



International
Longevity Centre UK

Research and Policy Lead

Recruitment pack



Research and Policy Lead

We need a Research and Policy Lead with excellent analytical ability and strong writing skills who has a passion for, and understanding of, UK public policy, to join the UK's specialist think tank on the impact of longevity on society.

The post holder must be able to work at pace, undertaking research, analysing evidence, assessing key trends, and working out what this means for society and who needs to do what.

They must be able to work on multiple complex projects at the same time. Candidates must have experience in conducting quantitative and/or qualitative research, an ability to work both independently and as part of a team, and the drive to lead on future projects.

The ideal candidate will have high level competency in interpreting and communicating complex data and a broad understanding of, and interest in, current economic and social policy.

The context is a challenging one.

For example, in the UK over the past quarter of a century:

- Inequalities in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy have grown.
- While more of us are working longer into our lives, 50–64-year-olds are still less likely to be in employment than people aged 25-49. Opportunities to learn to support longer working lives are limited.
- The public sector has built very few new homes and the private sector hasn't been able to fill the gap for first- or last-time buyers.

And globally:

- Almost 60 million children of primary school age are not in school,
- Only 20% of older people in low-income countries receive a pension,
- Climate Change and antimicrobial resistance threatens progress made over the past 25 years.

Yet there is a lot going on and plenty of opportunities to help deliver our ambitious plans:

- The UN and WHO are leading the Decade of Healthy Ageing,
- The Westminster Government is seeking to reform the NHS to focus more on preventative health to support healthier long lives.

Who are we?

ILC is the UK's leading authority on the impact of longevity on society. We combine evidence, solutions and networks to make change happen.

That doesn't mean we're just about protecting the interests of older people. It doesn't mean we're just about promoting their needs. And it doesn't mean we're just about prioritising their requirements.

Because the impact of longevity on society isn't just about older people: it will impact everyone.

We know the implications of demographics, today and tomorrow.

- We know that every girl born today will have a one in four chance of living until she's 100.
- We know that when she starts work, she will need to save at least 20% of her earnings every year in order to afford a comfortable retirement.
- We know that if she wants to buy her own home, she'll probably need to wait until she's over 35, in a relationship and working full time.

And that is where we come in.

We want a society where we all live happier, healthier and more fulfilling longer lives, where tomorrow is better than today and where future generations are better off. ILC wants to help forge a new vision for the 100-year life where we all have the opportunity to learn across our lives and where new technology helps us contribute more to society.

We were established in 1997 as one of the members of the [International Longevity Centre Global Alliance](#), an international network on longevity.

We're independent and politically neutral, so we can say the things about our future society that others can't. We know that society is ageing. We know the numbers. We know the challenges. What happens next will define us for generations.

We work with central government, local government, the private sector, the charity sector, and professional and academic associations to provoke conversations and pioneer solutions for a society where everyone can thrive, regardless of age.

Since our inception, we have published over 280 reports and organised over 375 events, including the annual [Future of Ageing conferences](#).

We are a small team of 13. More information about our team and their expertise is available on our [website](#).

We are governed by a board of 15 dedicated Trustees, chaired by Nigel Waterson (to 5 Feb 2025) and Lawrence Churchill OBE (from 5 Feb 2025). The full list of our Board of Trustees, along with their biographies, is available on our [website](#).

We make a difference

We want you to help us provoke conversations and discussions about the impact of longevity on society, and what happens next.

[Our impact 2024](#)

[Our impact 2023](#)

Over the last decade we:

- Convinced G20 Ministers to put greater focus on the prevention of ill health.

- Convinced Government and employers to engage with mid-life health and wellbeing checks and introduce older apprentices.
- Got the mortgage industry to end the practice of upper age limits for home loans.
- Produced research that was used by both the SNP and HM Treasury in the lead-up to the vote on Scottish independence.
- Helped employers prepare for an ageing workforce and develop age-friendly standards and practices.
- Highlighted the power of music for people with dementia.
- Began the conversation about downsizing and under-occupancy back in 2007.

We have changed the media narrative around people having to work until they drop: now, it's a more nuanced debate about fuller working lives and how this benefits us all. We created the first LGBT intergenerational project in the world, which has inspired others around the world. We made it possible for people with dementia to have relationships in care homes, producing a best practice guide for carers.

