

**Government Economic Service: Sandwich Student Placement scheme 2025-26**

Job Descriptions

The following document contains job descriptions from the departments participating in this year’s GES Sandwich Scheme. They give you an insight into the work of the department, and the role of social research within that department.

If successful at interview, you will be allocated to any government department with a role available. Where possible, we will try to place you within a department with an office in one of your preferred locations. We are unable to take your preferred departments into account, as we must treat all applicants fairly, as well as meeting the need of each government department offering placements.

***Please note that the descriptions in this document may change as departmental need shifts in response to workload. This may include the locations and number of roles available.***

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this document, please email [GESRrecruitment@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:GESRrecruitment@hmtreasury.gov.uk)

Contents

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) 2](#_Toc235696308)

[Department for Transport 5](#_Toc572598478)

[FCDO: Sanctions Directorate 5](#_Toc1582299772)

[FCDO: ECONOMIC GROWTH DEPARTMENT 7](#_Toc216866432)

[UK Health Security Agency 9](#_Toc2069629843)

[HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) 10](#_Toc588928007)

[HM Treasury (HMT) 13](#_Toc66159420)

[Health and Safety Executive (HSE) 14](#_Toc824399122)

[Office For Budget Responsibility (OBR) 19](#_Toc1579173325)

[Office for National Statistics (ONS) 26](#_Toc865521071)

[Scottish Government (SG) 29](#_Toc768741071)

# Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Location: Bristol, York, London, and Newcastle.

Number of Placements: 2

Salary: £23,811 National, £27,245 London.

About Defra

In the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), we deal with a vast range of issues that profoundly impact on people’s lives. We are responsible for England’s environment, our countryside and rural economy, the food and farming sectors (which together make up around 7% of the UK economy) and have lead responsibility for protection from a wide range of natural threats and hazards. You will play an important role in achieving our vision of ‘creating a great place for living.’

This is a particularly exciting time to join Defra, not least as an economist. With over a thousand pieces of legislation identified as Defra-owned and underpinning 80% of our work, we have an unparalleled opportunity to devise policies that best meet the future needs of the UK. Our vision is to create a great place for living for people in this country. We have four impact objectives which explain our ambitious long-term strategic aims, and the positive differences we will make to the UK:

To pass on to the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future

To lead the world in food, farming, and fisheries with a sustainable model of food production

To deliver a safe and ambitious departure from the EU, setting global standards in protecting and harnessing value from the natural environment

To be an outstanding organisation focused on making a difference with world class delivery capacity

We offer an inclusive culture which embraces and supports our colleagues to achieve and sustain increased levels of employee wellbeing, engagement, and productivity. For more information on the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs see our [website](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs).

Overview of work area(s)

Economists in Defra work closely with colleagues to structure policy problems and ensure economic analysis informs decision making, making best use of available data and evidence. You will work primarily with an Assistant Economist and/or Economic Advisor as well as wider analysts to develop the evidence base, drawing from a range of expertise, undertaking quality assured economic appraisal and evaluation, and providing robust analytical advice. Responsibilities may include:

Conducting and reporting analysis, to ensure policy options are underpinned by careful synthesis of available evidence and forward-looking analysis.

Communicating with and advising policy colleagues on what the latest evidence and analysis tells you.

Managing stakeholder engagement, analysing, and reporting on outputs.

Addressing policy needs through development, testing and application of advanced models.

Defra Economists work across a range of policy areas, on topics such as measures to improve air quality, regulations on use of chemicals and pesticides, waste management, climate mitigation, adaptation to Green Finance developing new Green Governance to improve soils and protect peatland and the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan – to name a few.

Defra is looking for placement students to work within various teams, including Environmental Quality, EU and International Trade, Marine and Fisheries, Future Farming & Countryside Economics, Floods and Water regulation and management, Animal and Plant Health & Welfare, International Biodiversity and Climate and Environmental Strategy.

Defra Economist Community

At Defra you will join a diverse but cohesive group of economists working to deliver high quality, impactful economics to achieve great outcomes. We work together to foster a strong collective identity to ensure we are **impactful, skilful, vibrant** as a community, and **connected** to the outside world.

You will join a culture where continuous learning is encouraged, and colleagues are happy to share their expertise. You’ll have the opportunity to work alongside colleagues from alternative professions such as policy, science, statistics, operational research, and social research, in a rich learning and policy-making environment. We will also offer you the chance to develop economic and policy competences through in-work training and opportunities, such as economic seminars.

