



## Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

**Job title: IGC Director of Research**

**Ref no:**

**Department/Division: International Growth Centre**

**Accountable to: Executive Director**

### **Job Summary:**

The International Growth Centre (IGC) works with policymakers in developing countries to promote inclusive and sustainable growth through pathbreaking research. The IGC is a global research centre with a network of world-leading researchers and a set of resident country teams and thematic initiatives working across Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East. Our resident teams enable us to develop long-term, research-based learning partnerships with governments. We work to improve the productivity of people and firms as the key driver of sustainable economic development. Based at LSE and in partnership with the University of Oxford, the IGC is majority funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The Director of Research plays a key role in driving IGC's strategic thinking and planning as a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT), reporting to Jonathan Leape, the Executive Director (ED), and working with Robin Burgess and Paul Collier (IGC Directors at LSE and Oxford) and the Research Programme Directors (RPDs). The role will be based in the IGC Hub located within the LSE in London.

The Director of Research provides vision and direction for IGC research activities and leads the implementation of the research agenda, working with the RPDs, thematic initiatives and country teams to set research priorities, build IGC's network of researchers, support proactive project generation, leverage generative AI in research activities, and ensure the highest standards of research quality.

They lead the IGC research programme and thematic initiatives teams in the London Hub, setting direction and promoting entrepreneurial approaches to research commissioning and to research-driven policy engagement. They recruit, motivate and develop high-performing teams and ensure strong collaboration across the hub, country and thematic teams.

The Director of Research promotes the academic and policy impact of IGC research, through our country programmes and thematic initiatives and also in global forums. They foster the development of innovative approaches to research, research collaborations and research-driven policy engagement to support the continued development of the IGC co-generation model of researchers working in close partnerships with policy makers and other policy stakeholders.

## Key tasks/responsibilities:

### Organisation leadership and vision

- Play a key role in IGC's leadership team, driving IGC's strategic thinking, planning and implementation, working closely with the Executive Director, SMT and Directors;
- Provide vision and leadership for the IGC research programme and thematic initiatives, working with research and thematic leads to set direction and driving the new sustainable growth agenda;
- Recruit, motivate and develop high-performing Research Programme and thematic initiative teams and ensure strong collaboration across the hub, country and thematic teams;
- Promote IGC and IGC's research externally in national and international forums;
- Champion IGC's values of independence and integrity, excellence through diversity, collaboration and respect, and learning to improve.

### Research leadership

- Provide direction for IGC research activities, working closely with the Research Programme Directors (RPDs), thematic initiatives, country teams and the Research Programme team to set research priorities that reflect knowledge gaps and current policy challenges.
- Lead implementation of IGC's research agenda, working with the RPDs, country teams and thematic initiatives to support proactive and collaborative project generation, facilitate access to new data sources and further diversify IGC's international network of researchers;
- Promote the academic and policy impact of IGC research, fostering the development of innovative approaches to research, research collaborations, and research-driven policy engagement on national, regional and global levels, and of strategic partnerships with national and global stakeholders to promote IGC research and influence growth policy, working in collaboration with the Director of International Programmes and Impact.
- Ensure research quality and strategic alignment, overseeing the development and implementation of effective systems to support quality assurance, the strategic alignment of research activities and effective financial, operational and knowledge management.
- Lead development of IGC's strategy and policies for using generative AI to support IGC's research and research-related policy engagement activities and, working with SMT colleagues, support the development of an organisation-wide strategy.
- Support development of large-scale research grant proposals and lead on research-related issues with current and potential funders;

### Thematic leadership

- Provide vision, direction and support for IGC thematic initiatives (including Cities that Work, State Fragility, Tax for Growth and Firms), line managing the initiative heads, helping to set strategy and supporting implementation.
- Ensure the production of high-quality knowledge synthesis products, in the thematic initiatives and more broadly, to support policy engagement and project development across the organization, working with the Director of International Programmes and Impact and the Heads of Initiatives
- Provide oversight and direction for IGC's research-led policy engagements through the thematic initiatives, and oversight of the research activities of resident country teams, working in collaboration with the Director of International Programmes and Impact.

*As part of this role there may be scope to conduct your own research up to one day per week.*



### **Flexibility**

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

### **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)**

LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

### **Ethics Code**

Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: [click here](#)

### **Environmental Sustainability**

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.