

ECONOMIST / RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYST

Contract: Permanent

Location: London SW1

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

Notice period: 3 months

Probation period: 3 months

Salary range: £45,170 - £56,990 p.a., depending on experience

Working Hours: Full-time hours are 37.5 per week. Our core hours are 10am – 4pm, with flexibility around when you start and finish your day. Part-time arrangements are also available and part-time applications are welcome

Closing date: 08:59 am on Thursday 28 May 2026

First Interviews: 15 - 17 June 2026

Second interviews: 6 - 9 July 2026

Our mission

The Resolution Foundation is an independent think-tank dedicated to lifting living standards in the UK. We focus particularly on households with low and middle incomes; those on low pay or in precarious work; and those vulnerable to financial shocks. We also investigate fairness between the generations in our Intergenerational Centre.

We aim to provide rigorous analytical work, develop effective policy proposals, and use our expertise to affect direct change. We analyse the trends and outlook for living standards, including for different age groups, family types, and levels of household income and wealth, and seek to promote greater understanding of these. Our research focuses both on the specific areas of the economy that matter most for people's living standards, including work and housing; and on economic growth and productivity as the route to sustainably higher living standards. We also examine the role of government in improving living standards including through taxes, social security and public services.

We inform public debate, alongside key decision makers in government, the private sector, and civil society. Alongside regular publications from our team on a range of policy issues, we hold a wide-ranging programme of events, hosting diverse speakers from academia, the voluntary sector and business, and regularly engage with politicians from across the political spectrum.

To learn more about our work and research areas, please visit our website: <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/our-work/>

What does the role involve?

The Resolution Foundation is looking for a thoughtful and committed individual to join our research team to help drive the production of high-quality, innovative economic analysis, and to support the development of associated policy recommendations.

This is an exciting time to join our team as we seek to turn around the stagnant living standards of the past twenty years, through influencing both the policies that can boost economic growth, and those that affect families' living standards directly.

Working at the heart of the Foundation's research and policy team, the post-holder will contribute to the design, management and delivery of key projects within the research programme. They will conduct qualitative and quantitative research, develop policy proposals, produce written reports, engage with a range of stakeholders and represent the Foundation externally.

Economists/Research and Policy Analysts work with other members of the research team getting involved in the broad range of the Foundation's work, while also developing expertise in specific subject areas. We are particularly seeking candidates keen to specialise in living standards; distributional analysis; productivity and economic growth; or public finances and public spending. Applicants will also contribute to our high-profile work in the run-up to and immediately after fiscal events, and produce reactive work in response to emerging public policy debates.

This is a permanent role based at our Westminster office. Applications for full-time or part-time hours are welcome, with a minimum of three days a week required.

What kind of person are we looking for?

We are looking for someone with a passion for improving living standards and productivity, and an ability to develop innovative policy solutions backed by rigorous research. The role would suit an individual with the ability to conduct economic and policy analysis proactively, with strong quantitative research skills, and the ability to communicate the results of research in a compelling way. The successful candidate will be one who fits into our supportive team culture and will collaborate effectively with others, internally and externally.

We are a fast-paced organisation, focused on responding to the current economic challenges as well as contributing to crucial longer-term public policy debates. The capability to work at speed on different projects concurrently and a strong desire to progress within an academically rigorous and policy-engaged research team are essential.

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 and middle incomes. These twin pillars of rigour and purpose inform our culture and underpin everything we do.

As a member of our research and policy 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. Research team members 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 networking.

Diversity and Inclusion

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. We also dedicate time to positive action initiatives 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 also 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 if you would like to speak to someone in confidence about your needs.

Pre-application Workshops

We value and are committed to increasing diversity within the sector and our own organisation, so we welcome applications from communities and groups currently underrepresented in economics.

To help potential applicants establish whether we are the right organisation for them, we invite interested candidates from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups; candidates with work-limiting health conditions or impairments; candidates from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, including those who were the first in their family to attend university; candidates looking to start a second career or transfer from another industry; candidates from the LGBT+ community; and other candidates who are underrepresented in the think tank sector and who would benefit from additional information before applying, to request access to a pre-recorded application workshop where members of our team will share information about the think tank sector, the application process, and what it's like to work for the Foundation as a member of the research team.

If you are interested, please complete this form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/H6RsYUKq2i>.

