

JOB DESCRIPTION – ECONOMIC RESEARCHER

Location:	Leicester or London
Team:	Research & Development
Line Manager:	Research Manager
Salary:	£25,200-£34,125 per annum, depending on experience and location

MAIN PURPOSE

This is a key role within Learning and Work Institute's research and development team, with responsibility for developing high-quality evidence and knowledge. You will play an integral role in maintaining excellence in the production of evidence and advice on learning, skills and employment. The ideal candidate will bring strong knowledge and experience of a range of statistical, analytical and evaluation techniques and an interest in the policy context for learning, skills and employment.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Undertake quantitative analysis to explore the effectiveness of different interventions and identify cohorts and areas most likely to benefit from them.
- Support the implementation of evidence-based approaches and the development of new trials and pilots. Develop and utilise appropriate research and analytical methods and tools.
- Develop and manage systems for gathering, recording, analysing and presenting data from a range of projects for maximum impact.
- Contribute to the production of high-quality research, policy and evaluation reports, interpreting often complex evidence in a way that is accessible to a wide range of audiences.
- Contribute to high quality evidence synthesis projects and evaluations to support policy makers, commissioners and practitioners to make decisions grounded in the latest, best available research.
- Ensure research and findings are communicated to key stakeholders, including policy makers, commissioners and practitioners, in an informative and accessible way.
- Support the design of toolkits and other dissemination products which key stakeholders can engage with and use to drive change in the way they design and deliver services.
- Manage small projects and lead on elements of large projects.

- Support the development and training of the wider team in collaboration with senior R&D staff.
- Support income generation, in collaboration with other L&W staff, including contributing to the preparation of funding proposals.
- Represent L&W at external meetings and undertake public speaking/presentations with support as necessary.
- Undertake project administration and coordination tasks related to research activity.
- Supervise interns, associates and temporary staff in relation to research activity, including possible line management responsibility for research interns.
- Contribute to a positive, open and collaborative approach, operating in line with Learning and Work Institute's core values and Staff Charter.
- Demonstrate a commitment to equality of opportunity.
- Travel and occasional overnight stays will be required.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential/Desirable
Degree (in economics, statistics, research or social science with significant statistics element), equivalent qualifications or evidence of equivalent experience	E
Quantitative analysis skills, including regression, weighting, significance testing	E
Skills in conducting analysis using statistical software packages such as Stata and SPSS	E
Ability to develop sampling strategies and draw samples using statistical software	E
Knowledge of large administrative and survey datasets in the areas of lifelong learning, employment and skills	E
Strong track record of organising, co-ordinating and managing a range of activities against competing deadlines and priorities	E
Experience of designing complex quantitative analysis projects	D
Experience of designing and analysing experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation projects (including randomised control trials, matched statistical designs, difference-in-difference designs or regression discontinuity designs)	D

Skills in designing and analysing value for money and/or economic evaluation (including cost-benefit analysis, Social Return on Investment)	D
Experience of disseminating statistical findings from research and evaluation via written reports, workshops and presentations	D
Experience of undertaking policy-related research projects, using a range of research methods	D

The successful candidate will have to undergo an enhanced DBS check.

Learning and Work Institute works in both England and Wales, and research staff are expected to work across the organisation. Our work in Wales is led by a Cardiff based team, but all staff are required to follow the guidance set out in our Welsh language scheme when working in Wales.



Reviewed: January 2025