

Job description

Job title:	Economist
Accountable to:	Senior Economist
Salary:	£44,967 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 REAL 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 is being 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 will be on improving decision-making by providing excellent and authoritative analysis and evidence, rather than advocating for specific policy options. The work of the SRC will be concentrated around robust quantitative modelling and analysis on a range of demand and supply issues affecting the health and care system.

The REAL Centre will comprise an in-house team 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. The team 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 economist who will report to a senior economist in the team. This role will involve taking the lead on some projects and providing support to senior colleagues on others. 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. in defining the key questions for health and social care policy makers in the UK, determining the correct methodological approach to address these. Equally importantly, the post-holder will be expected to communicate findings accurately and effectively through written work, oral presentations, and participation in discussions and meetings. This will involve interactions with external policy stakeholders, academics, and members of other teams across the Foundation who have a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise.

Key responsibilities within the role will be:

- Leading research projects in the team. Taking overall ownership for multiple projects, supported by the senior economist, including scoping, planning, and statistical/econometric analysis
- Supporting projects undertaken elsewhere in the team, including undertaking discrete analytical tasks with in them, and providing challenge to colleagues
- Ensuring that findings are effectively communicated to relevant stakeholders both within and outside of the Foundation. This will include drafting and editing written pieces for policy and academic audiences, presenting analysis, and discussions at meetings and workshops.

- Developing and maintaining relationships with external stakeholders relevant to our portfolio, including academic and NHS policy communities.
- Developing strong 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 health care activity and need over the last 20 years, modelling the supply of nurses, analysis of social care funding and reform, analysis of GP consultation data, and a projections model of health care need and utilisation. The post holder will be responsible for social care, as well as health projects, with exact work to depend on their experience and preferences.

Key tasks and responsibilities:

- Working with the senior economist to develop and implement plans for modelling and analysis.
- Drafting analytical reports, including working papers and Health Foundation reports, and working with Health Foundation communications and senior staff to maximise the impact of our work.
- Presenting work internally to the REAL centre and other teams with the Health Foundation, and externally to relevant policy stakeholders.
- Providing management or support to more junior members of the team.
- Supported by our in-house team, specifying research to be commissioned and selecting partners
- Supporting the management of programmes of commissioned work so that they deliver what is needed. This will require building relationships with academic partners and shaping their work.
- Working with the team's Data Manager to obtain data as necessary and ensuring they are managed appropriately.
- Providing economic and analysis-based input and advice to Health Foundation colleagues as required.
- 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
Behaviour	Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion - An understanding of, and commitment to, equal opportunities and diversity.	I	E
Behaviour	Achieving impact - person who is collegiate with proven ability to work across teams successfully.	I	E
Behaviour	Working together - A person who is 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	Solid 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 communicating complex, sensitive or uncertain matters with policy stakeholders - both verbally and in writing	CV/SS, I, T	E
Experience	Experience of using high quality analysis to influence or inform policy.	CV/SS	E
Experience	Experience in applying economic concepts and statistical/econometric methods to address real world problems.	CV/SS, I, T	E
Knowledge	Knowledge and experience of at least one statistical programme and programming language, 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 lead projects without close supervision.	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
Skills and abilities	Strong project management skills. Able to manage a project with multiple contributors from the initiation process through to completion. Able to work on and manage several projects concurrently.	CV/SS, I	E

September 2020