

Job description

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| Job title: | Economic Analyst |
| Accountable to: | Economist / Senior Economist |
| Salary: | £41,290 per annum plus benefits |
| Contract type: | Permanent |
| Hours per week: | 37.5 hours per week (core office hours are 9:00am – 5:30pm Monday to Friday). Part time hours may be possible upon request. |

The Health Foundation

We are an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.

Our aim is a healthier population, supported by high quality health care that can be equitably accessed. We learn what works to make people's lives healthier and improve the health care system. From giving grants to those working at the front line to carrying out research and policy analysis, we shine a light on how to make successful change happen.

We make links between the knowledge we gain from working with those delivering health and health care and our research and analysis. Our aspiration is to create a virtuous circle, using what we know works on the ground to inform effective policymaking and vice versa.

We believe good health and health care are key to a flourishing society. Through sharing what we learn, collaborating with others and building people's skills and knowledge, we aim to make a difference and contribute to a healthier population.

Opportunities in the Health and Social Care Sustainability Research Centre

This is an exciting and important role in the Health Foundation's new Research and Economic Analysis for the Long term (REAL) Centre. The REAL Centre has been set up to improve the quality of strategic decisions about the health and care system –including on funding, on service priorities and workforce –so that they are based on good evidence and consideration about their long-term impact. There is widespread consensus, for example highlighted by the 2017 House of Lords Committee on the Sustainability of the NHS, that the quality of strategic decision-making is currently poor with too little focus on the longer term.

The REAL Centre's focus is on improving decision-making by providing excellent and authoritative analysis and evidence, rather than advocating for specific policy options. The work of the REAL Centre is concentrated around robust quantitative modelling and analysis on a range of demand and supply issues affecting the health and care system.

The REAL Centre comprises an in-house team of economists working in the Health Foundation and a research network formed of partnerships with academics. The Health Foundation has £10m to invest in this research network over the next 5 years.

This role is in the in-house team, which is part of a multi-disciplinary, stimulating and collaborative research community across the wider Health Foundation with colleagues who have expertise in statistics, data science, epidemiology, economics, modelling, health policy, and quality improvement.

The Health Foundation's endowment provides valuable independence and space to research areas which are not traditionally the focus of health economic research and to apply innovative thinking about administrative and survey datasets, often in higher-risk projects that might not otherwise be funded. We provide a supportive environment for your work, with an in-house secure data environment, flexibility and resourcing to establish best practice in information governance and data security, and a growing group of data management professionals.

Primary Role

We're looking to recruit an Economic Analyst to work within the team. This role will involve supporting senior colleagues on a range of projects, and taking a lead on their own, smaller pieces of work. The post holder will have opportunities to work on a range of projects, which will include both the supply side and demand side of the REAL Centre's work on the NHS and social care.

As such, the role calls for a breadth of economic, statistical, and analytical skills e.g. engaging in development of research questions, determining the correct methodological approach to address these, undertaking statistical or econometric analysis and interpreting and communicating the results.

As the Health Foundation has grown, its workstreams have expanded. We will encourage the post holder to, where appropriate, collaborate with the Health Foundation's other teams, drawing on their differing expertise to develop a wide-reaching research portfolio.

The Economic Analyst will be supported to develop their skills in analysis, writing and presentation.

Key responsibilities within the role will be:

- Working independently within a supportive team of economists and senior economists to deliver REAL centre projects. This will include contributing to ideas and analysis plans, implementing analyses and preparing findings for publication.
- Taking ownership for some analytical streams within projects, supported by an economist / senior economist depending on the project.

- Supporting projects undertaken elsewhere in the team, including undertaking discrete analytical tasks within them, and providing challenge to colleagues
- Developing collaborative relationships with colleagues elsewhere in the Health Foundation as well as academic and modelling partners
- Supporting the team to scope and develop its work programme and ways of working

Our upcoming and ongoing projects and reports include analysis of drivers of activity and need over the last 20 years, modelling the supply of nurses and GPs, a report bringing together our modelling to look at health and social care over the next 20 years, and a projections model of health care need and utilisation. The exact projects the post holder will work on will depend on their experience and preferences.

Key tasks and responsibilities:

- Working with economists / senior economists to deliver a range of analytical projects. Tasks will include helping to develop ideas, drawing up analysis plans, implementing analysis and interpreting findings. The Economic Analyst will be expected to analyse a variety of datasets, including patient level administrative data.
- Communicating findings from their work to their project team, the rest of the REAL Centre and the wider Health Foundation, through informal conversations, participation in meetings and more formal presentations.
- Writing reports that communicate the findings of their work to a variety of audiences. This may include Health Foundation reports, working papers and blogs. Where appropriate, to work with the rest of the project team and the Health Foundation communications team to get the work published.
- Playing a part in communicating results to policy makers and other external stakeholders.
- Supporting the REAL Centre Data Manager with data applications as necessary and ensuring data are managed appropriately.
- Engaging with analysts outside the Health Foundation and within the teams modelling /academic partnerships, sharing research and ideas
- Ensuring that the Foundation's commitment to social justice and responsiveness to cultural diversity is demonstrated in all activities.

Wider contribution:

As with other staff at the Foundation, the postholder will be expected to contribute to corporate activities and initiatives, such as staff meetings, cross-Foundation leadership and development programmes and other corporate projects as necessary. The postholder will similarly be expected to play a role in supporting and helping to develop the REAL Centre to enable it to improve its effectiveness. The postholder will also be expected to show active initiative in developing their professional expertise, and to demonstrate commitment to the Health Foundation's key behaviours: Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion, Working Together; Achieving Impact and Discovering and Learning.

Person specification

| | Criteria | Assessment (CV/SS- Shortlist, T- Test, I- Interview) | Essential/ Desirable |
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| Behaviour | A Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion - An understanding of, and commitment to diversity and inclusion. | I | E |
| Behaviour | Achieving impact - collegiate with proven ability to work across teams successfully. | I | E |
| Behaviour | Working together - open, communicative, and approachable to all staff across the organisation irrespective of role or seniority. | I | E |
| Behaviour | Discovering and Learning - corporate approach to the post with a willingness to further the objectives of the Foundation. | I | E |
| Education | An undergraduate degree in with a significant economics component at grade 2:1 or above, or a postgraduate degree in economics. | CV/SS | E |
| Experience | Previous experience of working within an economics or health research team, in government, an NGO, economics / health consultancy or similar. | CV/SS | E |
| Experience | Experience in applying economic concepts and statistical/econometric methods to address real world problems. | CV/SS, I, T | E |
| Experience | Experience using large survey or administrative datasets | CV/SS, T | D |
| Knowledge | Knowledge and experience of statistical programmes and programming languages, such as R, SAS, or STATA. | CV, I | D |
| Skills and abilities | A strong grasp of economic concepts, and experience in applying economics to public policy | CV/SS, I | E |
| Skills and abilities | Excellent analytical skills. | CV/SS, I, T | E |
| Skills and abilities | Proactive and self-motivated, and able to complete tasks to a high standard and within an appropriate time frame. | I | E |
| Skills and abilities | Flexible and adaptable, responsive to and respectful of colleagues | I | E |
| Skills and abilities | Ability to communicate clearly and persuasively, with excellent writing and presentation skills. | I, T | E |

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| Skills and abilities | Strong project management skills. The ability to manage their time and work on several projects concurrently. | CV/SS, I | E |
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September 2020