

RESOLUTION FOUNDATION

Application Pack: Director *Information for Applicants*



DIRECTOR, RESOLUTION FOUNDATION

Overview

The Resolution Foundation is seeking a new Director, to work closely with the Chief Executive to develop and deliver the overall strategy of the organisation; to drive the next phase of the Foundation's work; and to lead our research and policy programme.

As stagnant living standards continue to be at the heart of the UK's political and economic challenges, the Foundation has established a reputation as a rigorous data-driven think-tank with influence across the political spectrum. Seeking to maximise our impact, we want to build our capability to make even more innovative, practical and specific policy proposals. The Foundation is at an exciting moment: conducting influential research that addresses both long-term challenges as well as topical issues, making social investment in technology that improves work, and forging new collaborations.

This is a senior position, deputising for the Chief Executive, overseeing our research and policy programme and team. The Director will continue to deliver our high-quality influential research, while playing a pivotal role in growing the team's policy capability and maximising the Foundation's impact.

The ideal candidate will have significant experience in public policy (be that in its delivery in government or elsewhere, or associated research) and economic research, and the capability to lead and develop the team, maintain the rigour of our research programme, and develop policy proposals that lead to real improvements in the lives of low and middle income families.

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

Job title:	Director
Salary:	£90,000 + dependent on experience
Contract:	Permanent
Location:	London SW1
Annual Leave:	30 days p.a. plus bank holidays
Notice period:	3 months
Probation period:	6 months
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 but a minimum of four days a week is required for this role.

Closing date for applications: 08:59 on Friday 14 August 2026

First-round Interviews: 7 September 2026

Second-round Interviews: 21 September 2026

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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.

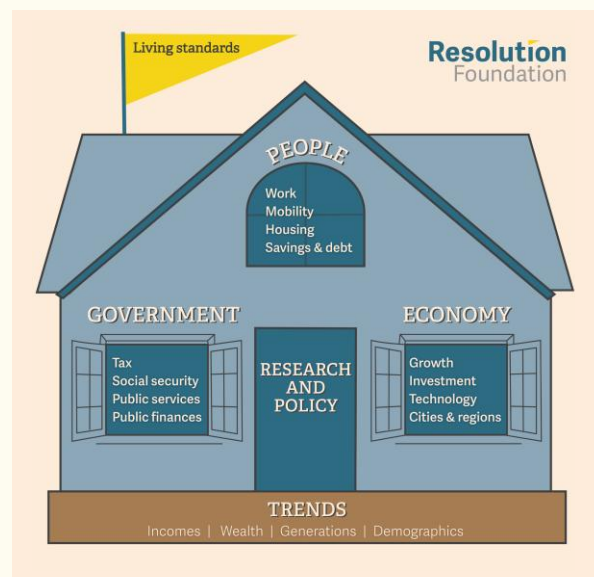
We inform public debate, alongside key decision makers in government, the private sector, and civil society. Alongside regular publications from our team on a range of policy issues, we hold a wide-ranging programme of events, hosting diverse speakers from academia, the voluntary sector and business,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

We maintain sector-leading research standards through a variety of methods including detailed internal quality assurance processes, peer review and external engagement on new or controversial areas of our research agenda. The conclusions of our publications are derived from the research we have undertaken, with significant counter arguments considered.

Additionally, we maintain a clear focus on well-defined topics that are material to living standards in the UK. For more details about the range of our research and policy analysis, please see our [Publications page](#).

Our policy work has shaped the lives of millions of low and middle income households – from a higher minimum wage to greater childcare support, and the fiscal rules that will frame the government's economic choices.

The Foundation is led by Ruth Curtice (Chief Executive) and David Willetts (President) and is overseen by a board of trustees, led by its Founder, Sir Clive Cowdery. The Foundation is assisted by an advisory council drawn widely from Britain's leading academics and economists, and it occasionally partners with other organisations.



What does the role involve?

This is a senior leadership role at the heart of the Resolution Foundation, with responsibility for developing and delivering our entire research and policy programme. The Director will also work closely with the Chief Executive to shape the organisation's strategic direction and ensure that our work has the greatest possible impact on the lives of people on low and middle incomes.

