ONS ECONOMIC STATISTICS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (ESCoE)

ECONOMISTS/SENIOR ECONOMISTS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

Salary from £30,000 to £45,000 pro rata, depending on qualifications and experience

Closing Date for applications Friday 11th October (midday)

The ONS Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE) is an independent research centre which conducts research to address the challenges of measuring the modern economy and provides an environment for the development of a wider research community with skills and research experience in economic measurement. The Centre is hosted by the National Institute of Economic Research (NIESR) and is delivered in close collaboration with its partner institutions, including the University of Cambridge, King's College London, Nesta, the University of Strathclyde and Warwick Business School.

We are seeking to appoint economists/senior economists at NIESR to contribute to a number of research projects. The NIESR is Britain's oldest, and one of its most prestigious independent research institutes. It specialises in applied social and economic research, combining high academic standards with relevance to policy making. Economists in these roles will deliver new research, contribute to the development of large administrative datasets and business surveys, and prepare research outputs and reports. In undertaking these responsibilities you will work closely with the Project Lead/PI and with other investigators.

These roles are also open as secondment opportunities and as part-time positions, for example, in combination with PhD study or related research and policy work.

About You

You will have the following skills:

Essential Skills

- A good degree in economics or a related discipline, including a significant quantitative component;
- A relevant post-graduate qualification, research degree or equivalent experience;
- Strong quantitative skills and experience of empirical analysis;
- Willingness and aptitude to learn new econometric/statistical software;
- A keen interest in applied research and public policy;
- Strong written and oral communication skills;

- Excellent organisational skills and a proactive approach;
- Ability to work collaboratively and with minimal supervision;
- Understanding and commitment to the values of the ESCoE.

Desirable Skills

- Experience of relevant micro-datasets;
- Proficiency with econometric/statistical software such as Stata or R.

About the Roles

<u>**Understanding and Explaining Management Practices to Promote Higher Productivity in UK Businesses**</u>

The UK Management and Expectations Survey (MES) conducted in 2017 revealed significant variation in management practices amongst UK firms that were otherwise similar in terms of workforce composition, industry, age and size. It corroborated a growing body of evidence that suggests better management practices are associated with superior business performance, showing a strong positive correlation between the productivity levels of UK firms and the 'quality' of their management practices.

This project aims to improve understanding of the causes and consequences of variation in management practices across UK businesses and to draw from this practical lessons for improving UK productivity. The project involves the development of panel data, international comparisons, analysis of linked business surveys and administrative data, and the development of randomised control trials.

<u>Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators:</u> Rebecca Riley (NIESR), Paul Mizen (University of Nottingham), Tatsuro Senga (Queen Mary University of London), Nicholas Bloom (Stanford University), John Van Reenen (MIT), Philip Wales (ONS)

<u>Funder:</u> Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

<u>Proposed Duration and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE):</u> 2 years 100%FTE

<u>**Using administrative and big data to improve labour market statistics and measure income transitions**</u>

Official statistics are based largely on surveys that, as well as being expensive, can be biased by non-response, subject to recall error and too small to support detailed analysis. Administrative data can go some way to overcoming these shortcomings and provide an opportunity to observe -- at scale -- labour market behaviour on a consistent basis over a long period of time.

This project aims to establish the potential to use government administrative data to produce new statistics on the dynamics of the labour market: how individuals move in and

out of employment; earning mobility; and income transitions more broadly. It will also explore the potential to use the data for econometric analysis.

Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators: Richard Dorsett (University of Westminster), Richard Tonkin (ONS), David Freeman (ONS)

Funder: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Proposed Duration and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): 2 years 30%FTE

The Impact of Offshore Profit Shifting on the Mismeasurement of the GDP: the case of the UK

Multinational enterprises (MNEs) operating in the globalized economy are characterized by two distinct features: first, their intangible assets can be located anywhere; second, they have access (through subsidiaries) to multiple heterogeneous tax locations. These features give rise to the possibility that MNEs may assign their assets in ways that profit the company but break the link between production and location as measured by national income and product accounts, leading to the mismeasurement of MNEs' contributions to the GDP in the location country.

This project explores the possibility of using firm-level information from companies' balance sheets and information on MNEs' ownership structures to understand the extent to which affiliates of UK MNEs report Intellectual Property payments in line with the structure of their production, the direction of adjustments due to UK MNEs profit-shifting, and the implications for measured UK GDP and productivity growth.

Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators: Giordano Mion (University of Sussex, CEPR and CEP), Rob Kent-Smith (ONS)

Funder: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Proposed Duration and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): 1.5 years 40%FTE

To Apply

These posts come with a pro rata salary of between £30,000 and £45,000, depending on qualifications and experience. In addition, the NIESR operates a generous pensions scheme. To apply please send a CV (with the names of two referees) and covering letter specifying the post(s) you are applying for and explaining your suitability and interest in the role(s) to hr@niesr.ac.uk. Emailed applications should include the subject line '[Your Name] ESCoE Research Posts NIESR'.

Closing date for applications is **Friday 11th October at midday** with interviews expected to take place w/c 14th October. We are only able to acknowledge short listed applicants, due to the substantial number of applicants usually received. The NIESR is nonetheless very grateful for your application and would take this opportunity to thank all candidates for their interest.