

# Principal Economist or Researcher

£68,250 - £80,490 p.a., depending on experience

Fixed Term Contract (15 months) | Full-time and part-time applications welcome  
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 committed individual to lead our work on tax policy and analysis. This is an exciting time to join the team as we work to keep living standards at the top of the policy agenda, build on the success of our Economy 2030 Inquiry, and set new priorities under our new CEO.

## What does the role involve?

Working at the heart of the Foundation's research and policy team and in collaboration with external partners, the post holder will design and deliver an ambitious programme of research and policy work on tax policy. This will range from informing and influencing public debates over the size of overall tax burden, to analysis of the distributional consequences of personal and indirect tax changes, to policy work on the appropriate ways to tax (for example), housing, the very wealthy, or motoring. Applicants will contribute to our high-profile work in the run-up to and immediately after fiscal events, undertake reactive work in response to emerging public policy debates, and propose and undertake longer-term research and policy work relating to the tax system in the UK. The postholder will also work as a flexible member of our research team, getting involved in other areas of the Foundation's work.

## What kind of person are we looking for?

The role would suit an individual with the ability to conduct economic and policy analysis independently at an advanced level. This would be consistent with the skills obtained from significant experience working in government, think tanks or applied academic research, along with university-level training in associated disciplines (or equivalent experience gained in another context). Formal training or qualifications in economics are not a prerequisite, but a degree of economic literacy is essential for this job (so as to be able to participate in policy debates about tax policy). Candidates will need strong numeracy skills, and will be expected to use Excel for data manipulation, and to work with household survey micro-data using appropriate statistical software.

The successful candidate will have a detailed knowledge of issues in tax policy, the skills to situate research findings in the policy context, and the ability to communicate the results to a wide range of stakeholders, verbally and in writing. A proven track record for delivering research impact or policy change is also essential.

We are a fast-paced organisation so the capability to work at pace on several different projects is essential. The ideal candidate will also be able to work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders from academia, government, industry and the broader research community.

*Closing date: 08:59am on Friday 19 September 2025*

*First Interviews: w/c 6 October 2025 | Second Interviews: w/c 13 October 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. Researchers 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.

## **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 focused on helping to feed the pipeline of future policy makers. For more information about our work in this area, please see our recruitment brochure. We are happy to provide reasonable adjustments to assist candidates to navigate the application process or the demands of the role itself. Please contact [sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org](mailto:sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org) if you would like to speak to someone in confidence about your needs.

As part of our commitment in this area, we offer job specific pre-application discussions to Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic candidates and all candidates with disabilities who would like to speak to someone about the role in advance. Please contact [sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org](mailto:sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org) for more details. We also offer the option for Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic candidates and all candidates with disabilities to opt into a guaranteed interview scheme if they meet the essential requirements. Please tick the box during the application process if you are interested in participating in this scheme.

## Main duties and responsibilities

- Lead the Foundation's research and policy programme, working closely with Directors to ensure programmes advance broader organisational strategy.
- Propose and evaluate new projects and policy ideas as part of the Foundation's research programme
- Design, manage and deliver key projects within the research programme by conducting qualitative and quantitative research to the highest standards and developing appropriate policy proposals
- Disseminate research projects through written reports, notes, spotlights and media articles
- Engage with key stakeholders at the highest level in government, research institution and academia, media, the private sector and the voluntary sector and monitor relevant external policy developments
- Represent the Foundation in the national media, at seminars, conferences and other public events (including speaking at and chairing events)
- Manage the budget of relevant programmes, ensuring they taken forward cost-effectively and within budget
- Any other duties as deemed reasonable by the line manager

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.

## About you

Essential requirements:

- A commitment to the Resolution Foundation's core mission
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of the economic and policy issues relating to the tax system in the UK, and of public policy issues relating to people on low-to-middle incomes in Britain
- Excellent numeracy and quantitative skills with experience of using a range of research techniques
- Proven project management skills and extensive experience of designing, managing and delivering high quality projects on time
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in a range of formats (briefings, reports, media articles, blogs and presentations)
- A proven track record for delivering research impact and influencing policy change at the higher levels of government
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work flexibly as part of a small team in a fast-moving environment

Desirable characteristics:

- Master's degree or equivalent knowledge gained in another environment
- Experience of static or dynamic tax and benefit microsimulation models and the principles of distributional analysis

- Experience working directly with micro data (either from administrative sources or household or firm surveys) using appropriate statistical software
- A well-established network among the UK's analytical and policy communities, including academics, policy experts and other stakeholders

## How to apply

Resolution Foundation uses an online application platform for all our roles. Developed by the Behavioural Insights Team, Be Applied is designed to eliminate unconscious bias in the recruitment process. If you would like to apply, please visit <https://app.beapplied.com/apply/vy9pxddrma>

The application process has two stages.

- I. About you: The platform will ask you for some personal details and to upload your CV. The work-based scenario questions are first assessed blind by multiple reviewers so your personal details and CV will only become visible to the Foundation if you are shortlisted.
- II. Work-place scenario-based questions: You will be asked to complete three work-place scenario-based questions which are relevant to the role and will be marked against the essential requirements section of the job description. Each question has a 250-word limit and you will have the opportunity to amend these sections before submitting your application.

N.B. Each of your answers will be reviewed separately and anonymously by different people. This means the person reviewing your answer to question 2 will not have access to your answer to question 1, and so on. Therefore, do not refer in one answer to what you have written in another (e.g. avoid using phrases like "as explained above"). If it is relevant, explain again in full.