This is an exciting moment to join. The Foundation is at a pivotal point: we have an outstanding record of analytical rigour and research impact, and we now want to go further – producing not just excellent research, but sharper, more specific policy proposals that drive real change. The Director will be central to leading that evolution, bringing both the experience to oversee a high-performing research team and the vision and skills to deepen the Foundation's policy ambition.

The Director will take on these responsibilities in addition to the leadership responsibilities of our departing Deputy CEO, including line management of the Research Directors and leadership of the Foundation's entire Research and Policy team. This includes overseeing the design and delivery of our work programme across all areas – including living standards and distributional analysis, labour markets, housing, productivity and economic growth, and public finances. The postholder will also play a key external role, engaging with senior stakeholders in government, the media and across the policy world, and representing the Foundation at seminars, conferences and public events.

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

Job description

Main duties and responsibilities

- Work closely with the Chief Executive to develop and execute the overall strategy for the Foundation and support the Chief Executive to maximise the Foundation's impact.
- Lead, manage and develop the Foundation's Research and Policy team, driving forward the work programme, taking strategic decisions on priorities, and creating the conditions for the team to do its best work. Includes line management of the Research Directors.
- Develop, oversee and deliver the Foundation's entire research and policy programme, ensuring it is rigorous, timely and impactful.
- Drive a step-change in the Foundation's production of specific, credible policy proposals – building the team's capacity and culture to move from excellent research to clear policy recommendations.
- Represent the Foundation externally: engaging at the highest level with stakeholders in government, the private sector and civil society; serving as a key media spokesperson; and presenting at seminars, conferences and public events.
- Maintain the Foundation's reputation for analytical rigour and cutting-edge research and ensure the highest standards across all publications and outputs.
- Build partnerships, collaborations and relationships with other organisations and experts to enhance the Foundation's research and impact.
- Produce insightful original research and analysis and develop a reputation as a leading expert on UK living standards and economic or social policy.
- Oversee fundraising for the Foundation's work, including funder relationships and grant applications.
- Any other duties as deemed reasonable by the Chief Executive.

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.

What kind of person are we looking for?

We are looking for an exceptional individual with a passion for improving living standards and the skills to lead a world-class research and policy organisation. The successful candidate will combine analytical depth with policy ambition – someone who can interrogate rigorous research and also drive the development of the specific, credible policy proposals that make that research count.

The role would suit someone with extensive senior experience in public policy, applied research, or a combination of both – whether in government, think-tanks, academia or elsewhere. They will be a strong and inspiring leader, capable of bringing out the best in a talented team while also being an effective external voice for the Foundation’s work.

The successful candidate will be comfortable working across the breadth of the Foundation’s agenda and will bring the credibility and relationships to engage at the highest levels of government and the policy world. Most importantly, they will share our ambition to see the Foundation play an even more significant role in shaping the policies that improve people’s lives.

Person specification

The essential requirements are:

- A proven and extensive track record in original research or public policy, with the credibility to lead the rigorous research programme.
- A proven track record of delivering research impact or policy change at a senior level.
- Experience leading the development of specific, credible policy proposals and the ambition to help further build this capability within the Foundation.
- A commitment to the Resolution Foundation’s core mission and a passion for improving living standards in the UK.
- An excellent and thorough knowledge of public policy issues relating to living standards of low and middle income households in the UK, and a broad understanding of the economic and social policy landscape.
- A first-rate understanding of quantitative and qualitative research techniques and evidence-based policy development, with the ability to interrogate and quality-assure original analysis.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills and the ability to present complex issues in an engaging and accessible way.
- Extensive leadership and line management experience at a senior level, including motivating and developing high-performing teams.
- Experience influencing stakeholders at a very senior level, ideally in a political or policy context.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work flexibly as part of a small team in a fast-moving environment.

The desirable characteristics are:

- Experience working across multiple policy areas relevant to the Foundation’s agenda, including tax, welfare, labour markets, housing, public finances or productivity.
- Experience of fundraising or contributing to funder relationships.
- Experience of representing an organisation in the media, including broadcast appearances.
- Networks across government, politics, academia, the voluntary sector and/or the private sector relevant to the Foundation’s work.

Why join us?

Our Westminster office puts you at the heart of the policy world. We pride ourselves on our reputation for 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.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a generous annual leave allowance (30 days p.a. plus bank holidays) and all the standard employee benefits, including interest free season ticket loans, access to an Employee Assistance Programme, and a tax-free cycle scheme. We also offer a range of occupational family friendly policies.

