Department for Education (DfE)

ABOUT US
The Department for Education is responsible for education, children’s services, higher and further education policy, apprenticeships and skills in England. We work to achieve a highly educated society in which opportunity is equal for all, no matter what their background or family circumstances.

JOB DESCRIPTION
Our economists are found right across the Department working collaboratively to build the evidence base to support policy development and delivery. We offer our skills in appraisal and evaluation, analysis of data and modelling and application of critical thinking to help ensure that the Department makes evidence-based decisions. There is no such thing as a typical day for our economists but while focusing on different aspects of DfE policy, it’s likely to include some of the following types of work:

- Carrying out secondary analysis of DfE data, such as the second Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE2), or the Longitudinal Education Outcomes study. These are large and powerful datasets which can help to answer policy questions right across the Department.

- Scoping and producing evidence-based briefings, synthesising and summarising domestic and international evidence on key policy areas covering a wide range of topics to aid policy decision-making.

- Undertaking cost benefit analysis to assess the value for money of Departmental activity and potential policy plans

Here are just a few examples of the work that our economists have been involved in recently:

- Synthesising the literature around teacher recruitment and retention, analysing the market for initial teacher training and modelling potential teacher supply

- Looking at the likelihood of permanent and fixed term exclusions for pupils, controlling for a range of available factors

- Updating estimates of the economic returns to various further education courses

- Looking at the economics of higher education student finance

- Building up the evidence base on social mobility and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils
DfE has an ambitious policy agenda, as well as access to some of the most powerful data sources across government, making it an ideal place to be an analyst. Our Analytical Community comprises over 600 DfE statisticians, economists, social researchers, operational researchers, data scientists and other analysts, as well as IT specialists, procurement and administrative support staff. We support all aspects of the department's strategy feeding in analysis and research to strategy and policy development and delivery.

In the DfE we have a strong culture of inclusion and diversity and are committed to being an equal opportunities employer. We aim to develop all our staff to enable them to make a full contribution to meeting the Department's objectives, and to fulfil their own potential. We promote and support the use of a range of flexible working patterns to help staff to balance home and work responsibilities and we treat people fairly, irrespective of their working arrangements.

We support this culture though our 11 staff networks, including the BAME, LGBT+ networks to the Carers and EU/EEA Nationals networks. We are recognised by leading diversity organisations for promoting diversity in the workplace. We have achieved the status of becoming a Disability Leader employer and continued to be a member of the Business Disability Forum. We have also earned a spot in the 2018 Stonewall Top 100 employer Index and the Business in the Community’s Best employers for Race 2018 list.