**For more information** about the Economics Profession in Defra please contact [analyst.admin@defra.gov.uk](mailto:analyst.admin@defra.gov.uk)

Eligibility Requirements

Candidates will need to hold the right to work in the UK, meet Civil Service Nationality Rules and have been a resident in the UK for 3 years (in order to obtain the required National Security Vetting clearance).

# Department for Transport

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Location: London, Birmingham, Leeds

Number of Placements: One

Salary: (AO) £23,847 (Birmingham, Leeds); £28,096 (London)

JOB DESCRIPTION

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 is key to growing and levelling up the economy, reducing environmental impacts and increasing the UK’s global impact.

The Department for Transport (DfT) is investing to make journeys better: simpler, faster, and more reliable. Our policies and regulations support jobs, enable business growth, and bring our country closer together.

Our analysis gives ministers fresh ideas about big, complex issues and deep insight into policy options. We analyse the wide-ranging economic impacts of transport schemes. We assess the social and environmental benefits and costs, to get a full picture of the impact of a scheme.

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.

At the end of your placement in DfT, not only will you have an excellent grasp of what it is being an economist in the Civil Service, you will also have developed your wider skills such as:

Appraisal and analysing data

Communicating complex analysis in non-technical language to non-economists

Working independently but cooperatively

Managing projects

Being able to see how your work can add value to wider department and cross-government priorities.

Eligibility Requirements

Candidates will need to hold the right to work in the UK and meet Civil Service Nationality Rules.

# FCDO: Sanctions Directorate

LOCATION: London / East Kilbride / Milton Keynes

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS: 1

SALARY: National: X / London: X / Grade: X

JOB DESCRIPTION:

**Placement Economist, Sanctions Analysis, Intelligence, and Data Team, Sanctions Directorate**

The Sanctions Directorate in FCDO is responsible for UK sanctions policy. Designing and implementing sanctions that are targeted and have the intended impact requires timely and high-quality analysis. You will be joining the Sanctions Analysis, Intelligence, and Data (SAID) team, an analytical team which exists to:

Improve our understanding of whether UK sanctions are effective, and how to improve them further

Develop evidence-based comms lines which enable senior civil servants to engage persuasively in international and public engagements

Coordinate analysis across the UK government, and with the G7, EU and 5EYES countries.

Your role will be critical to the work of the team as well as the wider Sanctions Directorate, providing expert economic advice to sanctions policy decision makers at pace. You will be tasked with undertaking analysis which will be used by Ministers and senior civil servants in Parliament and internationally. You will be heavily involved in the creation of analytical products that are seen as the gold standard for measuring the impact of sanctions. You will communicate the findings of your analysis to a non-economist audience. You will apply economics and other analytical skills to complex international security challenges, such as sanctions circumvention,

Working within the Sanctions Analysis, Intelligence and Data (SAID) team, you will be line managed by a Fast Stream Economist and be supported in your analysis by a team of expert economists and intelligence analysts.

This role will give you the opportunity to develop technical skills, including coding, as well as experience in other analytical platforms such as Excel and Power BI, and potentially receive opportunities to travel. You will have the opportunity to broaden your analytical expertise beyond economics and apply it to other areas , working with experienced analysts from across the government’s analysis community.  You will be supported in developing your understanding of sanctions, with access and time to work through internal training courses.

Eligibility Requirements:

Essential

The candidate must currently be undertaking a UK-based economics-related undergraduate course.

Desirable

The candidate should have an interest in building a proficiency in Excel, R, Power BI and other similar analytical/coding platforms. Generous training offers are available to refresh and enhance these skills.

An interest in sanctions, trade, and/or any other relevant UK foreign policy areas.

# FCDO: ECONOMIC GROWTH DEPARTMENT

JOBS AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH TEAM

LOCATION: KCS or AH

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS:

SALARY: National: X / London: X / Grade: X

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Jobs and Inclusive Growth Team (JIGT) is in the Economic Growth Department (EGD) inthe Economic Development and Partnerships Directorate in FCDO. JIGT is a friendly, collegiate and hard working team dedicated to the principles of poverty reduction, inclusivity and sustainability. JIGT leads across the FCDO on economic growth and transformation, jobs, economic inclusion and women’s economic empowerment.

This is an exciting time to join JIGT, which is leading the design of the new Green and Inclusive Growth (GIG) Centre of Expertise (CoE).  The GIG COE is one of five COEs that form part of the FCDO’s offer on economic development and growth, one of the UK Governments key priorities. The GIG COE aims to deliver support to inclusive and sustainable growth and job creation.  JIG also leads on the high-profile [International Growth Centre (IGC)](https://www.theigc.org/) programme, which works with policymakers in developing countries to promote inclusive and sustainable growth through pathbreaking research and influential policy advice.

