

## Part-Time Research Assistant IV

The Department of Land Economy is seeking to appoint one part-time Research Assistant to work on a sub-project: *Behavioural Science and Housing Decision Making*. It is supported by a ESRC-NSFC research project *Nudging Towards a Better Financial Future: Applying Behavioural Insights in the Development of Financial Systems in Rural China*.

**Job Description:** Decisions that are made less frequently with limited experience are more prone to behavioural biases and heuristics. This is particularly true for housing decisions. The objective of this project is to study how automatic enrolment, mental accounting, and self-discipline improve homeownership through housing provident funds. The position holder will conduct a comprehensive literature review on the applications of behavioural sciences on several important questions regarding housing decisions, including 1) homeownership decision, 2) which neighbourhood to move in, 3) what is the price to pay for housing, 4) how market sentiment affects housing market, 5) what is the effect of housing wealth, and 6) how to improve housing satisfaction. The literature review will summarise existing research findings and identify under-researched aspects of these topics: the 'human' or behavioural factors in housing decision making. In addition, the position holder will assist the team to perform preliminary analysis to explore how automatic enrolment, mental accounting, and self-discipline improve homeownership through housing provident funds. The objective is to understand how public policy can be designed to nudge people to save more for future.

**Keywords:** tenure decision, neighbourhood, housing prices, housing cycles, housing wealth effect, housing satisfaction

**Deliveries:** An excel database of relevant literature, a literature review report (a minimum of 4,000 words), a cleaned data set to facilitate further analysis, and a brief report of preliminary analysis by using Panel Data Regression method (a maximum of 2,000 words).

**Expect duration:** to work about 10 hours per week and to receive £13.76 per hour

**Start date:** 31 January 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

The post would enable an early career researcher to gain experience in several interlinked disciplines, including behavioural economics and household finance. We also encourage you to think outside the box and develop new studies based on our unique database. Contract extension will be considered for excellent assistance.

For information about the project please visit:

<https://www.crerc.landecon.cam.ac.uk/research/research-1/a-better-financial-future>.

To apply for the post, please send a cover letter and a CV to the Principal Investigator of the project, Dr. Helen Bao ([hxb20@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hxb20@cam.ac.uk)).