Research and Policy Lead Job description

Job Title	Research and Policy Lead
Purpose	Work across the organisation to lead and support ILC research and policy projects, including communications and events support.
Reports to	Senior Health Policy and Research Manager
Direct Reports	None at present
Salary	£35,000 p/annum

Key responsibilities

Develop and lead on high quality and impactful research and policy projects

1. Undertake desk, qualitative and quantitative research to support our policy objectives
2. Produce high quality research and policy reports through clear writing and analysis
3. Lead and support policy and influencing projects, from inception to completion, including events, communications and policy outputs

Engage the right people

4. Engage a range of stakeholders with ILC's work – including charities, companies, academics and potential funders, and represent the organisation at external events.
5. Develop stakeholder lists for specific projects and events and ensure the ILC database is maintained and developed
6. Support our communications work, including our online presence, newsletters, dissemination activities, press releases and blogs

Support the organisation and the wider team

7. Contribute to ILC's fundraising activity by identifying new topics for ILC work, developing proposals and approaching funders.
8. Help drive the strategic direction of the organisation, by contributing to team discussions on past, present and future trends and contributing to team discussions on the big issues for today's society.
9. Provide ad hoc administrative support to other team members

Person specification

1. Excellent attention to detail
2. Knowledge and understanding of UK politics and policy
3. Research skills
4. Excellent written and verbal communication skills

5. Excellent time management and organisation skills, managing competing deadlines and balancing short- and long-term tasks
6. Pioneering with the drive to find solutions

Post information

The ILC-UK envisages this post to be a full-time, permanent position.

Location

We are a hybrid organisation and most of our staff work partly in the office and partly remotely.

Because most of our audiences and funders are based in London, there will be a strong case for the successful candidate being London based/accessible. We therefore anticipate that the normal place of work will be at the ILC in Vauxhall, London. We are, however, happy to discuss home working.

It is important that the successful candidate builds strong relationships across the team as a whole and this may be easier done from the office for at least part of the week. But we won't discriminate against for the right candidate who wants or needs to work from home.

Hours

5 days a week, 35 hours.

Our team works flexibly, and we work hard to balance the charity needs with those of our members of staff. We currently hold a team meeting on a Wednesday, and we encourage staff to attend in-person. We are happy to discuss what sort of working arrangement works best for you and are happy to consider for example part time/job share requests.

Salary

£35,000 p/annum

Start date

ASAP

How to apply

This is a blind recruitment campaign to ensure any risk of unconscious bias is eliminated. Please read the below instructions carefully before applying for this role.

To start your application, follow the below link to the Applied website where you will be asked some initial equality and eligibility questions, followed by a series of more specific questions related the role. You will also be asked to upload a current CV to the platform.

Apply here: [Research and Policy Lead](#)

To allow you to thoroughly prepare your answers, you can step away from your application once started and return to it at a later stage.

We will only accept applications submitted through the Applied platform.

Using AI

Artificial Intelligence tools are potentially useful tools for the workplace. However, we would caution against asking AI search engines to answer the questions for you. The answers may look convincing to you, but the structure and style of the answers are easy for us to spot.

We want to know that you know and understand the role and are capable of doing the role. We expect the answers to be personalised and referenced.

Before shortlisting we use the most common AI engines (e.g. ChatGPT; bing; google) as well as AI detectors to check everyone's answers to the (sift) questions above. The Applied platform also provides reviewers examples of AI generated answers. So, we will know if you have used them.

Applied report that the top-performing/scoring answers do not use Chat GPT.

Key dates

Application deadline

9am, Tuesday, 18 February 2025

We will review all applications after the closing date. Applications received after this time and date will be considered at the discretion of the organisation.

Interview date

Interviews will be held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025

Shortlisted candidates

If your application is shortlisted for interview, you will be notified through the Applied platform where you will be invited to select an interview slot. Interview slots are available on a first come first served basis.

All shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a short online briefing and Q&A meeting at **1pm on Friday, 21 February 2025** (Zoom).

You will be asked to join the meeting anonymously, and we will accept questions in advance. You will also be able to use the chat/Q&A to ask any further questions anonymously. This session is not mandatory if you are unable to attend. We will share a recording of the briefing with all shortlisted candidates following the briefing.

Shortlisted applicants may be asked to provide evidence of their eligibility to work in the UK.

Unsuccessful candidates

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified via the Applied platform where will also be offered the opportunity for feedback.

Work for us

Some of the staff benefits we have in place at the moment include:

Holiday entitlement

ILC employees are entitled to 25 days annual leave per year (pro rata), plus normal bank and public holidays. The ILC holiday year runs from 1 April YYYY to 31 March YYYY and is accrued on a daily basis.

Birthday annual leave

Employees are entitled to take their birthday as annual leave in addition to their normal holiday entitlement. This leave must be taken within five working days of a staff member's birthday and cannot be accrued.

