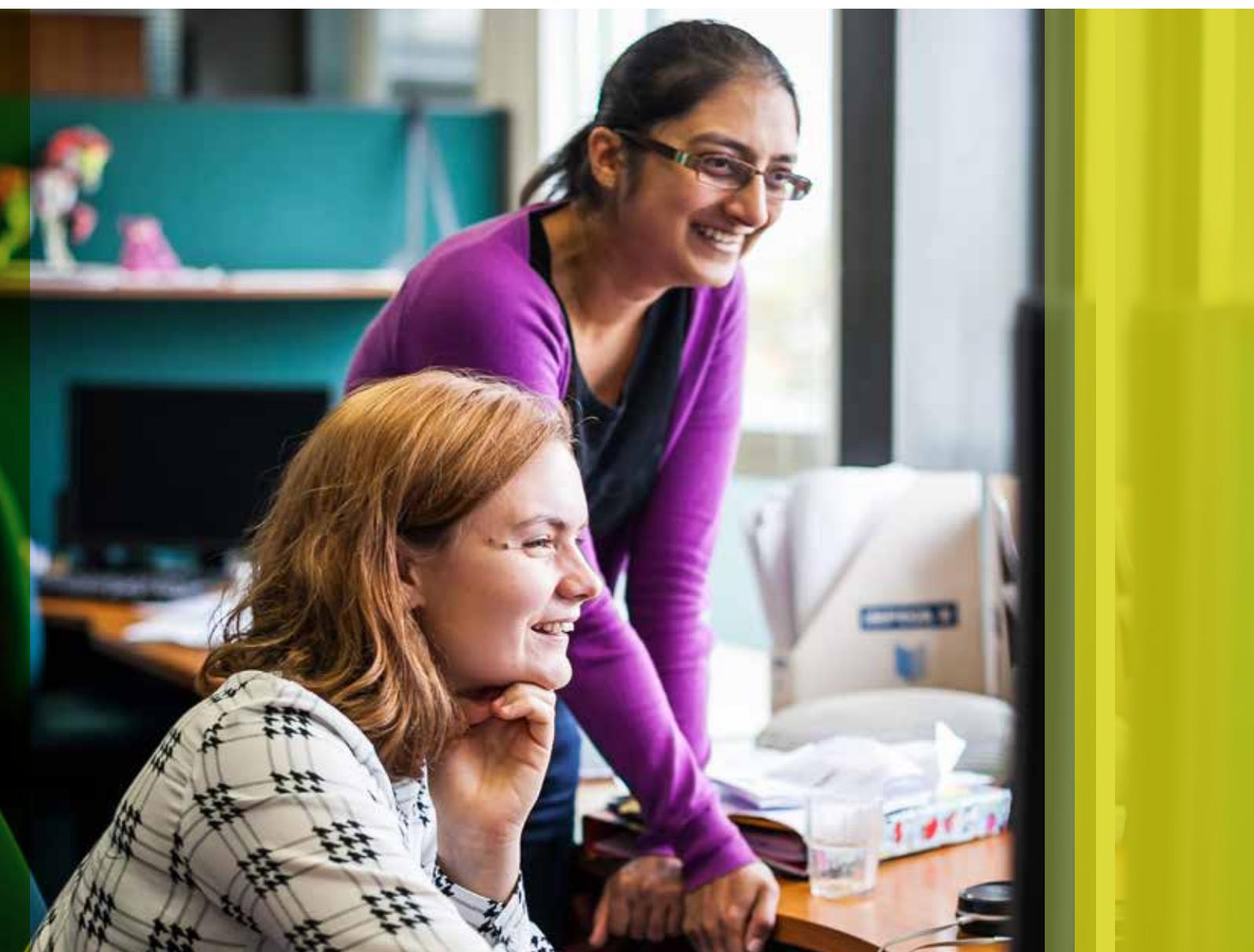


Careers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies



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.

01 Why choose IFS?



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.



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*.

02 What is the Institute for Fiscal Studies?

Every year since 2015, IFS has received an award from Prospect Magazine, as either economic think tank or overall think tank of the year. The most recent award was given because the Institute “maintained its trusted and dominant voice on public finances through the heat of a general election”. Other recent comments about the role of IFS in the public debate have included:

“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

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.



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 Autumn 2017, we had over 26,000 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.



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

Evan Davis, BBC

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.

03 Careers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies



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.

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, Economics Correspondent, and Chris Giles, Economics Editor, of the Financial Times.





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.

Programme 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.

