



Careers

Institute for Fiscal Studies

E·S·R·C
ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL



Contents

1	Why choose IFS?	1
2	What is the Institute for Fiscal Studies?	2
3	Careers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies	4
4	Research Economists	6
5	Employee profiles	8
6	Postdoctoral Fellowships	16
7	Summer Student Programme	17
8	Deadlines and how to apply	18

1. Why choose IFS?

Our goal at the Institute for Fiscal Studies is to promote effective economic and social policies by better understanding how policies affect individuals, families, businesses and the government's finances.

The academic quality of our cutting-edge research compares with that of the top universities.

We are respected and listened to by politicians and policymakers in the UK and overseas, journalists, business people, trade unions and campaigning groups.

As a small organisation, we don't have unnecessary hierarchy or bureaucracy, and we work together at all levels and across research teams.

We aim to foster a respectful and inclusive environment, in which people from all backgrounds feel welcome and valued.



2. What is the Institute for Fiscal Studies?

IFS has two prestigious research centres, with peer-reviewed funding from the Economic and Social Research Council. Last year, we had work published in leading journals, including the American Economic Review, the Journal of Public Economics, Econometrica and the Economic Journal.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies was founded in 1969, as an independent research institute with the aim of better informing public debate on economics and to promote the development of effective fiscal policy. Over the years, our research has gained a worldwide reputation for academic rigour and has had a broad impact on policy makers, think tanks and practitioners.

We work in open-plan offices and foster a culture where everyone's opinion is heard and valued. Weekly seminars allow researchers to discuss their work with colleagues and to meet external academics, who are invited to present research findings and meet IFS researchers

More about IFS

IFS is Europe's leading centre of microeconomic policy research, established as an authoritative commentator on the public finances, tax and welfare policy, tax law, education, inequality and poverty, pensions, productivity and innovation, consumer behaviour and, more recently, the evaluation of policies designed to promote development in poorer countries. It is a politically independent registered charity aiming to bridge the gap between policymakers and academics.

IFS aims to bridge the gap between purely academic research and issues of practical policy design or evaluation. The Institute strives to be at the forefront of UK and international research in its chosen fields, but also places a high priority on the policy relevance and communication of its research.

The research at IFS is largely oriented towards microeconomic analysis and has a strong quantitative flavour. The Institute makes extensive use of the major surveys of households, company behaviour and individuals, alongside government administrative data, to analyse the impact of taxation and other public policies on household living standards and individual behaviour. Among other things, it maintains a detailed simulation model of the UK tax and benefits system, which is used for analysing the effects of Budget tax measures and social security policy changes. Other issues – including corporate taxation, the public finances and public spending, individual spending and saving behaviour, and development economics – are also studied using detailed data sets and purpose-built models.

“The standing of the IFS is such that it's often regarded as more credible than any other forecaster, or indeed minister.”

Norman Smith,
BBC Assistant Political Editor

“A press conference at the Institute for Fiscal Studies is now enough to define a day's media coverage. Few think-tanks make the headlines even before they release their analysis, but the IFS's numbers are seen as the gold standard when it comes to assessing the parties' fiscal plans.”

The Economist online



“Their independence is beyond doubt as all the main political parties recognise their expertise.”

Evan Davis, BBC

Research is disseminated through the IFS website, an extensive conference programme, various IFS publications, the journal Fiscal Studies and other academic journals, and social media – in Summer 2018, we had almost 29,000 followers on Twitter. Much IFS research receives wide press, radio and television coverage. Researchers also attend and present research at academic and policy conferences both in the UK and abroad, give evidence to select committees and meet to discuss policy implications of their research with civil servants, UK policymakers and foreign delegations. In recent years, IFS has significantly influenced debate in a number of key areas, such as the public finances and public spending, tax reform, active labour market policies, education policy, and pension and saving policy. The Institute aims to improve the quality of public debate by providing impartial information and analysis on issues of public interest, from a politically independent perspective underpinned by rigorous academic economic research.

The Institute's funding comes from a range of sources, including the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), research charities, government departments, the European Union, and subscriptions paid by individual and corporate members. IFS has received major long-term funding from the ESRC since 1991 for an ESRC Centre for public policy research and since 2007 for a second Centre to carry out research into quantitative methods. All IFS research is intended for publication, and the Institute does not undertake work for the private use of individual sponsors.