Working from home

At ILC we like to be flexible, especially under the current coronavirus pandemic circumstances. Staff are invited to work in the office or from home, as they feel comfortable, and we are well set-up to maintain internal communications through Microsoft Teams.

Flexible working

It is ILC's policy to try to be flexible on working patterns for all employees.

Training and staff progression

Staff are encouraged throughout their time in the organisation to discuss internal opportunities and any additional training they may wish to undertake. In addition to this, we hold formal appraisals in February each year and quarterly reviews throughout the rest of the year. We give all staff, permanent and temporary, the space and guidance to grow and develop their careers and skills.

Family leave

We are supportive of employees with children through the provision of maternity, paternity, adoptive parents' leave and shared parental leave. We offer an enhanced maternity package to employees with at least three years continuous service.

Loans

Staff with a contract of employment of 12 months or more are eligible to apply for an annual interest-free season ticket loan or a bike loan.

What it's like to work at ILC

Since beginning as a Research and Projects Officer for ILC in August 2020, I have never been short of amazing opportunities. From authoring numerous research reports to speaking at international conferences, and attending meetings with MEPs in the European Parliament, working for ILC has enabled me to strengthen my policy and research skills while carrying out interesting work.

Although the team is small, the outcomes of ILC's work are mighty. Everyone works so well together to achieve a clear set of policy aims, with world-class research at the core of ILC's day-to-day operations. In my role, I was given fantastic opportunities to lead on specific parts of ILC's adult immunisation work. This allowed me to become the "go-to" person on all things vaccination, giving me the responsibility to manage research projects, blogs, and events relating to the ILC's immunisation programme.

From here, I was able to produce over five reports, numerous blogs, and several presentations, and was given the opportunity to discuss these pieces of work with policymakers, charity leaders, and industry experts. Through my secondment with the Coalition for Life Course Immunisation, I was able to travel to Brussels to meet with MEPs in the European Parliament, and I hosted several events and engaged with different European stakeholders.

Working at ILC has allowed me to travel elsewhere to engage with others, such as attending the Global Prevention conference in Annecy, France, as well as the Adult Immunisation Board meeting in Antwerp, Belgium. Back in the UK, I have been lucky enough to also attend the ILC's remarkable Future of Ageing conference, which brings together great speakers and is a fantastic networking opportunity. ILC also gave me the freedom to arrange meetings with relevant stakeholders, such as MPs in Westminster, and allowed me to attend different conferences to help me with my research and engagement work.

ILC provides excellent career progression. Being promoted to Senior Research and Policy Officer in September 2022 allowed me to strengthen my responsibilities and lead on more projects. Without my time at ILC, I wouldn't be where I am today with my career, and I will forever be grateful for the wonderful opportunities this incredible organisation has given me.

Patrick Swain, Former Senior Research and Policy Officer, current Research and Development Manager

"I'd thoroughly recommend working at ILC to anyone who wants to develop their communication skills and learn plenty of new ones.

This is a very varied role where no two days will be the same - one day you might be inviting a Minister to speak at an ILC event, the next drafting a press release responding to some breaking news in the ageing sector.

For a small organisation, ILC punches well above its weight in terms of the quantity and quality of work they produce. The entire team have managed to successfully create and maintain a supportive environment to work in which everyone's views are valued equally no matter your age or experience."

Liam Hanson, Former Communications and Engagement Officer

"On my first day as an Intern at ILC I was taking calls from 10 Downing Street.

On my second day I walked through that famous black door and discussed the impact of our rapidly ageing society with Parliamentarians. One month later I had back-to-back meetings in Brussels and Berlin to contribute to international health summits and three months later I was talking about ILC research live on the BBC's Sunday Politics.

I joined the ILC as a Policy, Communications and Events Intern in September 2015 having recently completed a Masters and worked for a candidate in the 2015 General Election. I joined because I was keen to work across policy areas and disciplines for an organisation committed to public service. From my first day at the ILC I was entrusted with a degree of responsibility I imagine few interns enjoy.

Brilliant international colleagues drawn from politics, academia, City institutions and charities asked me what I would like to do at the ILC and then provided the support I needed to learn new skills and develop existing ones. Early on I was encouraged to suggest ideas for new research, practice project and event management and collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders to deliver new research and analysis.

I was able to try my hand at speech writing for our Chief Executive; writing research proposals; organising international events; managing a large social media presence; writing press releases and speaking to the media and representing the ILC at high-level meetings with senior policy-makers.

