



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: Policy Economist (Cities)

Department/Division: International Growth Centre
Accountable to: Head of Cities that Work

Job Summary:

The International Growth Centre works with policymakers in developing countries to promote inclusive and sustainable growth through pathbreaking research. The IGC directs a global network of world-leading researchers and in-country teams in Africa, South Asia and the Middle East. The IGC works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges, focusing on four themes: state effectiveness, firms, cities and energy. IGC's current partner countries include Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, , Mozambique, Myanmar, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. We also have flexible engagements in more fragile states, including Liberia, Sudan and Yemen. Based at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and in partnership with the University of Oxford, the IGC is funded primarily by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) with support from other global funders.

Cities that Work (CtW) is an IGC initiative that translate economic research and practical insight into clear urban policy guidance and support for policymakers. Over the past three years, CtW has undertaken significant impact-driven collaborations with several policymakers, including Mayors and Ministers, to support evidence-based urban policy reforms. The initiative is demand-led, and driven by the priorities of cities, with close feedback and direction from researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. The initiative is led by a Council of world-renowned researchers and policymakers, that is chaired by Ed Glaeser (Harvard) and includes Sir Paul Collier (Oxford), Jennifer Musisi (former head of the Kampala Capital City Authority), and Tony Venables (Manchester).

The IGC Policy Economist (Cities) will join a team supporting the development and implementation of the overall strategy for the Cities that Work initiative, which includes curating (and disseminating) a stock of knowledge on key themes relating to cities and urbanisation, supporting the commissioning of research, and delivering effective programme management of the portfolio of IGC projects under this theme. Importantly, the post-holding will be involved in supporting and/or leading on responding to demands for evidence from policymakers on priority urban policy-areas. They will also be involved in contributing to the global debate on these topics, and promoting cross-city learning.



Duties and responsibilities:

1) Curate a stock of knowledge on urban economic policy

- Produce research synthesis papers on key themes that reflect and inform the experiences of policymakers and practitioners, drawing on cutting edge economics research.
- Work with policymakers and practitioners to co-produce case studies outlining the successes and challenges of various policy reforms to facilitate cross-city learning.
- Organise and conduct cross-country workshops to disseminate knowledge, and facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchange.
- Build and liaise with a growing network of researchers and practitioners in developing and disseminating content.

2) Supporting IGC country teams and/or leading on urban policy engagements

- Apply above cross-country analysis or design new research to respond to a specific city policy demand.
- Organise city-specific workshops to disseminate knowledge and facilitate evidence-based discussion on a key policy area.

3) Support commissioning new research on the cities theme

- Support IGC country teams and the research programme in setting research strategies, commissioning research projects, maintaining a roster of relevant researchers, and disseminating outputs.
- Undertake initial review of small research projects and commissioning board projects and relevant outputs.
- Facilitate a community of practice on cities research across IGC countries.
- Contribute to diversifying the IGC's network, including through matchmaking workshops to facilitate connections between developing and developed country researchers on the cities theme.

4) Communications and global events

- Liaise with the IGC Communications team on arranging or participating in global events to disseminate knowledge and outputs.
- Write and publish blogs and commentary to contribute to the global debate and/or to disseminate key findings from research and synthesis papers.

5) Operations and initiative development

- Contribute to documenting impact and other funder reporting requirements.
- Assist in management and coordination of the Cities that Work Council.
- Assist in bid writing for ad-hoc externally funded project opportunities.
- Support on the development of a *Cities that Work* online course for urban practitioners.

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. At times, the post holder may need to support other themes in the IGC, depending on needs and capacity.

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.