3. Careers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies

IFS has a strong record in training excellent social scientists, some of whom continue to work at IFS for many years; others go on to use the skills they have acquired in other jobs.

If you join us straight from your first degree, you will be encouraged to study part-time for a masters degree, with financial support from the Institute. If you are interested in further study, support is also given towards part-time study for a PhD; many choose to study at University College London and may well be supervised by senior Centre staff.

You will be given the opportunity to develop your career by taking on managerial responsibility when you are ready for it. Several senior members of staff joined the IFS as young researchers and have remained here throughout their careers.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We aim to foster a respectful and inclusive environment, in which people from all backgrounds feel welcome and valued. Diversity is about visible and non-visible factors, which include personal characteristics such as sex, sexual orientation, gender, race, age, background, culture, disability, personality and work-style.

We focus on inclusive approaches to recruitment and selection and are committed to employment policies

As for those who decide to move elsewhere, IFS alumni are working in a wide range of other institutions. Some go on to senior positions in the civil service or become special advisors to MPs; others move into consultancies or academia. IFS has also produced a number of distinguished economics journalists: Evan Davis, former presenter on Newsnight and the Today Programme; Stephanie Flanders, former Economics Editor of the BBC; Tom Clark, Editor of Prospect Magazine; and Gemma Tetlow, Chief Economist at the Institute for Government, and Chris Giles, Economics Editor, of the Financial Times.

that promote diversity and inclusion in employment regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, sex, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity status, race, religion or belief. We also support flexible working arrangements wherever possible, so that staff can work in ways that suit their personal circumstances. Our approach to flexible working has helped to ensure that we employ a balance of men and women at all levels of seniority. The male/female balance is around 50/50, with women currently in the majority in senior management positions in the organisation.

Although we recruit from the top universities, the majority of those currently in the most senior roles have attended comprehensive schools. Staff of many nationalities work together at the IFS, along with a range of visiting academics from the UK and other countries.



Working environment

Based in open-plan offices, researchers work in small teams, each of which concentrates on a different area of research. A Programme Director manages each team, which will also include several Research Economists and Senior Research Economists as well as external Research Associates, who regularly come to the office to work alongside other members of the team. The small size of the Institute and its collaborative ethos mean that everyone's contribution is equally valued. Our informal, non-hierarchical approach is exemplified by the division of labour: new Research Economists are involved in writing up research and communicating its findings to outside audiences as well as in more routine data work.

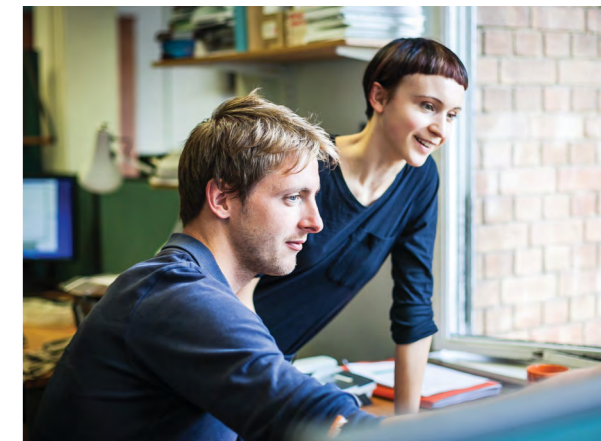
Associate Directors are responsible for securing sufficient research funding and managing the time on projects allocated to members of their team, but Research Economists can get involved in suggesting ideas for research and writing research proposals as soon as they are ready. In our experience, this approach has promoted independent and innovative thinking and has encouraged researchers to articulate their ideas and findings to a diverse audience with confidence and clarity. A shared common room / kitchen provides a space where researchers can relax, make coffee, eat lunch and informally discuss their work. A small administrative team works closely with researchers, arranges conferences to launch research findings, helps researchers to deal with media enquiries and manages the IFS website. The administrative team also manages our finances, HR and IT.

Our location in Bloomsbury is near University College London, where many of our Research Associates and Research Fellows are based. It is close to Whitehall and the City, allowing researchers to meet with policymakers and practitioners, who attend many of our in-house briefings and conferences. There are also plenty of pubs and restaurants in the area for socialising after work.