We are seeking a Student Economist to drive key elements of our effort to embed evidence, learning and best practice in inclusive and sustainable economic transformation across the heart of the FCDO.

This role would suit an economist with a passion for international development and inclusive growth. The role operates in a fast paced environment and the economist will suit someone with an adaptable approach to work that allows for the application of their skills to a range of tasks.

The role would be line managed by either an HEO or a Grade 7 Economist, but you will work closely with all the Economic Advisers in JIG team leading on jobs and economic transformation; on the International Growth Centre and on Women’s Economic Empowerment a well as a Social Development Adviser leading on Economic Inclusion.  You will support the team to carry out analysis and build the evidence base to support our thought leadership and programme design on inclusive, climate compatible economic growth and transformation, and how this can be supported most effectively by the FCDO including through the new Green and Inclusive Centre of Expertise.

This is a fast moving area, and there is a wide range of exciting policy areas that you may have the opportunity to get involved in depending on evolving FCDO priorities.  Whilst specific responsibilities may change, a list of the kind of indicative tasks which the student could lead, or support over the year is below:

Literature reviews on key growth related issues to feed into policy development, such as:  what is the role of SME’s in inclusive growth; identifying the evidence for successful skills programming in support of economic transformation; the role of economic development in fragile and conflict affected states; what is the future of economic transformation in a services-led, globally interconnected and more technological world;

Supporting analysis on key sectors to support both Green and Inclusive growth in developing countries and identifying potential trade offs and overlaps.

Supporting the Economic Growth Department’s “mini strategy team” to develop and communicate our narrative on Inclusive and Climate Compatible Economic Development, including production of easy to understand briefs and short notes.

Analytical work to provide snapshots across large quantities of IGC published content to enable us to assess performance across a range of areas such as gender, climate compatible growth, and quality of policy recommendations.

Reviewing IGC literature and compiling short briefing notes to inform FCDO policy positions, comparing divergent views, and providing strong analytical foundations, identifying nuances.

# UK Health Security Agency

LOCATION: UKHSA has offices in London, Bristol, Porton Down, Birmingham, Leeds and Liverpool, we also operate successfully as a Hybrid-working team. Not all locations may be available. We aim to place summer students with teams operating from the location at which they will be based.

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS: 1

SALARY: Pro rata: National: £25,976 / London: £29,737;  Grade: EO

JOB DESCRIPTION:

At the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) our mission is to provide health security for the nation by protecting from infectious disease and external hazards. We are a trusted source of advice to government and to the public, focusing on reducing inequalities in the way different communities experience and are impacted by infectious disease, environmental hazards, and other threats to health.

We have one placement position where, as a health economist, you will be part of a team building the organisation’s economics capability. You will work with other experienced analysts and experts (economists, epidemiologists, data scientists and public health experts) to assess the economic costs and benefits of solving health security problems and to help build our understanding of how health security interacts with the wider economy.

You will apply economic techniques to analyse and communicate a project to provide insight on pressing health problems. This could include carrying out cost-benefit analysis, supporting policy development or researching ways to develop new methods. The role may also extend to smaller ad-hoc pieces of work to support decision-making and you will develop clear high-quality analysis and have the chance to communicate it to a senior audience.

This placement will also enable you to learn more about the health domain and the team regularly has presentations from experts in their respective fields.

Eligibility Requirements: Candidates will need to hold the right to work in the UK and meet Civil Service Nationality Rules.

Contacts: [Michael.West@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.West@ukhsa.gov.uk)

# HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

Locations: London (Croydon, Stratford & Westminster), Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle

Number of Placements: 2 (1 National, 1 London)

Salary: National: £26,637 | London: £30,071

About HM Revenue and Customs

Are you looking for an organisation where economic analysis makes a real difference? An organisation that cares about the wellbeing of its diverse workforce? An employer who offers personal development, progression opportunities and outstanding training? Well, look no further, as HMRC can offer this and much more. The tax system affects the lives of over 30 million people across the UK in countless ways. HMRC collects over £800 billion to fund public services, influencing almost every aspect of the UK economy.

Diverse perspectives and experiences are essential to our success, and we encourage applications from all backgrounds.

HMRC operates both flexible and hybrid working policies, allowing you to balance your work and personal commitments. We welcome applications from those who need a more flexible arrangement and will agree to requests where possible, considering our operational and customer needs.

