

Job Description



Summary

Job title	Economist (Government Outcomes Lab)
Division	Social Sciences
Department	Blavatnik School of Government
Location	Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £36,024 - £44,263 (with a discretionary range to £48,350) per annum, dependent on experience
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term until 31 March 2025
Reporting to	GO Lab Director and CIPFA Chief Economist
Vacancy reference	169817
Additional information	<p>The deadline for applications is 12:00 noon (UK time) on 4 January 2024</p> <p>This role could be offered as a secondment opportunity</p>

The role

The Blavatnik School of Government is seeking an Economist to work on an exciting collaboration between the Government Outcome Lab (GO Lab) and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

CIPFA is a global professional accountancy body dedicated to public finance, with an emerging agenda that seeks to better connect the profession with contemporary economic issues. The Institute engages closely with central and local governments around the world. GO Lab is one of the Blavatnik School of Government's flagship research centres and its economic agenda evolves around producing research and policy outputs to improve public expenditure around outcome-based contracts and public-private partnerships.

CIPFA and GO Lab have jointly developed an innovative research agenda, with the nature of their cross-disciplinary projects addressing contemporary concerns such as



public policy evaluation, social impact measurement and public financial management. This role will help the partners to build capacity in the co-design and co-production of practical tools and insights that can improve public policy outcomes across a broad range of themes. In doing so, the postholder will assist with developing the collaborative agenda and work directly with practitioners in central and local governments, as well as academics at the Blavatnik School.

With direction from the GO Lab Director and CIPFA Chief Economist, the postholder will manage multiple projects in collaboration with practitioners and researchers, and be responsible for analysing data and presenting project results for multiple audiences.

This role is uniquely positioned between academia, policy and practice. It benefits from direct access to the expertise and resources of a leading policy-oriented institute located in the heart of central London and a prestigious research centre based within the University of Oxford.

The successful candidate should have sufficient specialist knowledge in the fields related to the programme to collaborate with established partners, and experience directly working with policymakers or undertaking applied research.

This role offers a unique opportunity to make both a conceptual contribution and have a significant impact on how public managers are able to fulfil their role of stewards of resources both in central and local government. It will involve undertaking an economic evaluation of the Life Chances Fund (LCF), one of the world's largest outcomes funds comprising 29 different projects across a diverse range of policy areas. The role offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the latest thinking on value for money assessments on a live project. Given the increasing interest and use of outcomes funds worldwide, this role offers an exciting opportunity to contribute to the live debates and inform the design of future outcomes funds.

Responsibilities

- Manage research and administrative activities independently, defining deliverables and project managing them to meet deadlines while contributing to the wider strategic goals of the GO Lab and CIPFA partnership;
- Undertake quality synthesis work on existing practices in estimating costs and outcomes of public services, and on outcomes-based commissioning, in research and practice. This will include positioning the modelling work in the broader context of improving welfare in a democratically accountable system, identifying existing resources and assessing their usefulness, and engaging with intended users of analytical tools to understand their needs. This will be used to make recommendations, and to develop new methods and materials.
- Conduct value-for-money analysis of selected projects financed through an outcomes based contract. This work will be in close collaboration with GO Lab researchers who are leading on impact evaluation of projects.
- Collaborate in the preparation and production of 'knowledge to practice' as well as academic publications. Present results in a clear and visually impactful

way to a general audience without compromising the accuracy and integrity of the data and analysis;

- Contribute to identifying a network of scholars and policy practitioners on appraisal and evaluation in the public sector, and maintain a productive relationship with them through peer learning and other engagement activities;
- Identify and submit proposals for grant funding to support the partnership;
- Manage research assistant(s) who may be appointed to contribute to the economist's work.

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- A postgraduate degree or professional qualification in economics, finance or a related discipline;
- Substantial experience in economic and financial modelling for appraisals and evaluations (e.g. cost benefit analyses, cost effectiveness analyses, corporate finance models, simulation models);
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the fields related to the programme to collaborate with established partners (e.g. public financial management, the role of innovative public provision methods therein, value for money);
- Ability to project manage to a defined set of timed deliverables;
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write in different styles and formats for a diverse range of audiences, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings;
- A track record of open, collaborative team working and joint delivery of work.

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience in public policy environments in different global contexts and particularly around innovative public sector commissioning;
- Prior experience in a policy context working with central and/or local governments;
- Knowledge on and experience in the development of feasibility studies and financial models of outcomes-based contracts;
- Awareness of public financial management principles, tools and frameworks;
- Ability to perform and critique national and sub-national economic analyses;
- Experience designing surveys.

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) we will contact the referees you have nominated. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at: <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

The Blavatnik School of Government

Our vision is of a world better led, a world better served and a world better governed. We are a global school committed to improving the quality of government and public policymaking worldwide, through three routes: teaching current and future leaders; applied research; and engagement with government and practitioners.

The School was founded in 2010 and our founding dean is [Professor Ngaire Woods](#). We admitted the first 38 Master of Public Policy (MPP) students in 2012 and we currently accept around 120 MPP students and five doctoral students a year.

The Blavatnik School of Government holds a bronze Athena Swan award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all. You can find more information on the [Blavatnik School of Government's website](#).

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our Jobs website <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply>.

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

As part of your application you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants)

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **midday** UK time on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing department(s).

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments).

If you need help

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at: <https://staff.web.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support-faqs>

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly via recruit@bsg.ox.ac.uk.

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. **Please check your spam/junk mail** if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University's Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>.

The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at **grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82** of 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at other grades have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, travel discounts, and a variety of professional development opportunities. Our range of other employee benefits and discounts also includes free entry to the Botanic Gardens and University colleges, and discounts at University museums. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits>

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for all University staff. The University Club offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See www.club.ox.ac.uk and <https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/>.

Information for staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University's Welcome Service website includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See <https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/>

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependants. See <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme>

Family-friendly benefits

With one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector, and a range of flexible working options, Oxford aims to be a family-friendly employer. We also subscribe to the Work+Family Space, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities. The service offers a free telephone advice line, and the ability to book emergency back-up care for children, adult dependents and elderly relatives. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care>

The University has excellent childcare services, including five University nurseries as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries.

For full details, including how to apply and the costs, see <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. For further details, including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University's Staff Disability Advisor, see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>

Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/networks>

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff settle into Oxford, and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.

Oxford Research Staff Society (OxRSS)

A society run by and for Oxford University research staff. It offers researchers a range of social and professional networking opportunities. Membership is free, and all researchers employed by Oxford University are welcome to join. Subscribe at researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk to join the mailing list to find out about upcoming events and other information for researchers, or contact the committee on committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk. For more information, see www.ox.ac.uk/oxrss, Twitter @ResStaffOxford, and Facebook www.facebook.com/oxrss.