“It has a small army of bright young economists who are tasked with analysing the implications of policies, both in fiscal and social framework.””

Evan Davis, BBC



4. Research Economists

Rough salary guide*

Research Economist

£40K - £60K

A new graduate with no previous experience
£40K

A candidate with a postgraduate degree
£48K

At IFS, we recruit top-quality economists. We specialise in the economic analysis of public policy, bridging the gap between purely academic research and issues of practical policy design or evaluation. As a new recruit, you will carry out in-depth economic research and communicate your findings to politicians, journalists, academics and others such as campaigning groups and professional organisations.

You will work closely with colleagues in a small team as well as with other teams across the Institute; your colleagues will include policy experts and leading academics from the UK and overseas.

We will support you in developing your skills, through further study and ad hoc training and by giving you opportunities to get involved with all aspects of research and communication right from the start. An initial induction programme includes media training and presentation skills, as well as advice about research skills and publishing in academic journals. Further opportunities for training in these areas will be available as you progress. New Research Economists have a mentor, an economist in another research team who has been at IFS for several years.

Research teams include full-time researchers and academic Research Associates, who are leading academics in their fields. Right from the start, new researchers can expect to be involved in all aspects of research projects – from empirical analysis to writing final reports and giving presentations. IFS has a strong record in training excellent social scientists, some of whom build a long career at IFS while others go on to use the skills they acquired at the Institute to good effect in the civil service, the media and academia.

IFS researchers are not only excellent economists but also able to think creatively about economics and eventually shape their innovative ideas into research programmes.

They are keen to use empirical economic analysis to inform policymaking and to pass on their enthusiasm for economics to others, both inside and outside the Institute.

Person specification for Research Economist posts

Applicants for research posts at IFS should have, or expect to have, a First or very good Upper Second Class Honours degree and/or a higher degree, in economics or a closely related subject. IFS research involves the application of economic concepts and applied economics techniques to issues of practical policy relevance. IFS researchers have established a strong record in the analysis of public policies in the UK and elsewhere, including developing countries. Applicants should therefore have studied economics in considerable depth, and should be strongly motivated by an interest in economics and its practical application.



We welcome applications from:

- those expecting to graduate in 2025 with an extremely good degree in economics;
- graduates with an extremely good degree in economics who are expecting to complete an MSc in 2025;
- exceptional economists with some experience in research, in the academic, public or private sectors.

Much IFS research involves the analysis of data in the context of economic policy issues, and IFS researchers are expected to have a high standard of numeracy. For some posts, familiarity with the mathematical and statistical techniques used in applied economics, as well as statistical computing methods, would be an advantage.

IFS researchers should be willing to work as part of a team, to share ideas with colleagues, and to contribute widely to the intellectual life of the Institute. At times, the work will involve tight deadlines, and researchers will have to be able to organise their work to meet these deadlines.

IFS attaches a high priority to communicating the results of its research to policymakers, the press and the wider policy community, as well as the academic community. Applicants should have well-developed writing skills, the ability to explain complex economic ideas in plain language, and a willingness to develop skills of verbal communication and presentation.

The Institute is concerned to maintain its reputation for independent and unbiased research on issues of public interest, and IFS researchers are expected to maintain the highest standards of intellectual

rigour and objectivity.

IFS is willing to consider applicants with a range of levels of formal qualification and experience, so long as they are consistent with the general requirements set out above.

In particular, appointments may be made to research posts of individuals who have or are just completing a first degree, of individuals who have or are completing higher degrees, or of individuals who have been in employment after leaving full-time education.

Where appropriate, the Institute will provide necessary training in computing and other skills, and will encourage staff who do not possess a higher degree in economics to undertake part-time study to obtain one.

*Remuneration: Research Economists

The salary range for a Research Economist is £40K–£60K. A new graduate with no previous experience would expect to start on about £40K, while someone with a postgraduate degree might expect to start at about £44K. Relevant experience working elsewhere would also be taken into account when setting the initial salary.

These salaries are reviewed in October of each year. Individual salaries are also reviewed annually and increments are awarded according to performance.