HMRC have a wide range of friendly colleague-led support groups, communities and networks, these help colleagues to connect and share experiences. These include a range of diversity and mental health networks, which aim to provide a safe space for colleagues to share experiences.

Student Economist roles

Student economists take on many different economic projects in HMRC. The type of work they do includes:

Helping with advice for Ministers on tax policy changes

Developing and publishing statistics

Building economic models to understand who is affected by tax changes

Understanding how much money is lost from tax avoidance and evasion

Forecasting how much revenue will be raised from different taxes

How to use behavioural economics to encourage people to pay tax

HMRC Economist Community

You will have the support of a vibrant community of around 150 economists in HMRC, including a very active assistant economist network and a strong Economics in the North community. Economists work in cross-disciplinary teams with statisticians, social researchers and operational researchers as part of a wider community of over 600 analysts.

Security Clearance

[Security vetting clearance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/united-kingdom-security-vetting-clearance-levels) is dependent on work area and location whichever requires the higher clearance.

For most located outside of London you are required to pass Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS).

If located at some London sites, you are required to pass Counter Terrorist Check (CTC).

Some highly sensitive work areas require Security Check (SC).

You will need to have lived in the UK for a minimum of 5 or 3 years / for SC or CTC security clearance

*“In HMRC there is a real opportunity to use analysis to have an impact. Tax depends on analysis, so our work is central to the decisions that affect millions of people.”*

# HM Treasury (HMT)

LOCATION: London or Darlington

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS: 4

SALARY: £25,600

JOB DESCRIPTION:

HM Treasury is the government’s economic and finance ministry. The Department maintains control over public spending, decides how money is raised from taxpayers, sets the direction of the UK’s economic policy and works to achieve strong and sustainable economic growth. Influencing every policy across government, HM Treasury’s work makes headlines on a daily basis and shapes our nation’s future.

HM Treasury is offering placements across a number of Groups, including: Economics, Enterprise and Growth, International, Financial Stability, Financial Services, Fiscal, Public Spending, Public Services, Business and International Tax and the Budget and Strategy Planning and Budget.

Collectively these teams are responsible for:

Providing economic surveillance and delivering the evidence base to underpin macroeconomic and microeconomic policy across government.

Ensuring that Government policy encourages private sector investment, enterprise, innovation and the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Promoting and protecting the UK's economic and fiscal interests overseas.

Securing the stability of the UK financial sector for the benefit of the economy.

Promoting a stable and efficient financial services sector that supports growth in the UK economy and promotes good outcomes for consumers and businesses.

Ensuring the sustainability of the public finances over the short, medium term and long term.

Controlling and reporting on public spending; improving value for money and efficiency; and working across Whitehall to improve Government Finance and Management.

Providing strategic oversight of business, environmental, transport, property and excise taxes that together raise revenue of over £200bn a year, to deliver policy change in consultation with key stakeholders and

Co-ordinating the Budget, tax strategy, and the Finance Bill.

Roles vary across the Treasury, however placement students will typically have the opportunity to work collaboratively, develop their analytical skills and apply economic thinking in support of a range of the Treasury’s objectives. Examples of projects previous students have worked on include:

Exploring the macroeconomic impacts of Covid-19.

Using OECD data to compare the magnitude, composition and trends of the tax burden across the G7 economies.

Introducing new guidance and case studies on the best practice application of the Green Book.

Contributing to HM Treasury’s engagement with the Financial Policy Committee.

Briefing Ministers and colleagues on the results of the Government’s gilt auctions.

Assisting with the production of inputs into the Budget and

Assisting with forecasting and modelling for the Treasury’s home ownership schemes.

Eligibility Requirements:

Candidates will need to hold the right to work in the UK and meet Civil Service Nationality Rules.

Individuals appointed to the Treasury will be subject to National Security Vetting. To allow for meaningful checks to be carried out applicants will normally need to have lived in the UK for at least 3 out of the past 5 years.

# Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Location: Liverpool (Bootle) or Buxton

Number of placements: One

Salary: Around £26,000 gross annual

Working arrangements: Full time, fixed-term contract

Team / Directorate: Economic and Social Analysis Team

**Background**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is responsible for regulating risks generated by work to people and the environment in Great Britain. These risks include major industrial accidents and explosions, life-changing injury and occupational cancer.

Current and recent issues in the news that fall within HSE’s regulatory remit include:

Regulating emerging technology sectors, such as AI, hydrogen and Net Zero

How to keep high-rise buildings safe following the Grenfell Tower fire

Protecting workers’ mental health during labour market shifts, such as gig working

Maintaining Great Britain’s record as a world-leader in the protection of workers from immediate injury and long-latency illnesses, like cancer

HSE is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions and employs over 2,500 staff.

