

Job description

Job title:	Economist
Reporting to:	Lead Economist
Salary:	£56,662 per annum plus <u>excellent benefits</u>
Contract type:	Permanent
Hours per week:	Full time team members work 37.5 hours per week, and with hybrid working those hours can be done any time between 7am – 7pm. Core working hours are 10am – 3pm. For this role we would need 2 days per week in the office, in line with our hybrid working framework.

The Health Foundation

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

The REAL Centre (Research and Economic Analysis for the Long-term) was set up in 2019 to improve the quality of strategic decisions about the health and care system – including funding, service priorities and workforce – so that they are based on good evidence and consideration about their long-term impact. Since its formal launch in autumn 2020 the REAL Centre has published several significant reports and analyses and has achieved considerable influence. In 2023, the REAL Centre awarded 7 years of funding to two research units led by the University of York (focusing on supply) and the University of Oxford (focusing on demand). As part of this programme Economists will work in tandem with academic colleagues on areas of common interest.

The REAL Centre has a team of around 20 people within the Health Foundation. It is led by the Director of Research and REAL Centre and two Assistant Directors, who are supported by a small senior management team. A major strategic focus of the REAL Centre is to develop better understanding the pressures facing demand and supply of health and care through modelling, focusing particularly on projection modelling. The team currently publish biennial projections of both workforce and funding. These projections, along with supporting analyses, are used by policy stakeholders and are often quoted in the media.

Purpose of the role

The main purpose of this Economist role is to lead the delivery of analytical projects, including project management as well as external stakeholder engagement.

Economists are required to work with Lead Economists to help manage and develop the team's work on supply or demand. The Economists also act as project leads for major REAL Centre

outputs, including the biennial projections reports. This involves liaising with analysts from the research units where appropriate. Economists are also required to support several teams working across the Health Foundation's strategic priority of "Providing evidence and analysis to improve health and care policy", which most of the REAL Centre's work sits under. These groups or sub-themes include productivity, primary care, performance, and workforce.

The Economist role calls for a breadth of analytical and critical thinking skills e.g. in defining the key questions, developing analytical plans to answer these, undertaking analysis, and interpreting and communicating the results. This requires a working knowledge and understanding of the relationship between healthcare demand, supply and delivery including the existing data and literature for the UK.

Key responsibilities and outcomes

- Work with the Lead Economists to develop a work plan for health and care demand and supply, including the roles of in-house research and research commissioned from academics.
- Lead on the delivery of projects relating to health and care demand or supply. This could include developing plans for new modelling / analysis or building on existing work.
- Manage and monitor the day-to-day operations of a project team (including analysts and project management staff); chairing project and governance group meetings, tracking and monitoring delivery, and liaising with other key internal stakeholders (e.g. communications directorate) to plan outputs as appropriate.
- Provide supportive line management to more junior staff as required.
- Contribute to the REAL Centre's planning and strategy processes, working closely with the programme management team, to ensure that all our analyses support the REAL Centre's output and modelling strategies.
- Provide professional input and advice to colleagues on healthcare resource trends as required and work collaboratively across directorates on the Foundation's "cross-cutting themes".
- Maintain strong working relationships and regular liaison with the analysts from the Research Units on individual projects.
- Pursue opportunities for commissioned work to support the delivery of the supply and demand portfolios, working closely with colleagues in the Research team to commission any work in line with The Foundation's guidelines.
- Manage relationships with suppliers (likely academic and/or policy partners) to ensure they deliver to a high standard.
- Lead on the REAL Centre's response to key external events in specific areas such as key policy announcements on workforce or funding.
- Actively engage with key policy and analytical stakeholders and partners (including government departments and arms-length bodies, NHS and social care representative bodies such as DHSC, NHSE, the NHS Confederation, and think-tanks) to understand their perspectives, gather intelligence, and to influence policy and research.
- Identify sources of relevant data that could be used to extend the analysis of health and care resourcing; working in partnership with the REAL Centre Data Manager to obtain necessary

data and ensuring this information is processed appropriately and stored securely for confidentiality purposes, as required.

- Prepare accurate analytical reports and 'working with The Health Foundation' communications for senior staff to help maximise the impact of our work.
- Keep abreast (and make use) of, current and future research evidence, including engaging with relevant academic economists and health services researchers, presenting key findings of our work to external audiences at conferences, exhibitions and other events.
- Ensure that The Foundation's commitment to social justice and responsiveness to cultural diversity is demonstrated in all activities.
- Some travel may be required as part of the role, principally within the four countries of the UK.

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 team to enable it to improve its effectiveness.

The post holder will at all times aim to embed our key behaviours – Working together, Achieving impact, Discovering and learning – in all aspects of their day-to-day delivery in the role.

We value equality, diversity and inclusion, and welcome applications from diverse backgrounds. We are also committed to making reasonable adjustments for candidates who have accessibility requirements.

Candidates should have the right to work in the UK at the time of appointment.

Person specification

Criteria	Assessment (CV/SS- shortlist, T-Test, I- Interview)	Essential (E) / Desired (D)
Working together - Collegiate with a proven ability to work across multiple teams successfully. A corporate approach, willing to contribute to further the objectives of the Foundation as a whole.	CV/SS, I	E
Achieving impact – An understanding of potential routes to impact e.g. different communication methods, and experience of supporting teams to track and describe the impact of their work.	CV/SS, I	E
Discovering and learning - Ability to grasp new areas of knowledge and develop understanding quickly to engage with work across the breadth of the REAL Centre.	CV/SS, I	E
Commitment to diversity and inclusion - An understanding of, commitment to, diversity and equal opportunities in employment and service delivery.	CV/SS, I	E
Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills. Understanding and experience of a range of analytical approaches and their application to policy analysis.	CV/SS, I	E
First-class performance in the use of quantitative techniques and methods and an in-depth knowledge of quantitative research methods and applications. Knowledge and experience of statistical programmes such as SAS, STATA or R and experience in interpreting statistical and econometric outputs	CV/SS, I	E
Experience in overseeing and quality assuring complex analysis of large-linked data – including ensuring that the right analysis tools are used (e.g. programming for big data projects)	CV/SS, I	E
An understanding of data governance issues as well as data security.	CV/SS, I	E
Good formal and informal written and spoken communication skills. Ability to write concisely and with impact for a variety of audiences.	CV/SS, I	E
Ability to communicate with impact. Experience of communicating findings to academic and policy audiences, through drafting written papers or reports and giving oral presentations.	CV/SS, I	E
Willingness to consolidate project leadership and management skills. Able to manage multiple projects from the initiation process through to completion.	CV/SS, I	E
Able to build positive relationships with a wide range of internal colleagues, external stakeholders and partners to establish confidence and trust and ensure our research has the greatest possible impact.	CV/SS, I	E
Knowledge of health and social care policy issues, and experience of working in the sector	CV/SS, I	E
A degree in economics, or related analytical discipline and an advanced degree (Masters or PhD) in a relevant discipline.	CV/SS	D
Ability to see the bigger picture, seeing connections between issues and pieces of work, and how they contribute to broad goals	CV/SS, I	D