| **Job Title**  |  Research Director – quantitative evaluation |
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| **Grade**  | 8 |
| **Department** | Research |
| **Responsible to** | Head of Classroom Practice and Workforce |
| **Staff Supervised** | Senior Evaluation Analyst |

**Background**

A substantial part of our research at NFER involves rigorous evaluation of teaching practices and classroom interventions. Over the last 10 years, we have established ourselves as highly capable at designing and delivering education RCTs and now have a growing portfolio of QEDs.

**Main Purpose**

To improve outcomes for children as part of our research strategy by designing large-scale impact evaluations and supervise their delivery within budget.

To use expertises to make design and analytical decisions that optimise the research and integrate findings across different research techniques.

To share research findings and contribute to the achievement of NFER’s visibility objectives

# Main Responsibilities

**Contribute to NFER’s research strategy to deliver evidence that informs and positively influences policy makers and practitioners by:**

* Desiging robust large-scale RCTs and QEDs to evaluate educational interventions
* Leading high quality responsive bids and proactive proposals
* Quality assuring protocols and statistical analysis plans
* Seeking intelligence on upcoming opportunities and working with other team members to prepare and position NFER to respond to these
* Initiating and leading the development of innovative research and analysis solutions to address the interests and needs of policy makers and practitioners
* Quality assuring analysis of complex RCTs and QEDs
* Working with our Senior Evaluation Analyst to represent evalution expertise in our Classroom Practice and Workforce topic area.

**Directing quantitative evaluation research projects by:**

* Directly shaping and supervising delivery of quantitative elements of projects by ensuring that the analysis addresses the research questions
* Working with strategic topic leads and methodological leads to initiate the testing of innovative quantitative analysis methods, creating new ideas for research and analysis, and in developing quantitative / econometric methods
* Quality-assuring accessible reports and other outputs for different audiences
* Ensuring good communication with all involved in a project, and with clients as required
* Integrating findings from impact and process evaluations to create a cohesive story in reports.

**Contribute to raising NFER’s visibility across the education community and our impact and influence on policy and practice by:**

* Taking opportunities to increase awareness and recognition of the Foundation’s expertise, specialist education knowledge and products, including through participation in Impact activities, and sharing findings through a range of media
* Developing and maintaining strong relationships with key stakeholders, including clients, partners and others in the education community
* Representing NFER at external meetings, conferences, and events, to promote the NFER and insights from our research, and to gain information on the market, innovations, and technical trends.

**Contribute by continuously developing your expertise and NFER’s research environment by:**

* Using your network of methodologists with which you can discuss challenges and collaborate. This network might overlap with existing NFER colleagues and contacts or be from a different discipline that uses the same fundamental evaluation techniques.
* Assisting with quality standards and contributing to learning and development activities that ensure these are met consistently
* Attending methodological conferences and participate in the healthy community of analysts reviewing each other’s protocols, statistical analysis plans and reports;
* Working with your line manager to discuss performance, targets and development needs for yourself and the team
* Developing areas of interest and growing specialist knowledge and expertise
* Contributing to activities that promote NFER’s visibility
* Contributing to Foundation-wide strategic activities as required
* Conducting other professional duties from time to time, as directed by your line manager

# Person Specification

**Essential**

* First degree or equivalent in a subject with a high quantitative content
* Higher degree with a high quantitative content
* Strong experience in, and knowledge of, impact evaluation research and the use of quantitative methods
* Experienced user of statistical software, for example STATA, SPSS, R, MPlus or MLwiN
* Ability to take responsibility for the quantitative design and analysis within evaluation research projects
* Effective communicator both verbally and written, with experience of drafting proposals, research reports and / or publications as an author
* Able to work with a considerable degree of autonomy and to consistently meet deadlines
* Able to work effectively in a team
* High degree of organisational ability

**Desirable**

* Experience of working with English education data
* Established presenter at seminars and conferences