The Department for Transport

The UK’s transport system is used by most of the population every day, whether travelling to and from work, school, shops, hospitals, or just meeting friends and family. Transport will be key to supporting the growth of the economy following the UK’s exit from the EU. The international freight industry ensures that there are food and goods in the shops, and prompt delivery of parts and raw materials.

The Department for Transport is investing to make journeys better: simpler, faster and more reliable. Our plan will support jobs, enable business growth, reduce emissions, and bring our country closer together.

We are supporting a record £70 billion investment in rail, roads, ports and airports. We are funding the biggest rail modernisation since Victorian times, and the most extensive improvements to roads since the 1970s. We are making transport safer and more sustainable. We impact the lives of millions of people every day, and will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

The Role of Economists

Our analysis gives ministers fresh ideas about big, complex issues and deep insight into policy options. We advise which investments are best value-for-money. We analyse the wide ranging economic impacts of transport schemes and assess the social and environmental benefits and costs, to inform decisions about whether to take forward schemes worth multiple millions of pounds.

We look ahead at key trends in society, such as population growth or the number of trips people take, to forecast how demand for transport will change in the future, as well as how people will travel. Our analysts are currently influencing a wide range of programmes, for example:

- Analysis to inform the future shape of the rail sector as part of a fundamental review to improve the railways for both passengers and taxpayers
- Cost-benefit analysis on the development of clean air zones regulations
- Developing the evidence base around connected and autonomous vehicles
- Estimating the likely carbon footprint of various transport modes
Working in DfT

Our roles offer the chance to put your academic knowledge and skills into practice and gain experience in government economics, in an organisation that genuinely values sound analytical thinking and the development of its people. There are opportunities to apply economics expertise to live policy issues to influence how people travel now and for many years to come, to develop cutting-edge appraisal guidance, to use economics to inform the development of transport schemes, to determine transport’s contribution to our ambitious environmental agenda, and more.

The roles offer high levels of responsibility, with the chance to manage your own projects. Experienced Assistant Economists often get the chance to manage a summer student. Work can be a mix of fast paced analysis and longer-term projects which aim to build on our evidence base, providing an ideal opportunity to develop the key analytical skills required for promotion.

You’ll be able to collaborate with and learn from peers, senior economists and other analyst professionals including statisticians, operational researchers, transport modellers, social researchers and scientists. You’ll move between posts, typically once a year, to help build your skills and exposure to a range of economist roles. This includes the chance to work in partner departments – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

All of our posts provide excellent on-the-job learning, supported by your manager. We also offer extensive training catered to individual needs; workshops, seminars, mentors and access to a Masters bursary of up to £10K.

Salary and Benefits

You’ll get £28,000, increasing to £33,990 after a year and completion of probation. After around four years you’ll be ready to apply for Economic Advisor posts, currently paying £50K. We support flexible working: part-time; flexi-hours; occasional working from home.

Further Information

Contact Kirstie Burgin, tel.: 07825 014931, email: Kirstie.Burgin@dft.gov.uk

“I enjoy applying my degree skills to real-world scenarios. Plus, I’ve expanded my knowledge to new areas like carbon emissions”