Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	Management
Reference:	21/108575
Closing Date:	Tuesday 9 February 2021
Salary:	£38,017 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 March 2021
Duration:	12 months

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member of the Northern Ireland Administrative Data Research Centre (NI-ADRC) research team, based in Queen's Management School, undertaking a programme of work using linked datasets to understand a range of policy-relevant issues, including around pollution and health, education, and welfare reform. The focus will be on providing an economic and social science perspective on the implications of government policy in these areas, and as such the empirical analysis will involve implementing advanced methods for causal inference. Active engagement and dissemination with policy stakeholders at all stages will be an important aspect of the position. You will also work closely with other team members within the Management School and across the wider ADRC-NI team.

ADRC-NI is a collaborative enterprise involving Queen's University, the University of Ulster and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency - NISRA. The expected duration of the post is until the end of March 2022.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research for the above project as a member of the research team under the Direction of senior ADRC-NI team members.
2. Design studies to answer policy relevant questions by considering available data and relevant theory in economic and social science.
3. Liaise with data custodians to understand finer details of research datasets, and prepare applications for data access.
4. Prepare, as necessary, submissions to Ethics Committees and other regulatory bodies and data transfer agreements with data custodians.
5. Carry out quantitative analyses of relevant data, interpret and critically evaluate results and relevant literature, using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to the area of research.
6. Implement advanced causal inference techniques and econometrics such as regression discontinuity, instrumental variables, and others where appropriate.
7. Prepare, together with the other members of the research team, material for publication in international journals and presentations at international conferences.
8. Develop a public engagement strategy related to this project and initiate dialogue with relevant stakeholders and policy makers.
9. Draft and present regular progress reports on research for the ADRC-NI and for external audiences in order to disseminate and publicise research findings.
10. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with effective research project management in order to ensure that work tasks are completed on time and within budget (including the organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control and risk assessment relating to given research activities).
11. Undertake relevant training and professional development as appropriate.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan for specific aspects of the research programme and contribute to research group planning.
2. Plan to implement alternative analysis plans where data access requests are not granted or related delays are encountered.
3. Plan for the use of research resources where appropriate.
4. Plan own day-to day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.

5. Plan up to a year in advance to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
6. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group over work progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:
1. Ensure research resources are used in an appropriate, effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

Internal and External Relationships:
1. To liaise on a regular basis with data custodians, colleagues, students and external affiliates/advisors to the project.
2. Liaise with other researchers on other NI-ADRC projects and potentially co-ordinate on data access requests.
3. To build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
4. To join external networks to share information and ideas.
5. Contribute to the School's and NI-ADRC's outreach programme by establishing links with local community groups, industries etc.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:
1. Hold or be about to obtain a PhD in economics or a related discipline.
2. At least 3 years relevant research experience in micro-econometric analysis of administrative or survey data, and effective research dissemination.
3. Experience of publishing, or ability to publish, in top international journals.
4. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
5. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by links with policy makers, industry, community groups etc.
6. Advanced knowledge of Stata or equivalent statistics software.
7. Advanced knowledge of econometrics.
8. Ability to analyse the theoretical implications of government policy from an economic and/or social science perspective.
9. Ability to communicate complex information clearly, including to non-specialists and to those from other disciplines.
10. Ability to write in a clear manner.
11. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
12. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
13. Ability to assess and organise resources.
14. Willingness to travel where necessary, to liaise with project participants and for data collection or analysis.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:
1. Previous research experience in labour economics, health economics or applied microeconomics.
2. Advanced knowledge of other methods of causal inference.
3. Interest in dissemination of research findings to policy stakeholders.