

Senior Economist

£39,000 to £45,000 depending on skills and experience

About IES

IES is a leading independent centre of excellence for research and consultancy in public policy, employment and education. We are not-for-profit and a registered charity, with a mission to bring about sustainable improvements in employment policy and human resource management. We achieve this by increasing the understanding and improving the practice of key decision-makers in policy bodies and employing organisations.

A key asset for IES is a strong core team of staff with internationally recognised subject and methodological expertise. IES has around 40 multidisciplinary staff in its Brighton office, together with a pool of UK and international expert associates who contribute to IES projects. IES is totally self-funding, with a turnover of over £3 million per annum from our research, consultancy and HR Network.

Across all our work areas, the emphasis of our work is on applied research and related consultancy. Our research ranges from major empirical investigations, through focused policy or HR management evaluations, to advice on policy formation and implementation. Projects and assignments may last from a few weeks to major research programmes spanning several years. Typically, research staff work on several projects simultaneously, usually as part of a team.

The role

We are recruiting a senior economist to join our team to lead quantitative analyses in the fields of employment, labour markets, education, health and social policy. This role will have a particular focus on impact evaluation – so leading and managing analysis of data from both survey and administrative sources, to estimate the causal impact of public policy changes and associated costs and benefits. Typically, projects estimate the effectiveness of programmes designed to overcome barriers to labour market participation or performance, to reduce inequalities in education, and/ or to improve prosperity and wellbeing.

The job involves carrying out the following activities:

- Applying high-level technical statistical, econometric and programming skills to a range of sources including large-scale administrative datasets, programme level data and surveys in order to support robust research and evaluation

- Managing and where appropriate directing applied econometrics and research projects, to agreed quality standards and budgets, and with a particular focus on impact evaluation
- Leading IES researchers and analysts to generate opportunities and funding for new applied research projects; working with funders including local and central government, employer bodies and charitable foundations
- Producing and overseeing project reports to final draft quality, making sure that findings are presented in the most accessible, non-technical, comprehensive and engaging way for non-expert audiences
- Supporting the professional development of colleagues and junior staff in statistical analysis, econometrics and programming; and identifying opportunities for your own personal and professional development
- Supporting and promoting evidence-based policy and practice, and our mission of achieving sustainable improvements in public policy and HR management – including through presentations and events, public platforms and writing.

Who are we looking for?

The successful candidate will be a highly competent quantitative researcher, with a strong understanding of applied econometric research methods and a track record in using these to deliver projects to a high standard. In addition, successful candidates will possess the following:

- Excellent academic qualifications in economics or empirical social sciences (preferably at Masters level or higher)
- Statistical/ econometric knowledge and programming skills, including experience of using Stata syntax to work with a range of quantitative datasets. Experience in manipulating large-scale administrative datasets would be an advantage, as would having experience in using other data analysis software such as SPSS and R.
- Experience of managing and conducting projects that use the conceptual framework of applied econometrics and quantitative research, ideally in an applied research environment
- Experience in winning, managing and delivering projects to time and budget
- A good understanding of UK employment and social policy, and related research evidence
- Good self-organisational and presentational skills, with the ability to lead projects and to work well with clients and as part of a team
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to convey complex concepts and findings to a variety of different audiences, including policymakers, the media and the wider public.

What we offer you

Comprehensive financial and non-financial rewards and benefits

- Salary range

- Economist: £38,976 to £45,172, plus benefits

The starting salary will depend on the expertise and experience that the successful candidate brings to the job.

- A contributory career-average defined-benefit pension scheme (USS), to which IES pays a monthly contribution of 21.1 per cent of basic salary and you pay 9.6 per cent.
- 27 days' holiday per year for full-time staff, plus bank holidays **and** four Institute closure days. An additional two days annual leave are awarded to staff who have five years' service
- Support to disseminate your research, build your external reputation and expand your knowledge through working with our expert staff
- An employee assistance programme and occupational health support
- Regular meetings with your line manager to support your performance and development
- A contribution towards the costs of relocation may be considered.

The post will be based in our office in central Brighton, although it is expected to be predominantly home-based in the early stages after appointment with opportunity to combine office- and home-based working in the longer term.

We offer a friendly workplace culture and have an active social committee. Brighton and the surrounding areas offer a superb location in which to live with easy access to the sea, countryside, and plenty of culture and nightlife. Brighton is close to Gatwick airport (30 mins), London (1 hour) and France (2.5 hours).

The Institute for Employment Studies is an Investor in People and a registered charity (no. 258390). IES seeks to be an equal opportunities employer.

For an informal discussion about this post prior to submitting your application, please contact Helena Tulley, HR Assistant, at helena.tulley@employment-studies.co.uk

How to apply

Please apply on a standard IES application form along with an equal opportunities monitoring form. CVs will not be considered. You can download both forms on the relevant vacancy page of the IES website, found here: <http://www.employment-studies.co.uk/vacancies/>. Please return the completed forms to:

Careers, IES, City Gate, 185 Dyke Road, Brighton BN3 1TL (Telephone: 01273 763421) or email: careers@employment-studies.co.uk.

Closing date for applications: **midday, Tuesday, 1 June 2021**

The Institute for Employment Studies is actively seeking to improve the diversity of our workforce and welcomes applications from all under-represented communities and groups. We are particularly keen to attract candidates from ethnic minority groups given their under-representation within economics and the policy making sector. We are Disability Confident Committed and are happy to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the individual requirements of candidates with disabilities.