Job Description

Main duties and responsibilities

- Design and deliver projects within the research programme by conducting qualitative and quantitative research to the highest standards and developing appropriate policy proposals
- Propose and undertake new projects and policy ideas as part of the Foundation's research programme
- Disseminate research projects through written reports, articles, blogs and presentations
- Support and inform the Foundation's research programme by engaging with stakeholders in government, academia, and the private and voluntary sectors
- Communicate the work of the Foundation in print and broadcast media
- Represent the Foundation at our own seminars, conferences and other public events as well as at events run by other organisations
- Monitor and keep the team informed of external policy developments relevant to the Foundation's research programme
- 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.

Person Specification

The essential requirements are:

- A commitment to the Resolution Foundation's core mission
- Strong quantitative research skills, experience using a range of research techniques
- Sound knowledge and understanding of public-policy issues relating to living standards
- Proven project management skills and experience of 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)
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work flexibly on several different projects, as part of a small team in a fast moving environment

The desirable characteristics are:

- Experience of analysing individual-level microdata (such as the Households Below Average Income survey), using statistical software packages e.g. Stata, R or Python , and analysing policy using tax and benefit microsimulation or other models
- Experience working on issues related to: living standards; distributional analysis; productivity and economic growth; or analysing public services spending and/ or the UK's fiscal position
- Qualitative research skills and experience of using a range of techniques

Why join us?

We offer 30 days' annual leave plus bank holidays, a range of family friendly policies, and genuine flexibility - we welcome part-time applications and offer home working two days a week for full-time employees.

Our Westminster office puts you at the heart of the policy world, and we invest seriously in individual development through formal training, mentoring and opportunities to engage with senior figures across government, media and academia.

Above all, you'll be joining a small, collaborative team doing work that impacts policies affecting millions of households across the UK. For more information about what it's like to work at the Resolution Foundation, please see our recruitment brochure.

Some of the main terms and conditions for this post are summarised below. This summary does not form part of any subsequent employment contract. 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.

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

Notice period: 3 months

Probation period: 3 months

Job Title: Economist / Research and Policy Analyst

Salary range: £45,170 - £56,990 p.a., depending on experience

Working Hours: Full-time hours are 37.5 per week. Our core hours are 10am-4pm, with flexibility around when you start and finish your day. Exact timings may vary, and occasionally you may be asked to participate outside your usual hours.

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/8ehf9fgp6g>.

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-place based scenario questions are assessed blind without sight of your personal details and CV.

II. Application Questions: You will be asked to complete four application questions covering the skills and experience needed for the role. You will be marked against the essential requirements 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. This means the person reviewing your answer to question 2 may 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.

Closing Date: To be considered for this opportunity, please ensure you submit your application by 08:59am on Thursday 28 May 2026.

How to apply (cont.)

Interviews: Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. We expect to hold first interviews between 15 - 17 June 2026 with second interviews w/c 6 July 2026. 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 for full-time staff, 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.

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:
<https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/privacy-notice-for-job-applicants/>

Use of AI in the application process

We recognise that AI tools are increasingly part of how analytical work gets done, and we don't prohibit their use in preparing your application. However please bear in mind the following guidance:

- Your answers should reflect your own thinking, judgement and experience. AI can help structure or refine your responses but answers that are entirely AI-generated – with little of your own contribution – are unlikely to score well, because our questions are designed to surface how you reason and what you have done.
- One of the four questions specifically asks you to reflect on your use of AI in preparing this application, including whether you used it and how. There is no right or wrong answer on whether to use it – we are interested in the quality of your reasoning about that choice. Please answer this question honestly.
- The Applied platform asks all candidates to confirm that their answers are their own work. We interpret this as meaning that the ideas, judgements and experiences in your answers are genuinely yours – not that AI tools cannot play any part in how you express them.

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, lifting living standards in the UK. We focus particularly on households with low and middle incomes; those on low pay or in precarious work; and those vulnerable to financial shocks. These twin pillars of rigour and purpose underpin everything we do.

Researcher

Researchers provide support on a wide range of economic and social policy issues, including writing up the findings of primary analytical work and conducting 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 and middle incomes in Britain and have proven project management skills, and experience of managing and delivering high quality projects on time.

The Research Team (cont.)

Senior Economist / Research and Policy Analyst

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 and 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 / 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 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.

The Research Team (cont.)

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.