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 (including personal training budgets and support with formal qualifications where appropriate), on-the-job learning and mentoring from colleagues to actively develop the skills and reputations of all our team. We also provide opportunities for engagement with senior figures across government, media and academia.

There are also soft benefits included in a role at the Foundation. In addition to the career development opportunities available, the benefits that come from our ethos and style of working are significant drivers for those of us who work here. Above all, you'd be joining a small, collaborative team all committed to our shared goal of producing high quality work that impacts policies affecting millions of households across the UK.

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 recognise the value of diversity and that actively promoting a culture of inclusion and equality is vital to our success. We aim to ensure both that our workforce is representative of all sections of society and that each employee feels valued, respected and able to give of their best, and we draw upon a range of tools to ensure our internal practices support these aims including:

- The Applied recruitment platform which was created by the Behavioural Insights Team to reduce unconscious bias in the selection process.
- Pre-application positive action initiatives targeting groups under-represented in the world of policy making.
- Paid training opportunities for postgraduate students from under-represented groups to learn new skills from our in-house experts.
- Summer work experience schemes and other outreach initiatives targeted at schools with a high percentage of low and middle income families.

We actively seek to attract a diverse workforce and welcome expressions of interest from all under-represented communities and groups and particularly welcome candidates with lived experience of life on a low to middle income. We are happy to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate specific needs, so please do contact us at recruitment@resolutionfoundation.org if you would like to speak to someone about your requirements.

How to Apply

If you would like to apply, please visit <https://app.beapplied.com/apply/4f65zid4hm> and submit your application.

Your submission should include:

- A CV setting out your career history, with key responsibilities and achievements. Please ensure you have provided reasons for any gaps within the last two years.
- A Statement of Suitability (no longer than two A4 pages) explaining how you consider your personal skills, qualities and experience provide evidence of your suitability for the role, with particular reference to the criteria in the job description and person specification.

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about the role, before applying, please contact sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org.

Information for Applicants

Closing Date:	To be considered for this opportunity, please ensure you submit your application by 08:59am on Friday 14 August 2026 .
Interviews:	<p>Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. We expect to hold first-round interviews on Monday 7 September 2026, with second-round interviews on Monday 21 September 2026.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any specific requirements so we can make any necessary reasonable adjustments in advance.</p>
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:	<p>The Foundation's office is based in Westminster with home working available two days per week, normally Wednesday and Friday, subject to organisational requirements.</p> <p>If you have any health concerns that may impact your working arrangements or queries about caring responsibilities, please contact sharmina.khanam@resolutionfoundation.org.</p>
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.
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 the Opportunities page on our website.

Major Work Programmes

Resolution Ventures

Resolution Ventures exists to back innovative start-ups seeking to change the world of work for the better, and early-stage ventures seeking to improve the prospects of low-to-middle income Britain.

FIND OUT MORE

Unsung Britain

This 12-month project examined how the economic circumstances of the 13 million working-age families in the bottom half of the income distribution have changed since the mid-1990s and consider what can be done to boost their living standards.

FIND OUT MORE

Macroeconomic Policy Unit

The Macroeconomic Policy Unit was set up with the aim of contributing to a more inclusive and better informed macroeconomic policy debate.

FIND OUT MORE

Intergenerational Centre

The Intergenerational Centre was been set up as a home for analysis and policy thinking on living standards through a generational lens.

FIND OUT MORE

For more details about all our work, see [Economic analysis and research from the Resolution Foundation](#)

For details of the Foundation's current priorities, see [Lifting living standards by Ruth Curtice](#).

The Research Team

We expect all our researchers to observe the highest standards of integrity in the conduct of their research. Research carried out with a high level of integrity is more accurate and trusted. It upholds values of honesty, rigour, transparency and open communication, as well as care and respect for those involved in research, and accountability for a positive research environment. These values, and the behaviours they instil, are central to a healthy research culture and form the basis of the Foundation's policy and practice in this area.

Researchers

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 at this level.

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.

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 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 / 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.

Principal Economists / Principal Research and Policy Analysts 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.

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 also help to devise and implement broader organisational strategy as part of the Senior Management team.

Research Directors 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.