Selection process: Research Economists

In compiling our shortlist, we look particularly for excellent academic results and for an interest in and understanding of how economic theory can be used to improve public policy. Successful applicants to a Research

Economist position will have gained or be expected to gain at least a very good 2:1 on an economics-related undergraduate degree course, or have or expect to have a relevant masters degree. Candidates with work experience in the public or private sector and those who have or expect to have a strong PhD, who are interested in doing general microeconomic research, may also apply. Many staff have previous computing, econometric or theoretical skills; these are not essential, although reasonable numeracy and the willingness to learn are. You will be expected to be able and willing to present your work to a range of audiences, including the academic and broad public policy communities. This may include addressing conferences and seminars, writing for newspapers, and appearing on radio or television. Relevant training – for instance, in broadcasting skills – will be provided.

Each candidate will normally be asked to attend two consecutive interviews on the same day, where the discussion will focus on applying economic theory to policy-relevant questions. Candidates will first be asked to prepare a short written answer to a set question, which will provide the initial basis for discussion in the first interview. Candidates will be asked to use economics to analyse a topical policy question, such as the impact of tax changes or government policies on education. Up to a further five topics will then be covered, each focusing on a different aspect of the Institute's research. We select candidates based on the potential we believe they have to think in an intelligent way about economics and its application to policy questions. We expect to be able to make job offers during the week following the interviews.

Imran Tahir

Research Economist in the education and skills research programme. Imran joined IFS in 2019.

Education: BSc Government and Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2016

MSc Economics, University College London, 2017

“What attracted me to the IFS was the opportunity to use economics to answer important public policy questions.”



5. Employee profiles

What first attracted you to the IFS?

What attracted me to the IFS was the opportunity to use economics to answer important public policy questions. I remember first reading an IFS report on tax design during university and appreciating the way in which the theories we learnt in class were used to analyse real life policies. I also soon discovered that the IFS did research on a range of other topics that genuinely interested me, such as inequality and the returns to education.

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently working on a few projects related to education inequalities and labour market policy. As part of the Deaton Review (the IFS' large-scale review of inequalities), I'm looking at how educational inequalities develop throughout individuals' time in education. On another project, I'm analysing an exciting new dataset that links school and health records to study the relationship between children's health and educational attainment. My work on labour market policy evaluates the effectiveness of different training programmes both in the UK and abroad. For example, at the moment I'm involved in an RCT evaluation of a youth training scheme in Denmark.

What kind of things do you do during a typical day at work?

Most days at work involve a mixture of different tasks. The exact balance depends on the projects I'm working on, but a staple of any project is data analysis. Especially at the beginning of a project, I spend a significant share of time using statistical software to perform empirical analysis. I also regularly meet with members of my project teams to discuss ideas and initial results. As well as conducting my own analysis, I spend time reading to ensure that I'm across the related literature and I understand the policy context of our research questions. Towards the end of a project, I'll work on writing up a presentation or an article to communicate our findings.

What do you particularly enjoy about the job?

My favourite aspect of the job is the problem solving involved in research. I enjoy figuring out how to best use data and theory to answer research questions, and it's always satisfying when an idea works out. Once we have answers, I also enjoy the challenge of communicating our findings in an engaging and straightforward manner.

How has your career progressed so far?

During my time at the IFS, I've worked on a range of different projects and have had the opportunity to present my work to range of different audiences, including policy makers and academics. I've also developed my own research ideas which I'm pursuing as part of an Economics PhD at UCL.

What have you learned from working here?

I've learnt a lot from working at the IFS. I've gained a better understanding of the research process and have immensely improved a number of important practical skills, such as coding and report-writing. As well as improving my research skills, I'm continually building my knowledge on the policy areas I work on. All in all, working at the IFS is enabling me to develop a range of skills that are required to be a successful economist.

How would you describe the working environment?

The working environment is relaxed and supportive – everyone's trusted to get on with their work without much oversight, but colleagues make time to support you when necessary. People genuinely care about your development, and even as a young researcher you're actively encouraged to think independently and share your ideas. In general, everyone is passionate about their research and always happy to discuss their work, which makes it an excellent environment to work and grow as an economist.

Xiaowei Xu

Senior Research Economist in the income, work and welfare research programme. Xiaowei joined IFS in 2018.

Education:

MPhil Economics, University of Oxford, 2014
BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University of Oxford, 2011

“I have worked on a wide range of projects, co-written funding applications and been interviewed on TV and radio.”



5. Employee profiles

What first attracted you to the IFS?