The Institute operates an equal opportunities policy and has a flexible working environment, supporting researchers in further study and where appropriate encouraging them to take time teaching or working in policy or industry secondments. Flexible working requests are always actively considered. 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, most of those currently in the most senior roles have attended comprehensive schools.

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.”

Philip Aldrick, *The Telegraph*

IFS recruits outstanding economists to join its research teams each year.



04 Research Economists

*Rough salary guide**

Research Economist
£32K – £49K

A new graduate with no previous experience
£32K

A candidate with a postgraduate degree
£34.5K

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 2018 with an extremely good degree in economics;
- graduates with an extremely good degree in economics who are expecting to complete an MSc in 2018;
- 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 £32K–£49K.

A new graduate with no previous experience would expect to start on about £32K, while someone with a postgraduate degree might expect to start at about £34.5K. 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.





“if you have a good idea or suggestion it will be listened to no matter how junior you are”

Agnes Norris Keiller

Research Economist in the Income, Work and Welfare research programme. Agnes joined IFS in 2016.

Education: BSc Economics and Geography, University College London, 2014; MSc Economics, University College London, 2016

05 Employee profiles

What first attracted you to IFS?

During my time as a student I experienced working in a range of organisations and this helped me realise that research work was really where my interests lay. After that it was the reputation of the IFS that was the main draw. IFS research achieves such good coverage in the media, it struck me as a great place to undertake rigorous economic research that gets noticed beyond the confines of academia.

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

I've got several projects on the go at the moment that all broadly relate to income inequality and welfare policy. The first is a report that documents trends in the cost of renting over time and examines how this relates to changes in the quality of rented housing. This is more of a 'policy' project, where the final output will be an accessible research report. In addition to this I'm working on two 'academic' projects that aim to get a paper published in an academic journal. One seeks to understand the labour market impacts of trade and the other examines how widening earnings inequality and changes in male labour supply relate to increased pressures on welfare programmes. I'm working with senior academics in both of these projects, which is a great learning experience.

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

This really depends on the stage of the projects I'm working on. When a project first gets going I typically spend a

substantial amount of time analysing data (using statistical software) to work out the specific empirical analysis we can undertake and finalise the main research questions. You're always working as part of a research team so this is an iterative process that involves producing results, discussing these with colleagues and doing further analysis based on those discussions. Academic projects also involve reading any related literature so you can see how your work relates to what's already been done. The next stage of work involves writing up the main results, redrafting based on comments from other people working on the project and senior colleagues, and preparing any additional publication material such as press releases and presentations. Alongside project work I might also have more short-term tasks like writing a magazine article or policy observation. Overall I really enjoy the balance between statistical analysis and writing.

What do you particularly enjoy about the job?

There are lots of different aspects I enjoy. I particularly appreciate being able to discuss results with such experienced and enthusiastic colleagues and how I feel encouraged to think about future research ideas. I'm also involved in the 24-hour IFS responses to major fiscal events which are always great fun.

How has your career progressed so far?

I've worked at IFS for almost a year now and am really pleased at how things have

progressed. I've been involved in high-profile analysis during the Budget and General Election, and had my first experience presenting to a press conference and being interviewed on radio. Having worked on a fairly broad range of topics, I've found labour market analysis particularly interesting and I'm beginning to develop a specialism in this area.

What have you learned from working here?

I feel like I've improved a wide range of skills through working at IFS. On a practical level my coding has become more efficient and I'm now better at writing quickly, concisely and in an engaging manner. More broadly, I now feel more able to identify interesting research questions in terms of their potential academic contribution and relation to current policy. I've also learnt a great deal about a whole range of policy areas, even those I haven't worked on directly, which is a great help in seeing through the political spin that's often involved in public debates!

How would you describe the working environment?

The office has a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The thing I like most is that IFS feels like a very non-hierarchical organisation: if you have a good idea or suggestion it will be listened to no matter how junior you are. There's also a fun social side including post-work drinks on Friday and sports teams.



“As a young researcher you are encouraged to think about your own research interests and pursue these”

Alison Andrew

Research Economist in the Centre for the Evaluation of Development Policies. Alison joined IFS in 2013.

Education: BA Economics, University of Cambridge, 2013;
MSc Economics, University College London, 2016

05 Employee profiles

What first attracted you to IFS?

As someone who really enjoyed academia and research but who also wanted to work on questions that are relevant and useful for policy, the IFS has always attracted me. I have always had a particular interest in international development and wanted to pursue this post-university. When I discovered that the IFS worked on international development issues, I knew that I definitely wanted to apply.

