



the national organisation
for local economies

Senior Researcher

Who you are and what you'll do

Who you are

We are looking for people who have a broad range of knowledge and experiences to work at CLES.

Essential knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications you'll need for this role are:

Quantitative or qualitative research skills (or even both!)

Strong skills in data analysis, with proficiency in tools such as Excel.

Skills in qualitative data analysis, including the ability to:

- Conduct interviews
- Code interview transcripts and other documents
- Facilitate focus groups
- Support the facilitation of workshop sessions and events
- Analyse and interpret findings
- Support the development of reports and presentations.

Local economic development

An understanding and/or interest in how local economic policies are developed and implemented, including areas like economic regeneration, community wealth building and/or climate resilience.

Project management

A proven ability to design, manage and deliver research, consultancy or similar projects, with strong organisational skills in budgeting, timeline management and team leadership.

Communication skills

Capable of producing high-quality reports, presentations and publications. Skilled in engaging with stakeholders and representing the organisation externally.

Experience

At least three years' experience of working in a think tank, consultancy, research or similar environment.

Committed to CLES's values

Passionate about economic justice, sustainability and the organisation's mission to foster local economic resilience.

Desirable knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications you'll have for this role are:

Knowledge of other statistical and data visualisation software and coding languages

For example, R, Python and SQL, Power BI, Tableau, GIS.

Knowledge of relevant policy areas

Familiarity with data sources and policies related to local economies and their governance, for example: the power of public procurement/commissioning in shaping and supporting local economies; local/combined authority finance; devolution; inequality; poverty; health outcomes; sustainable development, climate emergency and just green transition; and, alternative economic models such as community wealth building.

Collaboration

Experience working across sectors, including local government, public, private and voluntary organisations, with an ability to build strong partnerships and contribute to team development.

Proactive fundraising

Experience in developing and securing funding for projects, including writing proposals and engaging with potential funders.

What you'll do

This is a varied and exciting role, and no two days will be the same. Here is an overview of what you'll spend most of your time doing:

Research leadership

Lead the design and execution of quantitative and qualitative research projects, including the development of new data analysis methods and tools. You will interpret complex data to inform policy recommendations and contribute to the advancement of local economic strategies.

Project management

Oversee the management and delivery of multiple projects, ensuring they meet quality standards, stay within budget and are completed on time. This includes co-ordinating with team members and external partners.

Stakeholder engagement

You will act as a key point of contact for stakeholders, including local governments, public sector organisations and civil society groups. You will present research findings, author reports and represent CLES at conferences, workshops and public forums.

Income generation

You will identify and pursue new funding opportunities that align with CLES's mission. This includes developing project proposals, responding to tenders and building networks that support the organisation's purpose and objectives.