

PRINCIPAL 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: £70,300–£82,900 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: 24 - 30 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 motivated and experienced individual to drive the production of high quality, innovative economic analysis and the development of associated policy recommendations with a specific focus on economic growth and productivity. This is an exciting time to join our team as we seek to turn around the stagnant living standards of the last 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 and in collaboration with external partners, the post holder will play a key role in designing and delivering an ambitious programme of research and policy work focused on economic growth. This will include informing and influencing public debates on the UK's productivity performance and growth potential; analysis using and linking large business datasets and on the relationship between growth, living standards and inequality; and policy work on key growth levers such as AI and technological diffusion, industrial strategy, public and private investment and regulation.

Applicants will contribute to our high-profile work in the run-up to and immediately after fiscal events, produce reactive work in response to emerging public policy debates, and propose and undertake longer-term research and policy work relating to the growth and productivity in the UK. Working flexibly as a member of our research team, the successful candidate will also get involved in other areas of the Foundation's work. 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 successful candidate will be one who fits into our supportive team culture and will collaborate effectively with others, internally and externally.

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 (usually over 7 years) working in public policy or applied economic research, be that in government, think tanks, private sector or academia.

The individual will have university-level training in economics or equivalent experience gained in another context. Candidates will need strong numeracy skills, the ability to use Excel for data manipulation, and the ability to work with household- and firm-level microdata using appropriate statistical software. We are a topical and rigorous organisation so the ability to produce high-quality work at speed is essential.

Candidates should also have the skills to situate research findings in the policy context, the ability to communicate the results to a wide range of stakeholders, and a proven track record for delivering research impact or policy change.

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](#).

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 for more details.

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.

Job Description

Main duties and responsibilities

- Play a lead role in the Foundation's research and policy programme on shared economic growth, working closely with Research Directors and other members of the team
- Design, manage and deliver key projects by conducting quantitative and qualitative research to the highest standards and developing appropriate policy proposals
- Engage with key stakeholders at the highest level in government, research institutions and academia, media, the private sector and the voluntary sector
- Disseminate research projects through written reports, media articles, blogs and presentations
- 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 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
- Expert knowledge and understanding of policy relating to promoting shared economic growth and productivity in Britain
- A proven track record for delivering research impact and influencing policy change
- Excellent quantitative research skills, including experience conducting economic analysis using and linking large business datasets, such as official ONS business register data, business surveys (such as IBDR Business Structure Database and Annual Business Survey), as well as other micro level business data
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in a range of formats and an ability to communicate findings in an engaging way to non-specialists
- Proven ability to lead and manage teams and processes to deliver research projects from inception to delivery, ensuring timely, high-quality delivery
- A well-established network among the UK's analytical and policy communities, including academics, policy experts and other stakeholders
- A first degree or post-graduate degree in economics or equivalent knowledge gained through work experience.

The desirable characteristics are:

- Experience working on business regulation or competition policy issues, with a solid understanding of regulatory frameworks or market dynamics OR
- Experience working with public sector finance data, public spending data and/or on tax policy issues
- Line management experience

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: Principal Economist / Research and Policy Analyst

Salary range: £70,300-£82,900 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/27p49jiwj9>.

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 24 - 30 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.