HSE’s Economic and Social Analysis Team (ESAT) is based in Redgrave Court, a purpose-built headquarters 10 minutes from Liverpool city centre; and at the HSE laboratory in Buxton.  Economists work within the HSE Science Division alongside other analysts e.g. statisticians and social researchers, getting involved in strategy, policy analysis, operational planning and corporate support.

**Economics in HSE**

Health and safety regulation affects the entire population, both those at work and those affected (or potentially affected) by work activities. As an HSE economist, you will deal with a wide range of questions every day.  For example:

What are the labour market effects of new health and safety at work regulations?

How much does it cost to reduce the number of occupational cancers?

What value can we place on the safety of the UK’s oil refineries and chemical plants?

What is the cost of a case of work-related injury or illness?

What are the effects of a recession on health and safety outcomes?

You will play a crucial role in determining the appropriate type and level of government intervention in response to workplace death, injury and ill health.  The work you produce will be at the forefront of debates concerning risk control and better regulation.

ESAT is part of Science Division, which also includes social researchers, statisticians, engineers, medical doctors and other specialists. You will be working in a team that currently consists of seven economists and five social researchers.

The team provides excellent opportunities for you to be exposed to high-profile work and senior staff in HSE. You will have the opportunity for both on-the-job and more formal training on economic estimation, research and project management both within HSE and as part of cross-government events.

**Examples of work undertaken by HSE economists**

Estimating the costs and benefits of changes to legislation to support Ministerial decision-making and the design of interventions to prevent injury and ill health caused by work

Providing evidence and advice to guide HSE’s long-term strategy; and on high-profile policy areas such as Brexit and the development of the Building Safety Regulator.

Producing cost estimates of the impacts of work-related injury and illness, such as fatal injury, mental ill health and cancer, including methods to produce monetised estimates of the ‘human costs’ of pain, grief and suffering

Evaluating whether existing government interventions meet their policy objectives and should be retained or modified

Collaborating with social researchers, occupational hygienists, engineers, medics, statisticians and many other specialists in the design and implementation of research

Providing advice to senior government decision-makers on the uses of incentives and behavioural economics

Taking the lead on cross-Governmental and international work on the uses of economic techniques and evidence to support the prevention of injury and ill health caused by work, including work with the EU, OECD and other international risk agencies

**Competencies**

You will need to be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

*Micro-economic knowledge and analytical skills*

Health and safety regulations affect product and labour markets in GB, including impacts on productivity and competitiveness.  You will need an understanding of the relevant microeconomics for analysis of the impact of regulation on firms and markets.

*Communication skills*

You will work with economists, other analysts and non-technical colleagues, presenting information and writing reports.  It is therefore essential that you can communicate economic concepts and the results of economic analysis, clearly and consistently through a variety of means.

*Team working*

You will collaborate with social researchers, statisticians, technical experts, policy and operational colleagues to achieve good quality outputs.  Strong team working skills are therefore essential.

*Initiative and drive for results*

You will need to be a self-starter, who can take the lead when required and use his or her own initiative to progress matters when appropriate to produce high quality results.

**Applications**

For more information on the HSE position, please email [kyran.donald@hse.gov.uk](mailto:kyran.donald@hse.gov.uk)

**Eligibility Requirements**

Candidates will need to hold the right to work in the UK and meet Civil Service Nationality Rules.

*Nationality*

Be a national of the UK, Commonwealth or Republic of Ireland or a European Economic Area (EEA) or Turkish national with a **right to live and work in the UK**

If a holder of a student visa – be allowed under the conditions of the visa to undertake a full-time paid sandwich placement in the UK without a work permit.

To be eligible for employment in the UK Civil Service applicants must meet the Civil Service Nationality Rules which operate independently and additionally to the UK Immigration Rules. Applicants must also meet necessary security and vetting requirements, along with any other relevant pre-employment checks.

As from 1 January 2021 broadly the following groups may be eligible to work in non-reserved posts within the Civil Service:

UK nationals

Nationals of Commonwealth countries

Nationals of the Republic of Ireland

EEA nationals with (or eligible for) status under the EUSS

Relevant EEA or Turkish nationals working in the Civil Service

Relevant EEA or Turkish nationals who have built up the right to work in the Civil Service

Certain family members of the relevant EU & Turkish nationals.

Further guidance on Civil Service Nationality Rules and changes from 1 January 2021 can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-rules).

