What economists do at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

About MHCLG

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s job is to create great places to live and work; and give more power to local people to shape what happens in their area. Our work is focused on four main areas:

- Ensure people throughout the country have access to affordable and high-quality housing;
- Provide opportunities for all parts of the country to thrive economically;
- Build integrated communities; and
- Support effective local government.

As an Assistant Economist in MHCLG you will be responsible for a variety of unique and interesting pieces of economics work in support of our policies. These roles vary across different business areas but frequently involve leading pieces of analytical work, engaging with other government departments and external stakeholders, working collaboratively across teams within MHCLG to deliver analytical projects, and providing analytical solutions for customers.

MHCLG is a ministerial department, supported by a number of agencies and public bodies and is at the very heart of some key government priorities. MHCLG is a unique Department, offering people who work here experience in central policy, working across Whitehall, direct relationships with local areas and the opportunity to witness the impact of policy.

Economists in MHCLG

MHCLG’s economist community comprises around 50 staff based in London working in multi-disciplinary teams consisting of economists, statisticians, social researchers and operational researchers. Economists are based in MHCLG’s Analysis and Data Directorate which is a vibrant, fast-moving and high-profile place to work and is at the heart of delivering critical evidence for the Department and other stakeholders.

Analysis and Data Directorate provides analysis on all MHCLG’s policies. We will agree the precise nature of your work with us nearer the time depending on the skills and interests of candidates and priorities, but some examples of the economics work we do include:

- Undertaking value for money assessments of potential housing policy options through the application of cost benefit analysis;
- Provide responsive economic analysis and briefing on the housing market and policies to assist households;
- Expert analysis and advice on the housing market; planning and key policies such as Right to Buy;
- Modelling and analysis of different policy options including Office of Budget Responsibility forecasts in MHCLG policy areas e.g. business rates;
- Economic scrutiny and bespoke economic analysis for business cases and fiscal statement preparations supporting, for example, local economic growth;
- Enhancing MHCLG’s economic appraisal guidance to ensure consistency in value for money analysis and helping build the economics evidence base on appraisal more generally;
• Analysis in support of flagship social policy programmes – for example working on the evaluation of the Troubled Families programme;
• Policy analysis on local public service reform and public sector efficiency including key policies such as the Review of Relative Need and Resources of local government and business rates retention; and
• Economic analysis on cities and local economic growth including Enterprise Zones.

As an Assistant Economist in MHCLG, you can expect to work with experienced government analysts on high priority projects. You will have the opportunity to use your economic skills on the job and will be able to acquire new skills as part of your learning and development. Working in MHCLG will also give you the chance to work alongside experienced policy makers and give you a real insight into policy making today.

MHCLG has close links with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and these departments operate a system of brokered moves for faststream Assistant Economists that operate on an annual basis. This offers good opportunities for faststream Assistant Economists who join MHCLG to work in other policy areas. The aim is to ensure that economists starting their career gain a broad range of experience of different policy areas across the three departments before seeking promotion. Most faststream Assistant Economists spend a year in each department and can express preferences for where they would like to go.

MHCLG is committed to continuous professional development and you will have opportunities to develop your skills and experience through working on a diverse range of projects, as well as taking up more formal training opportunities.

For more information contact: Analytical.Recruitment@communities.gov.uk