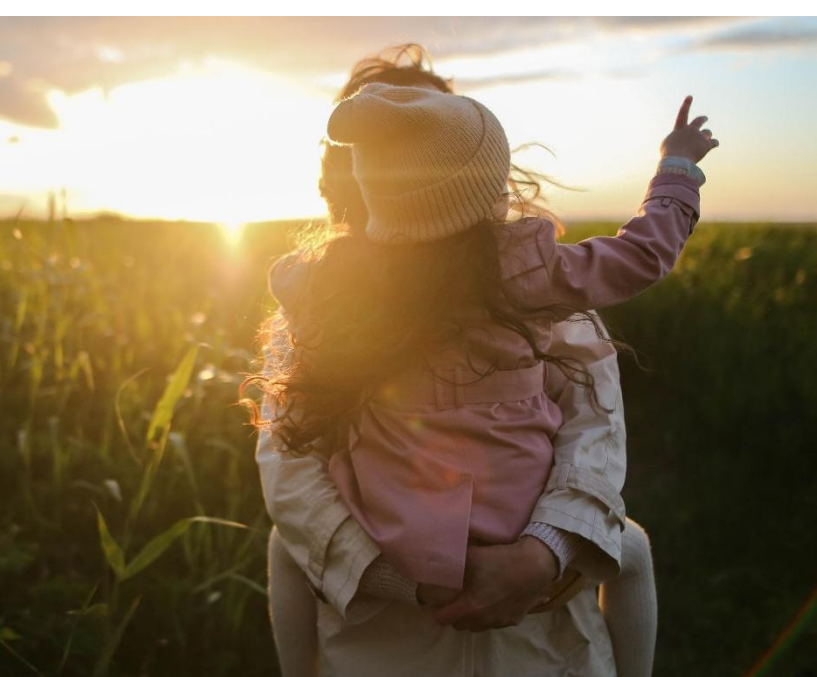
The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group (<https://www.nvs.admin.cam.ac.uk/>) is an organisation within the University that welcomes the partners and families of visiting scholars and new members of the University. Run by volunteers, the group offers opportunities to visit interesting Cambridge venues, 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.



College Membership

The University, the Faculties and Departments, and the Colleges are linked in a complicated historical relationship that is mutually beneficial but not simple. Students (both graduate and undergraduate) are admitted by one of the 31 Colleges, although in the case of graduate students the Faculties and Departments determine admissions before the Colleges are involved. Almost all undergraduates, and many graduate students, live in a College.

The teaching of undergraduate students is shared between the Colleges and the Faculties and Departments, with the Colleges arranging small group teaching (“supervision”) and the Departments providing lecturing, laboratory classes, and advanced supervisions. Most academic staff will also be invited to join a College as a teaching or professorial fellow.

Membership of a College adds an important social and intellectual dimension which many of the University's academic community find attractive. Most colleges expect their fellows to take part in undergraduate supervision and College administration. Appointment to a College fellowship is a separate matter from a University appointment, for which the College provides modest remuneration additional to University salary. It is not compulsory for academic staff to be a member of a College.

Further advice can be obtained from The Chair of the Faculty/Head of Department or senior colleagues.

The Scheme for newly-appointed University Officers seeking a College Fellowship is set out at: [UTO Scheme | Office of Intercollegiate Services \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)



How to apply

Applications comprising a letter of application (summarise how you would contribute to the Department's teaching and research), a statement of current and future research plans (no more than five pages in length), and a curriculum vitae including an up-to-date publications list. For three outputs include a concise narrative outlining the context for each piece of work, your contribution to the output, and the importance of the findings. Details of three referees should be submitted online no later than 17 November 2025.

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.

If you have any queries regarding the application process please contact: Dr Gosia Wloszycka at: professorships@admin.cam.ac.uk and/or mw425@admin.cam.ac.uk

Appointment Procedure

The appointment will be made by the General Board of the Faculties on the advice of an Advisory Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor or their deputy, with a membership which includes members of the Faculty and Institute, members of cognate Departments and external experts.

All applications will be acknowledged. The Advisory Committee will decide how they wish to proceed towards making a recommendation for appointment, which may include interviews and/or presentations.

Candidates will be informed of the progress of their applications as agreed by the Committee.

The successful candidate will take up post during 2026. A competitive salary will be offered.

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to:

Professor Julian Hibberd FRS

Head of Department of Plant Sciences

Email: jmh65@cam.ac.uk