Applicants who have visa status must ensure they include all the details of their visa status in the application. If successful at sift, you will be asked at a later date to provide a copy of your visa that demonstrates that the visa covers the period of the placement.

**Please note: Visa students do not meet the criteria for doing an Economic Assessment Centre (EAC) at the end of their placement and will not be offered an EAC at the end of their placement.**

**Please note: We do not offer sponsorships for our schemes.**

# Office For Budget Responsibility (OBR)

LOCATION: London

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS: 2

SALARY: £26,500

About the OBR

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was established by the Chancellor in May 2010 to provide independent assessments of the economy, public finances, and fiscal sustainability. We provide independent forecasts of the economy and public finances to inform the Government's fiscal policy decisions, examine the impact of the Government's policy decisions on the public finances, and assess the prospects for achieving the Government's fiscal targets. We publish reports on long-term fiscal sustainability, fiscal risks, and trends in welfare spending, and run a wider work programme of research and analysis into economic and fiscal issues.

The OBR is comprised of the Budget Responsibility Committee (BRC) – Richard Hughes (Chair), Professor David Miles, and Tom Josephs – who are currently supported by around 50 civil servants, including economists, public finance analysts, and business support staff.

The Role

As we are a small organisation with a flat structure, the placement student roles will offer direct exposure to senior staff and the opportunities to work collaboratively, develop their analytical skills, and apply their academic knowledge of economic thinking in support of a range of the OBR objectives and liaise with stakeholders across government.  Students are expected to go through a steep learning curve and to work independently from the offset. This includes:

Working with relatively little oversight but with a high degree of collaboration with others in the team to ensure output of the highest quality.

Taking responsibility for own actions, outputs and analysis while ensuring a high degree of communication, particularly with stakeholders.

Attending relevant seminars in order to gain wider context to government and current affairs as well as further developing skills.

Reading articles, economic journals and published papers in order to be more aware of a wider political and economic landscape.

Attending any relevant training to gain both broaden and deepen knowledge, including Excel and other statistical software courses.

Publication Management

Both students are tasked with ensuring that the presentation of the OBR analysis follows the pre-determined format across all OBR publications. They are expected to be innovative in their formatting of charts and tables to manage their time efficiently and maximise quality. Specific tasks and responsibilities include:

Managing the charts and tables process and ensuring they are created to the correct specifications for all publications.

Creating new ways of presenting data to provide high-quality publications and maintain consistency across them.

Managing and updating the historical forecast database.

Corporate Objectives

Students support the OBR to achieve its corporate objectives. Specific tasks include:

Working effectively with their line manager by updating them on the progress of own work and flagging any emerging pressures and issues.

Working well within the team by being aware of roles and responsibilities of each team member.

Quality-assuring own and others’ analysis.

Working collaboratively with the second student to organise the OBR Christmas party and maintaining (and updating as appropriate) a handover pack for future OBR students.

Eligibility Requirements:

Individuals appointed to the OBR will be subject to satisfactory references, Civil Service Nationality Rules and National Security Vetting. To allow for meaningful checks to be carried out applicants will normally need to have lived in the UK for at least three out of the past five years.

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| **Vacancy summary** | | | |
| **Job title** | Fiscal student | | |
| **Group** | OBR | **Team** | Fiscal team (cross-cutting) |