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

Within the broader research agenda on human capital accumulation in developing countries I work on two research areas – early childhood development and adolescent girls’ programmes. In the former I work on one project in India evaluating the impact on child and maternal outcomes of weekly home-visits for disadvantaged mothers. I also work on a project in Colombia that studies childcare centres. My work on adolescent girls is a project in India where we are evaluating the impact of weekly group sessions for girls and community campaigns to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

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

My days vary a lot, which I really like. I quite often travel abroad to visit the projects I work on – this is usually to pilot questionnaires, to attend trainings of

interviewers and to meet with our research partners overseas. Back in London, typically in one day I will work on a couple of different projects which are all in different stages. At the moment I have just finished writing a report for a project in Colombia which is nearly complete. I’m also spending time writing questionnaires for a study in India as well as doing some initial data work for another new project in India. At the IFS, work is very collaborative so I spend a good proportion of my time discussing work with colleagues.

What do you particularly enjoy about the job?

I find the projects I work on really interesting and rewarding. I love seeing the whole process of such research, from the initial ideas, to planning the study design and intervention, to working with partners designing data collection, to finally analysing data and attempting to understand more about our research questions.

How has your career progressed so far?

Since joining the IFS four years ago I have completed a part-time masters at UCL and am currently studying towards a PhD. I am starting to develop my own research ideas and apply for funding to make them possible.

What have you learned from working here?

I have really learnt a lot about the whole process of doing research right through from approaching funders and partners to the final presentation of results for a variety of different audiences. In terms of my technical skills I have learnt a lot about working with data, creating economics models and writing programs to empirically test them.

How would you describe the working environment?

It’s a very supportive and collaborative place to work. Other researchers are very happy to discuss your work together and this is a really good opportunity to get fresh perspectives on what you’re doing. From early on you are encouraged to present your work at seminars. As a young researcher you are encouraged to think about your own research interests and pursue these, which is great.



“Employees are trusted to get on with their work without being closely monitored, yet standards are high, and you are constantly challenged.”



Jack Britton

Senior Research Economist in the Education and Skills research programme. Jack joined IFS in 2013.

Education: BSc Mathematics, Imperial College London, 2008; MSc Economics, University of Bristol, 2010; PhD Economics, University of Bristol, 2014

05 Employee profiles

What first attracted you to IFS?

I saw working at the IFS as an opportunity to work at one of the most prestigious research institutes in the world, with some of the world's top economists. I thought at the IFS I would be able to develop my career as an economist, but also have the opportunity to work on interesting projects that have clear implications for important public policy questions.

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

The majority of my research is focused on higher education. I recently co-authored a report highlighting the details of the higher education finance system in England and the implication for government, universities and graduates. I am doing work on graduate earnings, looking at how they vary by subject, institution and socio-economic background and am about to start working with a really exciting data set that links individuals' school records with their university records and earnings data up to around age 30. This is a major step forward in terms of data quality in the UK. On the more technical side I am doing structural work looking at the drivers of subject choices at university and the impacts of student loans on those choices and on subsequent labour supply.

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

A 'typical' day depends a lot on the state of play of projects and what is going on in the public policy world. When I am focused on

my longer-run research projects, I spend the majority of my time working with statistical or mathematical packages such as Stata or Matlab, coding up models or working with data. The remainder of my time will be spent in meetings with co-authors or wider research groups discussing ideas and issues, as well as reading around the subject of research and writing up papers for submission to academic journals. Things are a bit different when I have some work released or there is a public policy announcement in my area, such as Labour's recent proposals to scrap tuition fees. This will often involve writing relatively short policy pieces for the IFS website, writing articles for newspapers, having conversations with journalists and doing live radio or television interviews.

What do you particularly enjoy about the job?

My favourite aspect of the job is being academically challenged and constantly learning by working with great people on interesting questions that I genuinely care about. I like the demands of having to be both technically articulate and able to communicate clearly to non-specialists. On the latter, the exposure to the media is particularly rewarding.

How has your career progressed so far?

I was a rather non-typical IFS recruit in that I studied Mathematics at Imperial College and a masters and PhD in Economics at the University of Bristol before starting at

IFS four years ago. Since joining IFS I have become a leader of higher education research here, and supervise more junior researchers. In 2015 I was awarded a British Academy postdoctoral grant that fully funded my research agenda for three years. I came in as a Research Economist in 2013 and was promoted to Senior Research Economist in 2015.

What have you learned from working here?

I have learned a huge amount about higher education policy and the way that government operates, and I now frequently advise on public policy. I have gained invaluable media experience and writing skills, which have developed through the high standards the IFS demands in terms of quality of output and clarity of communication. My coding has also improved dramatically!

