

Senior research fellow, AI and the economy

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the role of senior research fellow, AI and the economy, at the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR). IPPR was launched in 1988, with the aim of generating and researching alternative, progressive policy ideas. Over more than three decades since, IPPR has worked to ensure that ideas that once seemed impossible have become reality. We are passionate and committed to working towards a fairer, greener, and more prosperous society through our pioneering research as the UK's leading progressive research charity.

From making the early case for the minimum wage and taking regional inequality to the top of the political agenda, to proposing a windfall tax on energy companies, our research and policy work has put forward practical solutions for the crises facing society - to enable justice, progress and change. In 2004, IPPR North was launched to lead work on devolution and regional inequality and connect our work more deeply with people of the villages, towns and cities too often been neglected by national policymakers. A decade later came the launch of IPPR Scotland, with the aim of shaping progressive policy north of the border as increasing powers were transferred to the Scottish parliament.

We are now at an incredibly exciting time for the organisation, with the advent of a new government and new IPPR research teams and are looking to recruit a senior research fellow to play a crucial role in leading our AI work. You'll conduct sector deep dives, to devise positive visions for AI deployment and develop bold ideas for how policy can help deliver them. This is an exciting and influential role in British politics that combines ideas, analytical work and strategic policy advocacy, via briefings, meetings with senior stakeholders and occasional media appearances.

To be successful, you will have a track record that demonstrates the capability to design, lead and deliver high-quality research projects at pace. You will have experience in forward looking policy development and report writing and a background in technology, AI or economic policy making. You will be experienced in analysing industry dynamics and understanding economic trends in the context of technological change. And you will also have excellent communication skills, including the ability to develop and maintain confident and collaborative relationships with a variety of stakeholders and the desire to take up written and broadcast media opportunities.

If you believe you have the skills and qualities we are seeking, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

About us

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) is an independent charity working towards a fairer, greener, and more prosperous society.

We are researchers, communicators, and policy experts creating tangible progressive change, and turning bold ideas into common sense realities.

Working across the UK, IPPR, IPPR North, and IPPR Scotland, and through our pioneering participative research, we are deeply connected to the people of our nations and regions, and the issues our communities face.

We have helped shape national conversations and progressive policy change for more than 30 years. Today, our work drives social, democratic, environmental, and economic progress by securing:

- well-funded and reformed public services (health, care, housing, education) and social security that ensures everyone has access to the basics they need to flourish
- a renewed democracy which gives everyone a voice in society and passes power down to people, places, and communities, alongside a fair and compassionate immigration system which supports social integration
- a modern, green economy that delivers prosperity and justice to all people and places through actively shaping markets for social good and tackling concentrations of wealth and power.

LANDMARK RESEARCH

Over the last two years, IPPR has made significant contributions to the AI policy debate. In ["Transformed by AI"](#) we estimated the degree to which the UK jobs market could be impacted by generative AI and outlined the various tools that could be used to manage it. This included the call for a job-centric industrial strategy for AI. In ["the new politics of AI"](#) also called for a [re-think of AI policy](#), to make it more mission aligned and linking it more to democratic deliberation. In ["the direction of AI innovation in the UK"](#) we produced a first-of-its-kind quantitative measure of AI innovation and highlighted where policy currently falls short.

Our landmark reports have included the Commission on Economic Justice, a two-year inquiry to examine the challenges faced by the economy, which brought together leading figures from business, trade unions and civil society, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the City of London Corporation and the general secretary of the TUC. Its [2018 final report](#) won broad support for its bold proposals to fundamentally reform the UK economy, and is still shaping debate today.

IPPR's cross-party Environmental Justice Commission was established to respond to the climate crisis and put forward a Green New Deal plan for the UK to move to net zero. Its [influential report](#), designed to secure public support for the transition because it put fairness at its heart, was published in 2021. A further

IPPR [Commission on Health and Prosperity](#) has recently concluded and was lauded by Wes Streeting, the secretary of state for health and social care.

Throughout IPPR's history, the Institute has meanwhile incubated and launched a series of practical initiatives to test and demonstrate our ideas in practice, including [Frontline](#), [Think Ahead](#), and [The Difference](#). We also incubated [Centre for Cities](#) which became independent in 2007 and more recently, [Workwhile](#), which became independent in April this year.

Across the decades, generations of IPPR leaders, researchers and communicators have helped to transform the climate of ideas and propose practical policies to put them into effect, work which continues today. Our alumni community have gone on to work at the highest levels of the media, government, parliament, business and civil society organisations.

Job description

Job title: Senior research fellow, AI and the economy

Responsible to: Head of macroeconomics and AI

Contract: 12-month fixed term contract, with possibility of extension

Hours: Full time (37.5 hours)

Starting salary: £48,436 to £54,115 per annum depending on experience, plus benefits

Role purpose:

This is an exciting opportunity to join IPPR in the heart of Westminster, and play a crucial role in leading our AI work. It will involve devising policies for how government can shape the profound impact that AI will have on economy and society.

Recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI) could have transformative effects on the economy. With the latest models achieving top scores in scientific and diagnostic reasoning tests and 'AI agents' already being deployed in the economy, they could usher in a new era of economic growth but also one of profound disruption.

At the heart of our AI programme is thus the fundamental question: what do we want our economy and society, transformed by AI, to look like? In other words, what kind of AI deployment do we want to see in the economy and what do we want to avoid? What should the UK's growth model be over the next 10 years? And how govern an increasingly AI-driven economy?

We posit that realising the benefits of AI requires more than just accelerating AI deployment. Policy needs to also provide strategic incentives for aligning AI deployment with the government's missions. IPPR has produced [ground breaking analytical work](#) in this field, highlighting the need for more mission driven AI. Our focus is on the economic and societal impacts of AI and how policy can make sure this transformative technology creates public value.

We are looking for a motivated, thoughtful and creative individual to join our economy and environment team. You will conduct sector deep dives (such as AI in media sector), understanding today's business models and imagining how they might change in the future. Based on this, you will devise concrete, positive

visions for AI deployment and develop bold ideas for how policy can help deliver them.

This is an exciting and influential role in British politics that combines ideas, analytical work and strategic policy advocacy, via briefings, meetings with senior stakeholders and occasional media appearances.

Main responsibilities:

Research and policy

- Co-lead our AI programme, devising detailed roadmaps for achieving mission-driven AI deployment.
- Contribute to our work on economic growth more widely.
- Conduct qualitative and quantitative analysis of the trajectory of AI deployment, on a sector basis, and drivers of economic growth.
- Lead our responsive analysis of the government's AI policy agenda and develop reform proposals.
- Lead on research reports and shorter policy briefings on a range of AI- and economic growth-related topics.
- Brief senior stakeholders on our findings and actively engage with other civil society organisations.

Project management and administration

- Effectively manage multiple projects at the same time, delivering high-quality work at pace. This will include leading some projects.
- Provide project management to research staff in projects you are leading, and line management if required.
- Contribute to growing and strengthening the funding base for IPPR's work in this area. This might include fundraising for new research projects or strengthening existing funder relationships.

Profile and external relationships

- Develop and maintain a number of select relationships with politicians, policymakers, practitioners, journalists, academics, civil society organisations and funders. This might include liaising with international stakeholders.
- Contribute to IPPR's media profile, for example by writing op-eds and blogs and/or taking part in TV and radio interviews.

Corporate role and internal relationships

- Actively participate in IPPR's internal processes, which include forums of knowledge exchange, cross-institute research and policy discussions, and peer-led support and professional development.

Person specification

Essential knowledge, skills and experience

- Background in technology, AI or economic policy making.
- Experience in analysing industry dynamics and understanding economic trends in the context of technological change.
- Experience with data analysis and visualisation in economic contexts.
- Strong project management experience with the ability to work independently and manage own time effectively to work on several projects simultaneously.
- Have a sense of research strategy and political impact.
- Excellent writing skills, especially the ability to write in a variety of formats, lengths and to a range of audiences, explaining complex research findings in a clear and understandable way.
- Excellent verbal communication skills including the ability to present research and the desire to take up written and broadcast media opportunities.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to develop and maintain confident and collaborative relationships with a variety of stakeholders, both internally and externally.
- Commitment to the values and ethos of IPPR.

Desirable knowledge, skills and experience

- Knowledge of AI industry dynamics or software architecture.
- Experience in or openness to learn new research methods, including quantitative modelling, data science approaches or careful use of AI tools.
- Experience in working with senior decision makers.

Terms of appointment

Working for IPPR brings a range of benefits, with generous leave allowances and a commitment to work-life balance. We have offices in Manchester, London and Edinburgh and many staff work remotely for part of their week.

Salary

The salary for this role is £48,436 to £59,793 per year plus benefits on a full-time basis.

Contract period

This is a fixed term contract for 12 months, with a possibility of extension.

Location

This post will be based in our London office, right at the heart of Westminster, with staff expected to be in the office at least 40 per cent of their working hours. As part of our commitment to flexible working we will consider a range of options for the successful applicant to fill the post. All options can be discussed at interview stage.

Annual leave

We offer a generous 25 days of annual leave plus bank holidays and five additional Christmas closure days per year.

Pension

We recognise how important it is to help you save for your retirement and offer a defined contribution group stakeholder pension scheme with Aviva. You can choose to contribute up to 5.5% of your annual salary and we will match it.

Probation period

All appointments are subject to a six-month probationary period. This is a chance for us to support your induction and development, and make sure you have all you need to settle into IPPR and be effective in your new role. During probation you are required to give two weeks' notice.

