

Senior Economist (ECON1902)



Welcome from the Director

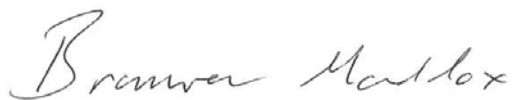
I am very pleased that you are interested in applying for the role of Senior Economist at the Institute for Government.

The Institute was established a decade ago with the aim of making government more effective and improving the way it makes decisions. Our aim is to be a catalyst for improvements in government – we not only conduct research but also work closely with people in Westminster and Whitehall to fulfil our mission.

As Senior Economist you will become a key member of the IfG's research team. You will contribute your expertise to our project teams across the full range of the Institute's work programme. This currently includes work on the public finances – such as the management and transformation of public spending and tax, and the merits of outsourcing to the private sector – the challenges facing government to deliver the UK's exit from the EU, and devolution of policy making, spending and tax powers to the nations, regions and cities of the UK.

We are working to extend the economic analysis in all our existing work and to undertake more technically challenging and rigorous work on the assumptions and frameworks underpinning much of government's forecasting and decision-making processes. You will work alongside our Chief Economist, who joined the Institute in April 2018, to develop a programme of work which will use economic insight to understand and improve government effectiveness and scrutinise the economic analysis used in government.

We offer you the opportunity to be a core part of an organisation which is making an impact in the world of government and politics and to work in a stimulating and challenging environment. We are based close to Whitehall and Westminster and hope that our excellent working conditions and opportunities for all our staff to learn and develop while at the Institute will prove of interest to you.



Bronwen Maddox
Director, Institute for Government



Senior Economist at the Institute for Government

The Institute for Government invites applications for the position of Senior Economist (job reference: ECON1902).

Who we are

The Institute for Government (IfG) is the leading think tank dedicated to helping make government more effective. It is a politically independent registered charity conducting high quality quantitative and qualitative research. Working with leading politicians from all parties in Westminster and senior civil servants, and drawing on best practice around the world, the Institute provides evidence-based analysis, advice and commentary to help government work better.

Good government is one of the most important factors driving the UK's social and economic performance and the health of democracy. But while Whitehall ranks among the world's best administrations, the sheer scale of today's political challenges demands ever more capable leadership from government, and challenges public trust in institutions.

What we are looking for

The Institute's profile and demand for its expertise are growing and we are looking to recruit an experienced economist to lead new projects and provide a rigorous and challenging economic perspective to existing projects.

We are interested in applications from very bright, enthusiastic economists who have a keen interest in policy making and improving the functioning of government. Suitable candidates will have an exceptional undergraduate or postgraduate degree in economics and at least three years' work experience in a relevant role. This might have been in the civil service, a regulator, a policy-focused research institute or think tank, or a consultancy working closely with government.

The IfG's primary focus is on improving the functioning of government in the UK. However, wherever possible we draw on experience in other countries and identify those recommendations that cross borders. Knowledge of how governments function in other similar countries would be a bonus but not essential.

Our offer to you

We can offer the right candidate an excellent opportunity to work in a stimulating and challenging environment in the heart of Westminster, in an organisation that has a high and growing profile in the world of government, policy making and politics.

The IfG offers excellent working conditions and seeks to provide opportunities for all our staff to learn and develop while at the Institute, including through the opportunity to attend our rich and varied programme of events.

The role

Reporting to the IfG's Chief Economist, the Senior Economist will:

- **lead projects** with a significant economic component
- working with other project teams, **provide rigorous economic analysis** to underpin the Institute's work across areas such as the performance of public services and central government administration, the effects of devolution, outsourcing and contracting with the private sector, and investment in infrastructure

- **undertake quantitative analysis** using statistical and econometric techniques and communicate the results in a clear and visually arresting way to a general audience without compromising the accuracy and integrity of the data and analysis
- **conduct literature reviews** to understand the state of knowledge and identify gaps.
- **build strong working relationships** inside the Institute and externally (including with MPs and senior civil servants, government departments and agencies, other organisations in the academic, public and commercial sectors and public policy commentators including journalists)
- work with our events team to **organise public events, seminars and meetings**, and present project findings and recommendations in these forums
- articulate the results of projects, including **presenting high-quality written reports and presentations** in a suitable format and style for specific targeted audiences, to challenging deadlines
- work with our partnerships team to **identify potential funders and apply for research grants** to supplement the Institute's core funding
- assist the Institute in **developing and implementing tailored workshops and advice** for decision makers in government.
- work closely with other Institute staff to maximise the impact of our work.

You would be expected to contribute to ensuring that all the Institute's activities adhere to our core values, being:

- **Innovative**: pushing at the boundaries of current knowledge, exploring and experimenting with diverse approaches to find the best solution.
- **Rigorous**: thorough and precise in their methods and producing the highest-quality data and services.
- **Impartial**: neutral and politically non-aligned.
- **Trusted**: ensuring we earn the confidence of all those we work with, being open and challenging as well as a trusted guardian of knowledge.