I was attracted by the opportunity to do academic research alongside fast-paced policy analysis, all to a very high level of rigour. Having worked in consulting for a number of years, I knew I wanted to work somewhere where I could develop my own research agenda and specialise in the areas I care about.

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

I'm working on several projects broadly related to labour markets and inequality. I'm just wrapping up a policy paper on 'solo self-employment' (self-employment without employees), where we present evidence that its remarkable growth in recent decades partly reflects poor employment opportunities. As part of the Deaton Review of Inequalities, I'm co-authoring a chapter on geographic inequalities with a professor at LSE, looking at patterns of labour market inequalities across the UK and the role of migration and sorting in driving those disparities.

On the more academic side, I'm working on adapting a new 'bunching' method to estimate the impact of the National Living Wage on employment and wages. I'm also involved in a new project that seeks to quantify the extent of skills mismatch during the Covid crisis, combining vacancy data with data on furlough and layoffs, with the aim of eventually studying the effect of skills mismatch on people's long-term outcomes.

What kind of things do you do during a typical day at work?

The work really depends on the stage of the project. Each project typically involves writing Stata code, iterating results with colleagues, reading around the topic, drafting reports and presentations, and often doing some media work like giving briefings to journalists or doing interviews. I like to have multiple projects at different stages to keep things varied. We also regularly attend seminars where researchers present and discuss their work.

What do you particularly enjoy about the job?

I enjoy the mix of long-term academic research and policy work, which tends to be much more responsive and fast-paced. The combination is really unique to the IFS. I really appreciate being able to pursue my own research interests and ideas, and working with people who are incredibly intelligent and enthusiastic about their work.

How has your career progressed so far?

I joined IFS after working at McKinsey, the Gates Foundation and in economic consulting. I suppose I was a rather atypical recruit, but I think there are now more and more people who join IFS from other fields. I came in as a Research Economist and was promoted to Senior Research Economist a year later. Since joining I have worked on a wide range of projects, co-written funding applications and been interviewed on TV and radio.

What have you learned from working here?

I have learned a huge amount from working at IFS – from improving my econometrics and coding skills to becoming better at thinking through research ideas. The experience of working with, and constantly being challenged by, brilliant colleagues is really invaluable. I have learned a lot about public policy, not just in my own area but also through interactions with colleagues in other sectors.

How would you describe the working environment?

It's a very collaborative and open place to work. You're given a lot of freedom, but also a lot of support – people are always happy to talk through a problem or share ideas. Accuracy is highly valued and you're encouraged to take time to refine results, both in academic and policy work. There is very little hierarchy and everyone's contribution is valued.

Ben Zaranko

Research Economist in the pensions and public finance research programme. Ben joined IFS in 2017.

Education: BA Economics and Management, University of Oxford, 2016

“There is a definite culture of knowledge sharing and helping others, which makes it a really supportive work environment.”



5. Employee profiles

What first attracted you to IFS?

After studying economics at university, I did a stint in the private sector for an actuarial firm. I quickly realised that this wasn't where my interests lie, and that I wanted to return to economics. I was attracted to the IFS in part by its reputation and remit, but also by the financial support the IFS provides towards postgraduate study. I was pretty sure I wanted to do a Masters, but the courses I was interested in were (and are) enormously, prohibitively expensive. The option of doing a part-time MSc at UCL while working at the IFS was therefore hugely appealing.

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

After studying economics at university, I did a stint in the private sector for an actuarial firm. I quickly realised that this wasn't where my interests lie, and that I wanted to return to economics. I was attracted to the IFS in part by its reputation and remit, but also by the financial support the IFS provides towards postgraduate study. I was pretty sure I wanted to do a Masters, but the courses I was interested in were (and are) enormously, prohibitively expensive. The option of doing a part-time MSc at UCL while working at the IFS was therefore hugely appealing.

What kind of things do you do during a typical day at work?

It really depends on the day and the time of year. Today, I started with a call with a journalist to talk them through some analysis we've recently published. I then spent an hour or so analysing some new NHS data published that morning, before joining a call with my co-authors to discuss the next stage of an academic paper we've been working on, and then spending a few hours editing a first draft of a report we're putting out later this month. Some days, I might spend most of the day buried in data analysis; on other days, I might spend the entire day writing. In the run-up to or aftermath of a Budget or fiscal event, I might spend more time dealing with media enquiries or doing radio or TV interviews. It varies – but I think that's a nice feature of the job.