Additional benefits

Wellbeing at work

We provide a number of ways to support your wellbeing including an occupational health service, Mental Health First Aiders and Employee Assistance Programme which is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This offers in the moment support and counselling for home-life and work-related issues as well financial and legal support, specialist information and signposting services.

Family friendly

We offer generous carer and parental leave, and family friendly policies designed to support staff with their family commitments, including up to 21 weeks maternity, adoption or shared parental leave at full pay, and six weeks paid paternity leave.

Flexible working

We're open to a variety of flexible working arrangements, allowing staff to adjust their working day to suit their individual needs.

We also offer paid time off to deal with emergencies, unexpected situations and certain other unplanned special circumstances.

Learning and development

We are fully committed to the learning and development of our staff, and as part of our team you can look forward to quality training and development opportunities. We believe in helping all our staff to make the most of their talents and realise their full potential - that's why we provide everyone with the opportunity to develop and offer five days paid study leave per year.

You will have the opportunity to undertake development to meet the needs of your role and for professional and personal development through formal and informal development opportunities and on-the-job training. Everyone has regular career development conversations, with their manager and we encourage learning to be shared.

Union and staff networks

We offer the option to join a trade union and have thriving staff-led networks to make sure everyone has a voice. These provide an outlet for sharing experiences and empowering colleagues to build an inclusive culture across IPPR. Hearing thoughts and ideas from our colleagues about how and where we can improve is key to us being a great place to work and is central to our values, ethos and objectives as a progressive organisation.

Giving back

We offer three days paid special leave to participate in volunteering activities.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

IPPR is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community, and from applicants with a range of professional and lived experiences. As an organisation engaging in critical debate about a wide range of progressive policy issues, we value the creativity and range of perspectives that a diverse team can provide.

How to apply

We hope you will consider making an application. To make an application, please send as one document (in PDF format):

- your updated CV (**no more than three sides**)
- a 400-500 word supporting statement that sets out under separate headings why you think this role is the right move for you and how you meet the knowledge, skills and experience criteria

If you pass to interview stage, we will also ask you to prepare a short presentation question.

We would also be grateful if you complete the [equality and diversity monitoring form](#). This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.

Please send your completed application to applications@ippr.org quoting **ref. SRF/JUNE**

Closing date for applications: Midday on Monday 7 July

Interviews will take place in our London office on Tuesday 15 July

Please contact us at recruitment@ippr.org if you need any help or adjustments to apply for this role or the application materials to be sent to you in a different format.

What happens next

We are committed to informing all applicants of the outcome of their application, but in some cases, due to the large number of applications we receive for certain jobs, this may take a while. Unfortunately we are unable to provide individual feedback to those whose applications have not been shortlisted.

We wish you every success with your application and thank you for your interest in IPPR.

Applicants guide: Right to work in the UK checks

1 Overview

UK employers are legally required to conduct Right to Work Checks. This is done to verify that their prospective employees have the appropriate and valid permission to work in the United Kingdom. This requirement is set out under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, specifically Sections 15 to 25, and is supported by Home Office guidance that is updated regularly.

You'll need to prove your right to work in the UK before you start working for us, whether permanent, temporary, part-time, or casual. How you do this depends on your nationality and what kind of permission you have to work in the UK.

This process must be applied consistently to all candidates, ensuring non-discriminatory practices irrespective of nationality, race, or ethnicity.

To verify a job applicant's right to work in the UK, the employer is required to check and retain evidence of from a list published by the Home Office. You can access the list [here](#). We are unable to accept applications from candidates that cannot provide documentary evidence of right to work in the United Kingdom, and we will not be able to confirm employment until this documentation has been produced. You must produce an original document – photocopies are not acceptable under the Act.

2 If you're a British or Irish citizen

If you're a British or Irish citizen, you can prove your right to work in the UK with either of the following:

- a British passport
- an Irish passport or passport card

Your passport or passport card can be current or expired.

If you do not have a passport or passport card, you can prove your right to work with one of the following:

- a UK birth or adoption certificate
- an Irish birth or adoption certificate
- a certificate of registration or naturalisation as a British citizen

You must also give your employer an official letter or document from a previous employer or a government agency.

For example, you could use a letter from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) or the Social Security Agency in Northern Ireland.

The letter must show your name and National Insurance number.

3 If you're not a British or Irish citizen

If you're not a British or Irish citizen, you can prove your right to work with:

- a share code - you can [get a share code online](#)
- your [eligible immigration documents](#)

You can choose which option you use.

If you cannot prove your right to work

If you're not a British or Irish citizen, your employer can check if you can work with the [employer checking service](#).

If you're a Commonwealth citizen, you may be able to [get documents to show that you can work in the UK through the Windrush Scheme](#).

If you have any further queries about these provisions, please do not hesitate to ask.