## Use of AI in the application process

Please refrain from using AI software to help answer the application questions. While we appreciate AI software can be a useful work tool, the Applied system requires all candidates to certify that the answers they provide are their own original work and not plagiarised nor automatically generated. Applied provides an AI generated answer for reviewers to refer to when sifting and asks them to flag responses they suspect may be AI generated. Using AI to help construct your answers may therefore be detrimental to your application.

## 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:** Principal Economist or Researcher

**Salary:** £68,250 - £80,490 p.a., depending on experience

**Location:** London SW1

**Contract:** Fixed Term (15 months)

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

**Probation period:** Three months

**Notice period:** Three months

**Working Hours:** Full-time hours are 37.5 per week, typically 09:00–17:30 Monday to Friday. Part-time arrangements are also available, with hours agreed based on role requirements and individual circumstances.

Exact timings may vary, and occasionally you may be asked to participate outside your usual hours.

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.

## **Closing Date**

To be considered for this opportunity, please ensure you submit your application by 08:59am on Friday 19 September 2025.

## **Interviews**

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. We expect to hold first interviews w/c 6 October 2025 with second interviews w/c 13 October 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, normally Wednesday and Friday, subject to organisational requirements. If you have any health concerns that may impact your working arrangements or queries about caring responsibilities, please contact [sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org](mailto:sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org).

## **Equal Opportunities Monitoring**

In line with our determination to attract a diverse workforce, we constantly review our recruitment procedures. To help with this, we would be grateful if you would also complete the equal opportunities monitoring form provided on the application platform. Any information you provide is collated anonymously and used solely to track the effectiveness of our recruitment campaign.

## **Feedback**

All unsuccessful applicants will be sent feedback about their application through the Applied platform. Candidates who have attended an interview will be offered in-depth feedback in order for the experience to assist in preparing for future interviews. We also welcome any feedback candidates have about the application process.

## **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.

## **The Research Team**

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 underpin everything we do.

It is an exciting time to join the research team, as we build on a period of significant impact and seek to step up to major challenges for economic policy in the years ahead. We are a fast-paced organisation, focused on responding to the current economic crisis as well as contributing to crucial longer-term public policy debates. The capability to work at pace on several different projects concurrently and a strong desire to progress within an academically-rigorous and policy engaged research team are essential.

We actively develop and grow the skills and reputations of all our team, and provide training and development opportunities, including support for formal qualifications when applicable. Our researchers enjoy frequent interaction with senior stakeholders in government, media and the wider policy-making world, and we aim to provide opportunity for progression within the Foundation wherever possible.

## **Researchers**

Researchers provide support on a wide range of economic and social policy issues, including writing up the findings of primary analytical work and conduct secondary analysis of relevant literature. They work closely with senior staff to draft research notes and publications and they monitor and keep the team informed of external policy developments relevant to the Foundation's research programme.

Researchers also contribute to key projects within the research programme by conducting qualitative and quantitative research and developing appropriate policy proposals. An understanding of the wider economic and social policy context in the UK and an appreciation of some of the key drivers of living standards are essential.

## **Economists / Research and Policy Analysts**

Economists and Research and Policy Analysts contribute to the design, management and delivery of key projects within the research programme by conducting qualitative and quantitative research and developing appropriate policy proposals. They disseminate research projects through written reports, and support the Foundation's research programme by engaging with stakeholders in government, academia, and the private and voluntary sectors.

They represent the Foundation at seminars, conferences and other public events and make appearances in print and broadcast media. Our Economists and Research and Policy Analysts have a sound knowledge and understanding of public policy issues relating to people on low-to-middle incomes in Britain and have proven project management skills, and experience of managing and delivering high quality projects on time.



## **Senior Economists / Senior Research and Policy Analysts**

Senior Economists and Senior Research and Policy Analysts propose, design, manage and evaluate new projects and policy ideas as part of the Foundation's research programme, and lead key projects by conducting qualitative and quantitative research and developing appropriate policy proposals. Senior Economists and Senior Research Policy Analysts have excellent quantitative research skills and experience of using a range of research techniques. They may manage junior members of the research team, as well as a rich network of stakeholders in government, the private sector, the voluntary sector and academia.

They also make regular appearances in print and broadcast media. A thorough knowledge and understanding of a specialist area of policy making in the UK and a thorough understanding of public policy issues relating to people on low to middle incomes in Britain is essential. Our Senior Economists/ Senior Research and Policy Analysts also have a proven track record of delivering research impact and influencing policy change.

## **Principal Economists / Principal Research and Policy Analysts**

Principal Economists / Principal Research and Policy Analysts lead the Foundation's research and policy programme across specific work streams, working closely with Directors to ensure programmes advance broader organisational strategy. They have proven project management skills and extensive experience of designing, managing and delivering high quality projects on time.

They also have a proven track record for delivering research impact and influencing policy change at the higher levels of government. They line manage members of the Foundation's research team and oversee the budget of relevant programmes, ensuring they are taken forward cost-effectively in addition to achieving the research aims.

## **Research Directors**

Research Directors lead the Foundation's research and policy programme across multiple work streams, and deliver a personal research programme focused on their specific expertise. They engage with key stakeholders at the highest level in government, media, the private sector and the voluntary sector, and forge close working relationships with leading experts in other research institutions and academia.

They manage the research budget, ensuring programmes are taken forward cost-effectively and within budget and they also help to devise and implement broader organisational strategy as part of the Senior Management team. They each have an established reputation as a leading expert on UK living standards and economic policy, extensive experience developing research strategies and managing projects, and an impressive track record in original research or policy making.