What do you particularly enjoy about the job?

It's a bit of a cliché, but I really enjoy working with such a bright and impressive group of colleagues. The mix of work, and the balance between quick-paced responsive work and in-depth academic research, also suits me. I also particularly enjoy the public-facing side of the role, whether that be giving presentations and lectures, speaking to journalists, doing broadcast interviews, or sharing our findings via social media. The IFS occupies a pretty unique role in public life and it's great to be a part of that.

How has your career progressed so far?

I joined the IFS as a Research Economist at 22, with an undergraduate degree and 9 months of work experience in the private sector. I've since studied part-time towards a Masters at UCL, been promoted to Senior Research Economist, and started to develop my own 'niche' and area of specialism. There's nowhere else I'd have rather spent the last 5 and a bit years.

What have you learned from working here?

For starters, I've learned an awful lot about UK fiscal policy. I've still got a way to go to catch up with some of my colleagues, but I've steadily built up my knowledge of obscure features of our tax system and public finance framework. I've certainly developed as an economist, partly through formal study and training, but also through exposure to ideas, discussion and top-quality people. My ability to think about, work through, and communicate economic ideas has undoubtedly improved. I've also learned to code – something which I never expected to enjoy, but which I've found surprisingly rewarding.

How would you describe the working environment?

I arrived on my first day worrying about whether I was dressed smartly enough, only for my manager to come down to reception in shorts and a t-shirt, and make me worry instead that I had over-dressed. The office is incredibly relaxed in that sense. More broadly, people at the IFS are demanding in terms of the quality of your work, but don't spend the whole time looking over your shoulder – you are trusted to get on with it. There is a definite culture of knowledge sharing and helping others, which makes it a really supportive work environment. On the social side, I play for the office five-a-side football team (which is high on enthusiasm, low on quality) and frequently join colleagues for a drink after work on Fridays.

Christine Farquharson

Associate Director in the human capital and development research programme.

Alison joined IFS in 2015.

Education: BA (Hons) Economics, University of Toronto, 2014

MSc Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2015

"I would not have believed how much opportunity there is to develop your skills."



5. Employee profiles

What first attracted you to IFS?

There's no better place to work on the intersection of economics and public policy – both understanding how economic conditions shape the policy choices we make, and using the economist's 'toolkit' to evaluate how those policies hold up in practice. I love the balance between building deep, academic expertise and doing much faster responses to the top issues of the day.

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

There are lots! A lot of my work looks at how policy can shape children's development and health; for example, some of my projects analyse the impact of major policies like Sure Start or the Healthy Start voucher programme. Other projects look more broadly at what factors shape children's lives, like childcare or their home environment. We've also been working on a major review of educational inequalities, and I lead our programme of work on early years spending.

What kind of things do you do during a typical day at work?

Having the opportunity to impact policy and people's lives through my research, and having the support and challenge of my colleagues to make sure that the research is as good as I can possibly make it. Being surrounded by people who are equally motivated to do great work means that I learn something new every day. And there's nothing to match the thrill of opening up the results of a new analysis for the first time, knowing that you're the very first person to discover the answer to the question you've been asking!

What do you particularly enjoy about the job?

Having the opportunity to impact policy and people's lives through my research, and having the support and challenge of my colleagues to make sure that the research is as good as I can possibly make it. Being surrounded by people who are equally motivated to do great work means that I learn something new every day. And there's nothing to match the thrill of opening up the results of a new analysis for the first time, knowing that you're the very first person to discover the answer to the question you've been asking!

How has your career progressed so far?

My first few years at IFS were all about building up deep expertise – in core economic skills like data work, and in the policy environment around the early years. I still work in those areas, but I now bring my knowledge about the early years and education policy into new collaborations with others at IFS and beyond, looking at a wider range of topics. That combination of depth and breadth also makes it easier to comment on policy announcements in the media and in presentations to policymakers and front-line workers.

What have you learned from working here?

I've learned an incredible amount from being at IFS – before joining, I would not have believed how much opportunity there is to develop your skills.