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| --- |
| **Main duties/objectives** |
| The fiscal team at the OBR creates the fiscal forecast for the UK public finances and produces further analysis on welfare trends and fiscal risks and sustainability. It’s made up of a collection of smaller teams each covering receipts, expenditure, welfare, risks and sustainability, and policy costings and devolved tax and spending. This means it is essential that the student manages their time effectively and can prioritise his/her tasks for multiple teams. Much of the work you do will be structured around the OBR’s publications, in particular the *Economic and fiscal outlook (EFO)* which accompanies the Budget and Spring Statement.  Further to the roles and responsibilities listed in the introduction, the responsibilities specific to the fiscal student post are:  **Data management**  A core part of the OBR process. Production of publications follows a rigorous and established process which tends to be time pressured with zero or very little flexibility over deadlines. It is therefore essential that students always work as effectively as possible and at a high standard. There is a considerable amount of responsibility trusted upon the student. Specific tasks include:    Produce the spending OBREAs (OBR economic assumptions) every fiscal forecasting round and work with senior colleagues to ensure that they are sent to departments on time and contain the correct figures.    Liaise with HMT/HMRC/BoE to analyse and forecast the financial sector profits determinants.    Produce smaller tax lines such as Passport fees, the British Transport police and Fines and penalties at each forecasting round, involving forecasting, making judgements and stakeholder engagement with the BRC    At the end of each forecast round, assist in preparing the note to the Chancellor for the Exchequer to update the HM Treasury on the forecast progress.    On the release of the monthly ONS public sector finances data: Update, manage and improve the published OBR databank, manage the receipts outturn database    **Analytical**  Provide analytical support for main OBR publications as needed (which include the *Economic and fiscal outlook* (EFO), the *Fiscal risks and sustainability report* (FRS), the *Forecast evaluation report* (FER) and the *Welfare trends report* (WTR)). This is a flexible part of the role, and depends on the student’s interests and the team’s current work priorities.    Specific projects that current/past post holders have completed include:    Producing ‘Forecast in depth’ pages – these are published on the OBR’s website and aim to provide an in-depth overview of each forecast line.      Producing the Scottish landfill tax forecasts for the EFO and *Devolved taxes and spending forecasts* publications at each fiscal event, including relevant diagnostic tables and analysis of trends in the tax base.    Conducting additional analysis and other ad-hoc tasks such as a standalone piece of analysis in a box for one of the publications.    While producing such analysis it is essential that the student:    Secures a balance between the time spent on producing such work and the actual output.  Ensures analysis is quality assured, written clearly and appropriately for the audience.  Adheres to the OBR writing style as well as following OBR best practice throughout.  Analysis should utilise any learnt techniques during the placement such as Excel tips and tricks in order to manage time efficiently and produce high quality charts to display data effectively.  The student should seek to exert influence through their work by sharing learnt insights to help inform and shape the wider analytical discussions. They should become aware of the wider context and how their work feeds into the publication as a whole.    If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [OBR.Enquiries@obr.uk](mailto:OBR.Enquiries@obr.uk) |

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| **Vacancy summary** | | | |
| **Job title** | Economy student | | |
| **Group** | OBR | **Team** | Economy team |

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| **Main duties/objectives** |
| The economy team at the OBR creates the macroeconomic forecast for the UK economy. They produce an outlook for macroeconomic variables such as GDP, inflation, trade, unemployment and the housing market. Much of the work you do will be structured around the OBR’s publications in particular the *Economic and fiscal outlook* *(EFO)* which accompanies the Budget and Spring Statement.  Further to the roles and responsibilities listed in the introduction, the responsibilities specific to the economy student post are:  **Data management**  A core part of the OBR process. Production of publications follows a rigorous and established process which tends to be time pressured with zero or very little flexibility over deadlines. It is therefore essential that students always work as effectively as possible and at a high standard. There is a considerable amount of responsibility placed upon the student. Specific tasks include:    Taking “Market Assumptions” each forecast round using the Bloomberg terminal and other software to input directly into the macroeconomic forecast. These are variables such as market expectations for Bank Rate, oil prices and exchange rates.  Assist and lead parts of the housing forecast – including mortgage and deposit rates, housing supply and transactions forecast.  Undertaking short-term projects in a topic that interests you. This may include refining existing forecast models, developing econometric equations or assisting in our supply-side forecast.  At the end of each forecast round, assist in preparing the note to the Chancellor for the Exchequer to update the HM Treasury on the forecast progress.  Assist the economy team with the presentation of their analysis, including leading on formatting the charts and tables used in OBR publications.    **Analytical**    Provide analytical support for main OBR publications as needed (which include the *Economic and fiscal outlook (EFO)*, *the Fiscal risks and sustainability report (FRS)* and the *Forecast evaluation report (FER)*). Specifically:    Providing analysis of these market assumptions for publication and internally (such as presenting to the Budget Responsibility Committee (BRC)).  Attending meetings with the Budget Responsibility Committee, HM Treasury, Bank of England (BoE) and other external contacts as appropriate.  Managing the data processing side of our analytical forecast comparison work, monitoring and comparing our forecast with the BoE and other external forecasters.  Update the website ‘Forecast in depth’ page for conditioning assumptions after each forecast.  Additional economic and other ad-hoc analysis as required.  In order to complete these tasks the student must:  Work collaboratively with other members of the team to deliver high quality outputs.  Be proactive in working effectively with line manager/s.  Manage their time effectively to meet strict deadlines. There will often be short notice from colleagues for delivery of outputs so the student must be on top of their workload.  Anticipate potential issues or requests from colleagues and external stakeholders by learning from past experience.  Ensure analysis is quality assured, written clearly and appropriately for the audience.  Adhere to the OBR writing style as well as following OBR best practice throughout.  Develop knowledge of the macro economy by reading OBR, ONS (Office for National Statistics) and BoE publications as well as attending relevant seminars and events such as those put on by the government student network and the GES.     If you have any questions, please feel free to contact  [OBR.Enquiries@obr.uk](mailto:OBR.Enquiries@obr.uk) |

# Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Location: Darlington, Manchester, Titchfield, and Newport

Number of Placements: 30

Salary: £22,699 (AO National)

Job Description

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) employs many GES Sandwich students each year to work in a number of different business areas. The area you will be allocated to will depend on your skillset, business needs and priority of work.

