

SENIOR ECONOMIST - SOCIAL POLICY

Our Senior Economists lead on at least one sub-theme of work within our economic, environment or social policy programmes and bring deep expertise in at least one key economic policy area in the UK. They bring excellent economic and quantitative research skills and the ability to work effectively either as a project manager or in a supporting role. They link research to key contemporary debates and communicate complicated ideas clearly and compellingly to a variety of audiences.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Research & policy development

- Develop and deliver research projects, and oversee the project work of others, with a particular focus on scoping the research, designing quantitative methodologies, interpreting data and developing creative policy recommendations.
- Act as a point person for economic analysis across the Foundation, both to assist researchers as they develop methodologies they can implement, and conducting own analysis.
- Ensure the highest standards of research by providing or overseeing robust quality assurance of research outputs and reviewing reports and blogs.
- Act as the lead on a sub-theme of work within the relevant economic, environment or social policy team.

People management

- Provide line management and support to Economists, Researchers, Research Assistants and interns as required.
- Manage project teams, which may include staff in other teams across NEF.
- Ensure staff are professionally developed in line with wider organisational goals, and in particular, ensure that Economists have the requisite technical expertise e.g. the Senior Economist should be prepared to learn tax-benefit microsimulation modelling and help train others up to use it.

Profile & external relationships

- Produce topical, impactful economic analysis and policy recommendations, drawing on networks of stakeholders – including politicians and their advisers; academics; and civil servants – to disseminate findings.
- Work with Heads and Directors to deliver high quality and timely advocacy activities targeted at policy and decision makers, opinion formers and other stakeholders, to increase impact and bring about change.
- Monitor relevant processes, forums, news and policy environments and provide colleagues with key analysis and development updates.
- Find opportunities to blog and issue comment on economic developments, conducting ad hoc data analysis to highlight interesting economic phenomena.
- Represent NEF to a wide range of audiences, including via public speaking and media appearances.

Fundraising

- Develop high-quality project proposals that offer insightful, timely and unique research, including an accurate costing and bearing in mind likely funding sources.
- Work to ensure those proposals attract funding, by developing and maintaining relationships with previous and potential funders and 'selling' the project idea.

New Economics in practice - project work

- Supporting colleagues who work with people who have been worst affected by our failing economic model, as necessary, and drawing on the findings of NEF colleagues who use a mixture of methods to support impacted communities to make their voices heard.
- Supporting colleagues, where relevant, who are working with partners including local organisations striving to build the new economy.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential aspects are shown in bold. Aspects not in bold are desirable but not essential.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

- **A degree or equivalent level qualification in economics, or in a subject with knowledge and skills applicable and transferable to economics (such as a quantitative subject), or equivalent training and work experience.**

KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

- **Expert knowledge of one or more areas of labour market economics, social security, housing and public services**
- **Proven high level quantitative research skills, for example, use of econometrics software, or other economic modelling. Familiarity with large social science/economic datasets in the UK**
- **Good coding skills, or willingness to self-teach**
- **Experience of designing and managing successful economic research projects**
- **Experience of successfully fundraising for research projects**
- **An understanding of economic policymaking in government, the wider policy making community, and how to effect change in policy making and practice**

SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

- **Excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to present confidently to diverse and high-level audiences, and tailor content appropriately**
- **Excellent written communication skills and the ability to explain complex phenomenon clearly and succinctly to a wide variety of audiences and in a wide variety of formats**
- **The ability to manage research staff effectively and to work collaboratively with other senior research staff**

- **Excellent and demonstrable organisational and administrative skills, such as those required to support in logistical tasks and the organisation of events**
- Demonstrable ability in thinking creatively and 'outside of the box'
- Knowledge of at least one other area of research that NEF specialises in, such as macroeconomics, environment or local economies
- Experience of line management
- Experience of dealing with the media

MOTIVATION

- **Commitment to building the new, environmentally sustainable economy with redistribution of power and resources at its core.**