What we do

- We undertake high-quality quantitative and qualitative research, focused on the mechanics and processes of government, producing practical recommendations for change.
- We provide tailored development opportunities for senior decision makers and their teams.
- We offer consultancy and advice to departments and political parties, leading and shaping opinion on improving performance and effectiveness.
- We organise and host regular high-level events addressing different aspects of government in the UK and internationally.
- Our headquarters are also a meeting place where senior officials from across Whitehall can discuss the challenges of making government work and access practical insights from public servants, academics and opinion formers from across the world.

Our programme currently includes the following themes:

- Public finances – the management of public spending and tax
- Public Services – performance and transformation
- Devolution – assessing the performance of the devolved administrations, evaluating different approaches taken across the country and developing recommendations for what and how responsibilities can be devolved effectively
- Outsourcing and procurement – what has worked and what hasn't
- Policy making and delivery
- Brexit – the UK's future relationship with the European Union
- The role of ministers and civil servants
- Parliament – the political and constitutional context
- Digital – the impact of digital and AI on the civil service
- Professional development – for senior government decision makers

Person Specification

CRITERIA	STANDARD	Essential/Desirable
Experience	A degree of 2:1 or above from a leading UK university, or international equivalent, with economics as the major component; or a masters in economics	Essential
	At least three years of relevant work experience	Essential
	Experience using quantitative methods to address public policy questions.	Essential
	Experience of any of the following: organising roundtables, workshops or public events; producing written work of a publishable standard; helping to secure funding for projects	Desirable
Knowledge	Knowledge of government and/or public policy	Desirable
Skills	Ability to communicate clearly and influence a range of audiences in writing and orally	Essential
	Strong analytical abilities to understand problems and causal drivers and think creatively about radical solutions	Essential
	Ability to lead elements of projects, producing accurate work to tight deadlines, sometimes in a rapidly evolving working environment	Essential
	Quantitative skills, including a high degree of aptitude in using Microsoft Excel and econometric software packages (such as Stata) or programming languages (such as R), and being able to communicate stories using data in a visually arresting way without compromising the accuracy and integrity of the data	Essential
Attitude	Commitment to the Institute's values, aims and objectives; a keen interest in public service improvement	Essential
	A proactive attitude to work; taking opportunities as they arise	Essential
	Willingness to learn new skills and methods – for example, qualitative research skills including how to conduct semi-structured interviews and design and lead workshops	Desirable

Information for all applicants

Employer:	Institute for Government
Location:	2 Carlton Gardens, SW1Y 5AA
Who can apply:	<p>Applicants who meet the relevant skills and experience as set out in this pack.</p> <p>Applicants should either: i) have an entitlement to work in the UK or ii) hold a relevant visa allowing work.</p>
Timetable	<p>The expected selection process timetable is:</p> <p>Closing date: Monday 18 February, 10:00</p> <p>Interviews will be held in the week commencing Monday 25 February 2019.</p>
Start dates:	As soon as notice periods allow, but with some flexibility for the right candidate.
Salary:	Competitive, depending on experience.
Benefits:	<p>The Institute has a pension scheme which you will be auto-enrolled into in your third month of employment. Upon being auto-enrolled you will have the option to opt out again if you wish. The contribution is a minimum of 5% from the employee and a fixed 10% contribution from the employer.</p> <p>Death in service life assurance of 4 x salary is given to all staff.</p>
Working hours:	You will normally work a five-day week of 37.5 hours (9:00am – 5:30pm with a one-hour lunch break) but you will, as the occasion requires, work outside these hours.
Annual leave:	The annual full-time leave allowance will be 30 days in addition to eight days of bank and public holiday. This allowance will be pro-rated for the first holiday year of your contract.
Equal opportunities:	<p>All job applicants and employees will receive equal treatment regardless of sex, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, civil partnership, gender reassignment, age, disability, or religious beliefs.</p> <p>The Institute for Government collects equal opportunities monitoring information with applications. This information is anonymised and is not given to those involved in the recruitment process. It is used only for monitoring purposes and to help us better understand how we, as an employer, can ensure equality of opportunity for all.</p>
Privacy policy:	<p>When you apply for a job with the Institute, we collect and process information (personal data) about you according to data protection law. For full details of our privacy policy please visit:</p> <p>www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/recruitment-privacy-policy</p>

How to apply

Please send your CV and a covering letter quoting reference: ECON1902 to recruitment@instituteforgovernment.org.uk.

Closing date: Monday 18 February, 10:00.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview in the week commencing 25 February. If you are unable to be in London during this period, we are able to conduct interviews by Skype.

Contacts

If any of this information is unclear, please contact us on: recruitment@instituteforgovernment.org.uk and leave your contact details.

Further information about the Institute is available at: www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk

We send out a weekly newsletter with a summary of current publications and research. We also send out regular emails about our current research, publications, commentary, news and forthcoming events (including research forums). To receive these emails, please visit www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/newsletter