

## Senior economist, macroeconomics

### Welcome

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Thank you for your interest in the role of senior economist in our macroeconomics and AI team 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.

We are at a crucial moment for macroeconomic management in the UK. With high debt, elevated inflation and sluggish economic growth, policymakers face difficult trade-offs. At the same time, addressing urgent generational challenges - from poverty to climate change - demands increased investment. This is an exciting opportunity to shape IPPR's policy agenda on macroeconomics, in particular how macro-fiscal policy can boost growth and improve living standards, while ensuring fiscal sustainability.

We are looking for someone with intellectual curiosity, analytical rigour, and strong initiative. You will bring a solid background in economics or economic policymaking, including experience in data analysis and visualisation. You do not require direct experience of Westminster, but we are looking for someone with a good sense of political strategy and how research can drive policy impact.

The successful applicant will have strong project management skills and be able to communicate complex economic ideas clearly. A background in macroeconomic policy, such as fiscal or monetary policy, would be valuable but is not essential. Openness to learning new quantitative methods, such as economic modelling or the careful use of AI tools, would also be beneficial.

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

## About us

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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

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. It's [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](#), [The Difference](#) and most recently [Workwhile](#). We also incubated [Centre for Cities](#), which became independent in 2007.

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 economist, macroeconomics

**Responsible to:** Head of macroeconomics and AI

**Contract:** Two-year fixed term contract (with potential to extend/be made permanent)

**Hours:** Full time (37.5 hours)

**Salary:** £48,436 to £59,793 per annum depending on experience, plus benefits

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### Role purpose:

We are at a crucial time for macroeconomic management in the UK. High debt, elevated inflation and low economic growth leave the Chancellor with difficult trade-offs. At the same time, addressing generational challenges – from poverty to climate change to national security – will likely require a boost in investment. We need thoughtful new answers for resolving this tension.

This is an exciting opportunity to shape IPPR's policy agenda on macroeconomics, in particular how macro-fiscal policy can boost growth and improve living standards, while ensuring fiscal sustainability. At a crucial time in British politics, this will require both a steady approach to macroeconomic policy making and bold new policy ideas. Key questions we will be working on are: what is the right fiscal and monetary policy stance for the UK? How could fiscal and macroeconomic frameworks be improved? How can we deliver public investment in ways that boosts growth, while ensuring sustainability and achieving societal objectives? How can macro forecasts better reflect structural interventions, such as industrial policy?

The job holder will conduct both analytical work and strategic policy advocacy, via briefings, meetings with senior stakeholders and occasional media appearances.

### Main responsibilities:

#### Research and policy

- Co-lead our macroeconomic policy development and our analysis on fiscal policy, fiscal space and growth.
- Help develop our response to the government's fiscal policy and the Bank of England's monetary policy.

- Contribute to our analysis of the macroeconomic impacts of a range of government policies, including its public investment agenda.
- Lead on research reports and shorter policy briefings on a range of macroeconomic topics.
- Brief senior stakeholders on our findings and actively engage with other civil society organisations.

### **Project management and administration**

- Effectively managing multiple projects at the same time, delivering high-quality work at pace. This will include leading some projects.
- Providing project management to research staff in projects you are leading, and line management if required.
- Contributing to grow and strengthen 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**

- Developing and maintaining a number of select relationships with politicians, policymakers, practitioners, journalists, academics, civil society organisations and funders.
- Contributing 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**

- Active participation 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**

- 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 a number of projects simultaneously
- Background in economics or economic policy making
- 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 relate confidently and positively to a diverse range of people internally and externally at IPPR
- Commitment to the values and ethos of IPPR.

### **Desirable knowledge, skills and experience**

- Background in macroeconomic policy contexts (eg fiscal or monetary policy)
- Experience in or openness to learn new quantitative research methods, including modelling or data science approaches or careful use of AI tools
- Experience in working with senior decision makers

## Terms of appointment

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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 two-year fixed term contract (with potential to extend/be made permanent).

### **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

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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 on a macroeconomic policy 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](mailto:applications@ippr.org) quoting **ref. SE/MAR**

**Closing date for applications:** 9am on Monday 14 April 2025

**Interviews** will take place in our London office on Wednesday 23 April

Please contact us at [recruitment@ippr.org](mailto: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

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## 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 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.

Please note, we are unable to offer visa sponsorship for this role and therefore applicants must have the right to live and work in the United Kingdom.

### **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.

## **2 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.