

Economist/Research Fellow (Economy & Environment Team)

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the role of economist/research fellow in the economy & environment 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. The recent conclusion of IPPR's Commission on Health and Prosperity was not just highly influential with government but also mainstreamed the idea that one of the key issues holding our economy back is the poor health of the nation. Our Economy and Environment team works across a broad swathe of progressive policy areas. Of particular relevance to this role is our work on creating economic prosperity, green industrial strategy, science and innovation, and the growth impacts of net zero.

We are at an incredibly exciting time for the organisation with the advent of a new government, and we are looking to recruit a new economist/research fellow to the Economy & Environment Team to increase the relevance and impact of our work. Whilst we are looking for an economist/research fellow in economic policy, for an exceptional candidate we will consider appointing at senior economist/research fellow level.

This is a vital role at IPPR over the coming months and years, as government establishes policies we have advocated for, such as an Industrial Strategy and a National Wealth Fund, and as we expand our work into wider economic growth strategy. The successful candidate will have a real opportunity to shape our forthcoming work on how policy can boost economic growth and ensure it is directed towards fairer and more sustainable outcomes.

You may have studied economics, or you may have developed your economic policy expertise elsewhere. A degree in economics is not a requirement for this role, but the successful candidate will have excellent knowledge of economic policy and its interaction with political dynamics, backed up by strong research

skills. You will combine a passion for economic justice, intellectual flair, innovative thinking, and political understanding with the ability to deliver high-quality and impactful research and policy work.

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

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: Economist/Research Fellow

Responsible to: Associate Director for Economic Policy

Contract: Permanent

Hours: Full time (37.5 hours)

Salary: £42,280 to £52,185 per annum depending on experience, plus benefits

Main responsibilities:

Research and policy

- Independently conducting high-quality research with policy and political relevance on the economy, including selecting appropriate quantitative methodologies and effectively analysing, interpreting, and innovatively presenting data.
- Relating data analysis to policy questions, identifying the policy implications of findings, and developing robust policy recommendations.

Administration and project management

- Collaborating with others within IPPR to develop research proposals and fundraise for research projects, and ensuring that relationships are maintained with existing funders.
- Effectively managing research projects, contributing to other projects across a range of policy agendas particularly those relating to the economy, and assisting with quality assurance of work across the institute, ensuring high quality work is delivered on time.
- Providing line management to interns and (if required) junior colleagues.

Profile and external relationships

- Developing and maintaining good and productive relationships with researchers, academics, policymakers, practitioners and journalists relevant to economic policy.
- Contributing to IPPR's media profile by authoring articles/blogs and undertaking TV and radio interviews.

Corporate role and internal relationships

- Contributing to the intellectual capital of IPPR and being an active member of IPPR's internal peer-led support, development and knowledge management groups and participating in researchers' meetings.
- Working with colleagues to lead the development of IPPR's capacity to undertake analysis of the economy.

Person specification

Essential knowledge, skills and experience

- A strong grounding in economic policy and analysis such as a degree in economics or other subject with significant analytical requirements, or equivalent training and work experience.
- An understanding of public policy and current economic policy debates and the ability to work across a range of policy agendas with impact.
- Experience of devising and planning analytical work, including researching appropriate methods and independently resolving methodological challenges.
- Experience of producing high-quality quantitative analysis in Excel and/or other relevant statistical software packages such as Stata, R, or Python.
- Good project management skills with the ability to work independently and manage own time effectively to work on a number of projects simultaneously (including projects without a significant quantitative element).
- 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.

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 £42,280 to £52,185 per year plus benefits on a full-time basis.

Contract period

This is a permanent role.

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 two sides)
- a one-page 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.
- Your answers to two questions (we ask that you do not use ChatGPT or similar assistance with your answers):
 - What are the implications of the [Chancellor's speech on going "further and faster" for economic growth](#) (29th Jan 2025) for the future direction of our economy? (350 words max)
 - What is one policy that the UK government could adopt that would have the largest effect in increasing both economic growth and real household disposable income? Explain your thinking (350 words max)

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. E/RF/Feb**

Closing date for applications: 5pm on Friday 28 February 2025

Interviews will take place in our London office on Tuesday 11 March

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 will not be able to confirm employment until this documentation has been produced.

Please note, this vacancy does not meet the criteria for skilled worker sponsorship. Therefore, we are unable to accept applications from candidates that cannot provide documentary evidence of right to work in the United Kingdom. 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.