

Postdoctoral Research Specialist

£33,830 - £43,850 p.a., depending on experience

Start Date: from April 2025, with some flexibility

London | SW1

The Resolution Foundation is an independent think-tank focused on improving living standards for those on low-to-middle incomes. Our reputation for rigorous analytical work that results in effective policy solutions places us at the forefront of the UK debate on economic and social policy.

The Resolution Foundation is looking for a thoughtful and proactive individual to join our research team on a one-year fixed term contract to support work on a specific research project.

What does the role involve?

The successful candidate will primarily provide research support on a project funded by the Nuffield Foundation using the Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) dataset to characterize the job ladder in England.

The role provides opportunity to develop and deepen expertise in the use of UK micro data, especially the LEO, to bring a research project to fruition and to inform the public and decision-makers about the policy relevant findings. Duties primarily involve working with the LEO in the ONS SRS, and then communicating findings to senior staff and external stakeholders. The output of the project will be a policy paper and academic journal article on which the candidate would be a named coauthor.

There may also be some opportunities to get involved in other work at the Foundation. The Foundation's work programme currently includes incomes and inequality; jobs, skills and pay; housing, wealth and debt; tax and welfare; public finances and the economy. More recently, we have added work streams on trade, net zero and productivity, covering these issues through both an intergenerational and regional lens.

What kind of person are we looking for?

We are interested in hearing from individuals with advanced expertise in econometrics, analysing micro data and writing academic and policy papers, comparable to a level that would be gained in the course of doctoral studies in economics or similar subject. Previous experience of working with the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes dataset is not a prerequisite, but would be an advantage. We also require strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work quickly and flexibly as part of a small, close-knit team.

Closing Date: 08.59 Monday 10 February 2025

First Interviews: w/c 27 February 2025 | **Second Interviews:** w/c 3 March 2025

What is the organisational culture?

The Foundation prides itself on analytical rigour and we strive to achieve standards of excellence in all our work. This commitment is matched by dedication to our core purpose, working to improve the living standards of those on low-to-middle incomes. These twin pillars of rigour and purpose inform our culture and underpin everything we do.

As a member of our research team, the successful candidate will benefit from interaction with senior stakeholders in government, media and the wider policy-making world. We hold a regular programme of external events, hosting diverse speakers from the policy making world, including universities, the voluntary sector and the private sector, and we regularly engage with politicians from across the political spectrum. We also hold internal masterclasses and roundtables with leading experts who engage with our work in detail. The research team have backgrounds in economics, social sciences and a range of other disciplines, and carry out quantitative and qualitative research and analysis, using a wide range of micro-datasets and macroeconomic data sources.

Investing in our team is a priority for us and we work hard to ensure each employee feels valued, respected and able to give their best. We use formal training, on-the-job learning and mentoring from colleagues to actively develop the skills and reputations of all our team. Postdoctoral Research Interns can expect to develop skills in quantitative data handling and analysis; communicating research, whether in a written form, using visuals, or orally; policy reviews and analysis; and developing their own network.

We offer a competitive benefits package and a range of flexible working and family-friendly policies including generous occupational benefits and annual leave allowances. We are a small close-knit team who all support each other and share cross-organisational work in addition to fulfilling individual responsibilities. Our office is based in Westminster with home working available up to two days per week, subject to business need. We also have a range of family-friendly policies and practices.

Diversity at the Resolution Foundation

The Foundation recognises the lack of diversity in economics and the policy-making sector, and works to address this through implementing and promoting best practice in internal policies and procedures, and through devising and supporting sector wide initiatives promoting careers in economics and think tanks to underrepresented groups.

Our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy encompasses all areas of our work and also our contribution to wider efforts in the sector. Many of our positive action initiatives are primarily focused on helping to feed the pipeline of future policy makers. For more information about our ongoing work in this area, please see our [recruitment brochure](#).

We are happy to provide reasonable adjustments to assist candidates to navigate the application process and/or the demands of the role itself. Please contact sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org if you would like to speak to someone in confidence about your needs.

Main duties and responsibilities

- To provide research support to Dr Gregory Thwaites, a Research Director at the Resolution Foundation, on a research project involving the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes dataset
- To coauthor one or more academic journal articles and policy reports on this project
- To disseminate the findings to policy and academic audiences and the general public.
- To provide research support on other projects using econometrics or micro data.
- Any other duties as deemed reasonable by the line manager

About you

Essential requirements:

- Advanced knowledge in econometrics, analysing micro data and writing academic and policy papers, comparable to a level that would be gained in the course of doctoral studies in economics or similar subject.
- Experience with Python, Stata and/or R
- Analytical rigour, attention to detail and the ability to interpret and communicate complex quantitative data analysis
- An appreciation of some of the key drivers of the living standards of low-to-middle income households
- An understanding of the wider economic and social policy context in the UK
- Strong inter-personal skills

Desirable characteristics:

- Experience working with the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes dataset
- A commitment to the mission of the Resolution Foundation

Summary of main terms and conditions

Some of the main terms and conditions for this post are summarised below. This summary does not form part of any subsequent employment contract. The Foundation has a defined contribution pension scheme and a range of flexible and family friendly policies.

Due to the nature of this post, sometimes you will be expected to work outside normal office hours. Time off in lieu is available when appropriate. The Foundation is a small team and staff members support each other, work flexibly, and share cross- organisational work in addition to fulfilling individual responsibilities.

Job title: Postdoctoral Research Specialist

Contract: Fixed Term - 1 year

Accountable to: Research Director

Annual leave: 30 days p.a. plus bank holidays

Location: London, SW1

Working Hours: 37.5 hours a week, 09.00-17.30 Mon to Fri, although exact timings are flexible and you may sometimes be asked to participate outside these hours.

Notice period: One month

Probation period: Three months

How to apply

If you would like to apply, please visit <https://app.beapplied.com/apply/mhgaaceyhd> to submit a short CV and cover letter, outlining how you meet the essential requirements and, where relevant, desirable characteristics for the role. These will be anonymised and shortlisted.

Closing Date

To be considered for this opportunity, please ensure you submit your application by 08:59am on 10 February 2025.

Interviews

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. We expect to hold first interviews w/c 27 February 2025 with second interviews w/c 10 February 2025. Please let us know if you have any specific requirements so we can make any necessary reasonable adjustments in advance.

Financial Assistance

Assistance for interview expenses may be provided subject to agreement in advance. If you are invited to attend an interview and would like to be reimbursed for travel expenses, please let us know when confirming your attendance. We are unable to cover international travel expenses but can offer virtual interviews instead.

Office-Based and Remote Working

The Foundation's office is based in Westminster with home working available two days per week. If you have any health concerns that may impact your working arrangements or queries about caring responsibilities, please contact sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org.

Privacy notice for job applicants

For full details on how we process your personal data, please see our [privacy notice for job applicants](#) which can be found on our Opportunities page on our website.