



## 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:** Full-Time Research Assistant (“pre-doc”), CEP Urban Program, ERC Advanced Grant “Quantitative Models of Cities”

**Department/Division:** The Centre for Economic Performance  
**Accountable to:** Prof. Daniel Sturm

### Job Summary

You will work as a full-time research assistant (“pre-doc”) on the European Research Council (ERC) funded research project “Quantitative models of cities” under the direction of Professor Daniel Sturm. You will be part of a team which includes other research assistants, academic collaborators of Daniel Sturm and data entry firms. The research project explores several new aspects of the economics of cities using newly developed quantitative models and data from Denmark and several other countries.

The work includes writing code for extensive cleaning, merging and preparation of large micro data sources and code to analyse the final data. In addition, you will have to search for potential data sources, help to write up data analysis and supervise the work of data entry companies and occasional research assistants. The position is ideal for someone who is considering applying to a PhD in Economics or a related field and would like to get hands-on research experience before embarking on a PhD. Previous holders of similar posts with Daniel Sturm have been offered positions in leading Economics PhD programs, including offers from Berkeley, Chicago, Columbia, LSE, Michigan, Northwestern and Yale.

### Duties and Responsibilities

**Data analysis:** This includes preparation of charts/graphs/tables and the use of reduced form and structural estimation to test models of cities and the spatial distribution of economic activity.

**Data construction:** This includes writing code to merge and clean data from various data sources and to construct variables that are critical for the empirical analysis.

Use STATA, R, ArcGIS and Python for advanced data analysis. You do not need to know all of these programs when you start to work, but will be required to learn them as required.

Search for potential sources of data including some work in archives.

Assist in the writing up results of statistical analysis and documentation of complex data sets.

Proof-read and check analysis to improve the presentation of results and ideas.

Obtaining data and resolve data issues with outside data providers, deal with licensing issues.

Carry out administrative duties required by project reporting.

Attend seminars relevant to the research program.

**Flexibility**

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the demands 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.