I've been fortunate enough to contribute to exciting and original work on the future of health and social care, economics and finance, housing and communities and transport and infrastructure. The ILC provides a valuable public service as the nation's leading think-tank focusing on rapid population ageing and what happens next and its close-knit team continue to shape public policy and discourse.

During my time at the ILC I have been promoted from Intern to Policy and Public Affairs Assistant, Officer and Manager. I've travelled from San Francisco to San Servolo, Brussels to Abu Dhabi to discuss work with which I am proud to have been associated. Working at the ILC is a great way to begin or develop a career in public policy and learn from an inspiring team of colleagues."

Dave Eaton, former Policy and Public Affairs Manager

"As a freshly-graduated Masters graduate (in Medical Anthropology) I joined ILC as an intern in September 2010 and stayed a member of the team until June 2014. During that time I worked initially as a Research Assistant and later Research Officer, before moving over to a role focussed on communications across the whole think tank.

When I first started I was looking for a way in which I could be a researcher in such a way that had a positive impact on the outside world – and where communication with decision makers was as much part of the process as the research itself. It's a bit too easy to just speak to other researchers when you work in academia, so think tank research felt like a better option for me. A main draw to ILC was the standards they hold themselves to across their research.

One of the great advantages of working in an organisation that explores a cross-cutting issue like population ageing is the exposure it gives you to different areas of policy. My starting interests were in health and social care, but during my time at ILC I also worked on projects on rural and community planning, intergenerational relationships – particularly those within the LGBT community, and employment policies, among many others. I was also able to work on projects

close to my heart – like co-editing a collection of essays on women's experiences of ageing and reflections on an ageing society from a feminist perspective.

I'm now a few months into my second job on from my final role at ILC, as Policy and Communications Manager. As it was my first post-graduation job, it's easier now, looking back, to reflect on the things about ILC that made it such a good place to work – and how those set it apart as an employer. Chief among these assets is a great team of people who genuinely enjoy working together and with shared values for raising important issues and producing the best possible work together. As well as having some great working relationships during my ILC time I still consider my former colleagues as friends first and foremost.

Being part of a great team isn't just a nicety – it builds the groundwork for a great deal of trust within the organisation. In a small team working under deadlines and with external factors like parliamentary sessions setting your agenda, being able to trust my colleagues and knowing that I'm trusted to get on with my job means that things work smoothly despite these pressures. At an individual level, this translates into being given responsibility for your projects sooner rather than later. Even as an intern I was managing externally funded projects – knowing that there was support if and when I needed it. This was instrumental in building my confidence and initiative when working independently – skills I've probably used every working day since!

A highlight of my ILC time was working with members of the ILC Global Alliance – you learn not only about how different countries are experiencing population ageing but also about different political and policy systems and how to bring about change in different settings. Throughout the course of my time with ILC I attended a number of international conferences, delivering presentations and representing the organisation from Dublin to Prague, Hyderabad to Tokyo. Not to be sniffed at for a first job!

The support I received as a member of the team was particularly impressive when you consider the size of the organisation. Time and efforts were put in by my colleagues to help me skill up and to access external training when required. There is a culture of skill-sharing and a desire, from Board level down, to see people do well within the organisation. I gained a huge amount from working there and would heartily recommend ILC as an employer and my friends and former colleagues as your future co-workers."

Jessica Watson, former Policy and Communications Manager

"I joined the ILC as a research fellow in 2014 – my first real job after a 5-year spell in academia.

During my two and a half years at the ILC I co-wrote more than 10 reports on varying subjects, from pensions and savings to migration and social care. I even contributed to an ambitious project on the future of the welfare state. Along the way I analysed dozens of datasets and learned new econometric techniques, at times from scratch. It was challenging, but also incredibly rewarding. From the very beginning I was given the opportunity to come up with new project ideas and pitch them to clients, something I was not quite used to, but ended up appreciating a lot.

Coming from academia, I had to adjust to the work style of a think tank. I had to learn how to emphasize the "so what" and simplify the language to attract media coverage. I will never forget the excitement I felt the first time my research was picked up by national newspapers. I also like to believe that some of the work I did has contributed to make a difference to people's lives, especially because I was often asked to provide figures for speeches in the House of Lords. I learned a great deal from my colleagues, not only on the topics they researched, such as dementia, but also about the workings of the political system in the UK.

We worked hard. We had some fights – yes, people fight about economics - but we had a lot of fun. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity of working at the ILC and I cannot recommend it enough."

Cesira Urzì Brancati, former Research Fellow