I've really benefitted from some of the formal courses that IFS offers, but the most important training has been working with fantastic colleagues (both junior and senior) who challenge my work, offer different perspectives, and suggest new ways forward.

How would you describe the working environment?

We're definitely a workplace that prioritises function over form! That goes for our offices (perhaps not the most beautiful, but big desks and lots of natural light) as well as our working culture (little emphasis on dress code, but a lot of focus on doing great work). As a researcher, you join major projects from the outset and are trusted to get on with the job and push them forward. But there are always supportive colleagues there to help you solve a problem or offer input along the way. And regular social get-togethers like Friday teatime in the communal lunchroom mean you build relationships with people working across all areas of the institute.

6. Postdoctoral Fellowships

Rough salary guide

Postdoctoral Fellows
from £48K

IFS is looking to recruit a number of outstanding postdoctoral economists to join our research teams.

The Research Directors of IFS are Rachel Griffith, Fabien Postel-Vinay and Imran Rasul, and IFS has a large number of Research Fellows including James Banks, Richard Blundell and Eric French, along with many others.

Postdoctoral Fellows will work within a team of researchers at IFS whose direction of research fits with the researcher's expertise and interests. This will likely include a mix of senior academics and IFS research staff. We will work with successful applicants to secure the best fit for their research interests and strengths and to encourage them to develop these to mutual advantage, with a particular focus on academic publication in top international journals.

We welcome applications from students expecting to complete a PhD by August 2025. The salary scale will be similar to the Research Economist scale and will vary to reflect the individual's role and experience.

Applications will need to include a two-page letter giving details of past research or work experience, what research applicants would like to work on and why they would like to work at IFS, as



well as a recent research paper.

The selection process will use the EconJobMarket portal and include interviews at the European Job Market forum as well as a seminar to a selection of IFS staff, as well as interviews with senior staff and those working in related areas. This process will take place during December 2024 and then January and early February 2025.



7. Summer Student Programme

Placements are intended to give a taste of research work at IFS similar to that done by newly recruited permanent research staff. As such, the work is most likely to be appropriate for individuals currently studying for undergraduate or masters degrees, rather than more advanced students. During a six week placement, a Summer Student might typically expect to work for an IFS research team on tasks such as reviewing existing literature, preparing and analysing data, and writing up research results.

We welcome applications from those in their penultimate year of an undergraduate degree with a strong economics component and from those who are in their final year and planning to start studying for a masters degree in economics.

Suitable candidates will be selected on the basis of a short interview, which will take place at our offices in central London.

Undergraduates should be expecting to obtain a first-class degree. They should have a strong grasp of basic economic concepts, as well as the ability to apply these to practical policy issues. Much of IFS research involves the analysis of data, and applicants are therefore expected to have a high degree of numeracy. However, please note that familiarity with specific mathematical and statistical techniques and computer packages used in applied economics is not a prerequisite.

Overseas students may be appointed subject to being eligible to work in the UK. However, no additional funds are provided to help with travel to the UK or subsistence, and IFS cannot help with any accommodation requirements.

Applications are invited from students looking for placements during the summer of 2025.

Summer Students will be paid around £504 per week.



Deadlines and how to apply

Research Economists

Application is by online form: see our website at www.ifs.org.uk/jobs

Application deadline: Sunday 3 November 2024

Interview dates:

First round – Monday 25, Tuesday 26, and Wednesday 27 November 2024

Second round – Thursday 5, Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 December 2024

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Application is via the EconJobMarket portal; we will be using this to shortlist and will be interviewing at the virtual EJM event.

Application deadline: Friday 22 November 2024

Initial interviews at EJM: Monday 16 to Thursday 19 December 2024

Summer Students

Application is by online form: see our website at www.ifs.org.uk/jobs

Application deadline: Friday 17 January 2025

Interview dates: w/c 3 February 2025

We will make arrangements, as far as possible, to enable candidates with disabilities to attend interviews.

Applicants from outside the EU: Applicants from outside the EU may apply, but any offer of a post would be subject to the successful application for a work permit from the UK government.

This might also be the case for nationals of some EU countries.

For more details about salaries and other benefits, or if you have other questions about working at IFS, contact Emma Hyman at jobs@ifs.org.uk. For more information, visit our website www.ifs.org.uk/jobs.

Please note that some interviews may be held virtually; arrangements will be confirmed nearer the time.