How would you describe the working environment?

There is a relaxed working environment, in which employees are trusted to get on with their work without being closely monitored, yet standards are high, and you are constantly challenged. The people here are kind, friendly and generous with their time, meaning they are very easy to approach with research ideas or challenges. Occasionally things get stressful around project deadlines or with responding to public policy announcements, but that can also be very rewarding.



“I was excited by the way the IFS seemed to be rooted in the real world, having influence on policy decisions, while also doing things with an academic rigour”

Andrew Hood

Senior Research Economist in the Income, Work and Welfare research programme. Andy joined IFS in 2012.

Education: BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University of Oxford, 2012; MSc Economics, University College London, 2015

05 Employee profiles

What first attracted you to IFS?

I really enjoyed the lectures given by IFS staff as part of my public economics course, and I was excited by the way the IFS seemed to be rooted in the real world, having influence on policy decisions, while also doing things with an academic rigour. Another key factor was that as I came towards the end of my undergraduate degree, I was unsure whether I wanted to enter the world of work or continue with further study in economics: the IFS offered me a unique opportunity to do both!

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

At the moment I'm working on three different projects (which is pretty typical). One is some work using TAXBEN (the IFS model of the UK tax and benefit system) to look at what drives the effect of economic downturns on household incomes and inequality. The aim of the second project is to investigate the nature of 'problem debt' in the UK, and in particular to try to incorporate what we know about how people's incomes are likely to change in future in our assessment of whether their debt is a problem. Finally, I'm working on an academic paper using a model of parental investments in children over the life cycle to estimate the impact of intergenerational links on inequality. So a pretty varied set of things, from quite policy-orientated to more academic.

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

It really does vary a lot, largely depending on what stage the projects I'm working on are at. Towards the start of projects, my days will mainly consist of writing code in statistical software (such as Stata) to get the computer to use data to spit out interesting and important facts – this bit is much more fun than I thought it would be! Towards the end, I'm more likely to be writing parts of reports or papers, or preparing and giving presentations. One nice thing is that since projects tend to overlap, a week at work quite often involves all of the above.

What do you particularly enjoy about the job?

I love working on hard problems with smart people. Day to day, I get to use my brain to think about difficult questions – sometimes a technical econometric issue, sometimes about how best to get across our findings. And I get to do that thinking as part of a team, where often what we come up with together is much better than what any of us could have done on our own. It's also really satisfying when work I've been involved in gets the attention of the press and policymakers, because it feels like we're getting to tell loads of people about what we've found!

How has your career progressed so far?

Over my first five years at the IFS I've been able to develop expertise in areas of work I'm particularly interested in. On the policy side, I've been able to develop a strong

understanding of the benefit system and the determinants of living standards. Since both of these topics are often of interest to the media, that has given me the chance to do TV and radio interviews – slightly terrifying but something I really enjoy. On the academic side, I've been able to pursue my interest in the role of intergenerational transfers and parental investments in driving inequality, and am now working with a professor at UCL on a paper looking at those issues.

What have you learned from working here?

Working at the IFS teaches you a wide range of skills – from computer programming through to how to avoid looking silly in a TV interview (don't gesture with your arms). On a deeper level, I've learnt that most of the questions policymakers ask don't have easy answers – there really are a lot of insuperable trade-offs, and it is important to quantify them precisely.

How would you describe the working environment?

It's really friendly and relaxed – I come into work in jeans and a T-shirt most days! The culture of helping others with their work is very strong – there's basically no one I wouldn't feel able to ask a question if I thought they could help. I also enjoy the social side of life at the IFS – the Christmas and summer parties are a real highlight.



06 Postdoctoral Fellowships



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

The Research Directors of IFS are Orazio Attanasio, Richard Blundell and Rachel Griffith, and IFS has a large number of Research Fellows including James Banks, Eric French, Imran Rasul 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 2018. 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 include 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 January and early February 2018.

IFS offers several placements each summer to economics students who are interested in how microeconomics can be applied to public policy issues and who are considering a career in economic research.

07 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 2018.

Summer Students will be paid £370 per week.



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Deadlines and how to apply

Research Economists

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

Application deadline: Friday 19 January 2018

Interview dates: first round – Monday 19, Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 February 2018
second round – Thursday 1 and Friday 2 March 2018

Postdoctoral Fellowships

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

Application deadline: Friday 24 November 2017

Interview dates: during January and February

Summer Students

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

Application deadline: Friday 19 January 2018

Interview dates: Monday 26, Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 February 2018

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 emma_h@ifs.org.uk. For more information, visit our website www.ifs.org.uk/jobs.