ONS’ economics capability is growing, and you will be part of a large community offering the very best support to help you develop your generic wider skills as well as your economic skills.

ONS operates a flexible hybrid working model across the UK, with colleagues linked to one of our contractual locations in Newport, Titchfield (Fareham), Manchester, Edinburgh, Darlington and London working between office and remote throughout the week.

As part of the hybrid working arrangement there is a 40% minimum office attendance requirement. Attendance is typically at your contractual office, with occasional travel to alternative locations. Due to estates constraints, there are currently temporary exceptions to this for colleagues based at Manchester and Darlington who are required to attend the office for a minimum of 20% of their work time.

Main objectives/activities you will be involved in:

Drafting and publishing analytical notes and articles relating to ONS statistics and the wider economic context

Undertaking analysis to quality-assure the economic coherence in regular economic statistics releases.

Economic briefing on different sectors of the economy to inform statistics compilers of the wider economic context.

Support statistical production areas with economic research, analysis, and technical development.

Presentations/seminars to internal and external stakeholders on ONS work and/or wider economic development.

Contribution to/engagement with professional learning and development activities for/by economists

Behaviours:

Communicating with others

Working to deadlines and under pressure

Delivering quality outputs to time

Working with stakeholders/clients (within ONS in the main)

Working under own direction/initiative - line management is in place, but economists are expected to manage their workload and take the initiative in driving their objectives/outputs forward.

Communicating/delivering messages with impact

Working flexibly

Example post 1 – Productivity, Investment and Research Division

The placement student in the public service productivity team will be responsible for producing quarterly estimates of public service productivity using an established methodology and system. They will contribute to writing and publishing articles on this every quarter. In addition, they will contribute to the team’s research into new areas and improvements to existing measures.

They will need to communicate well with the team, presenting research and analysis clearly and effectively with a range of colleagues. They will also support the wider productivity team with quality assurance of their work and support any events or development work by the team. Students also participate in the Placement Student Network Group and contribute to ONS events to promote its work to a wider audience and future students.

Example post 2 – Business Architecture, Transformation and Strategy Division

The Data Sources team sits at the heart of efforts to transform and optimise the Office for National Statistics use of data sources. The team is split into 3 areas of Data Acquisitions, Data Quality and Data Source Innovation, which provide key insight and direction towards overall ONS data source strategy and supporting ONS’s ambitious transformation plans.

The role will provide opportunities to work across all 3 areas of the team, getting involved in supporting through the process of new data source acquisitions, assessing the quality of data sources within the organisation, and providing support across the organisation to improve the capability of statistics through improved data source usage. The work provides direction towards key decisions on how data source usage can better support the ONS goal of producing ‘Statistics for the public good.’ The role provides the chance to get involved in a range of different tasks and projects across the team, including analytical work, application of economic theory, working with a variety of colleagues, stakeholder engagement and project management experience. It also provides great opportunities for both personal and working development.

Eligibility Requirements

Candidates will need to hold the right to work in the UK and meet Civil Service Nationality Rules.

# Scottish Government (SG)

Location: Edinburgh or Glasgow

Number of Placements: Up to two placements

Salary: c. £25,235

Job Description

The Scottish Government (SG) is the devolved Government for Scotland. We play a part in every issue that matters to people in Scotland – from health, education, housing, and crime, to transport, agriculture, climate change, culture, and the economy, plus many more.

We have over 100 economists applying their economics skills to analyse, evaluate and assess various aspects of the Scottish economy and help shape the development of the policies and programmes of the Scottish Government.

We have up to two 12-month long placements available across the areas our economists work in. These roles will provide a great insight into the role of economic analysis in policy development as well as practical skills in applying economics.

If you would you like to play a role in supporting us in our economic analysis and gain insight into whether your future career might be in the Government Economic Service, then please apply.

Eligibility Requirements

Candidates will need to hold the right to work in the UK and meet Civil Service Nationality Rules.

Contacts:

[sgeconomistgroup@gov.scot](mailto:sgeconomistgroup@gov.scot)

Further information: Economist careers in the Scottish Government - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)