

Economist

About Positive Money:

Positive Money is a fast-growing organisation that combines the activities of a think-tank, pressure group, and international movement. Our mission is to restore democratic control and transparency over the creation of money. Current monetary policy and the money system cause a wide range of economic, social and environmental problems; most notably house price bubbles, high levels of debt, and rising inequality. Our vision is money and banking system that supports and contributes to a fair, democratic, and sustainable economy.

About the role:

Our ideas on reform of the banking system have been advocated by the Financial Times' chief economics commentator, Martin Wolf, and cited by influential economists including former Bank of England governor, Mervyn King and former Financial Services Authority chairman Adair Turner. Our team has developed a significant body of work looking at the nature of the current monetary system and the potential of reforming the banking system to implement a 'sovereign money system'.

Positive Money aims to become a globally-recognised thought-leader on monetary policy. As a member of the research team, the economist/researcher would contribute to an ambitious research agenda which has a significant impact on economic policymaking. With support from the rest of the team, the economist will take responsibility for specific research projects, and work to develop and implement the research strategy.

This will include researching how the current money and banking system contributes to economic, social, and environmental problems, and researching Sovereign Money and developing Sovereign Money proposals. The economist will work with the team to identify how to broaden Positive Money's analysis of the dysfunctional money and banking system, and the role of central banking.

About you:

You'll have a strong economics / research background. Ideally you would have published work demonstrating research and writing ability. You are a clear, creative thinker with developed influencing skills, who can build relationships with and influence key players across academia and the private and public sectors. You have experience in public speaking, and would be comfortable explaining complex economic concepts to a range of audiences. You are able to work in an open-minded way, understanding the complexity of the money and finance system, being open to criticisms of Positive Money's research. You are able to help the organisation's thinking evolve and build on criticisms.

You are a dynamic thinker who is able to think outside of the box and can help Positive Money keep ahead of the curve. You are able to learn quickly, and demonstrate innovative thinking. Ideally you would have some knowledge or be keen to learn in the areas of finance, shadow banking, and money markets. You also have a good knowledge of macroeconomics.

You enjoy working in a collaborative way, where team members bounce ideas off each other. You want your research to have impact and are able to work with others to make that happen. You are happy to take advice and direction from the influencing and supporter network programmes in order to see how your work can contribute to our policy and campaigning work.

Person specification

Experience and skills

- Experience working as a researcher or economist
- A relevant first degree qualification
- Strong quantitative and analytical skills
- Excellent communication skills, especially the ability to write in a concise and persuasive style using formats appropriate to the audience
- Knowledge and understanding of current economic policy
- A passion for alternative thinking and problem solving
- High degree of initiative
- Strong project management skills
- Attention to detail
- Commitment to a genuinely open minded approach to economics and economic policy and a keen interest in how changes to the structure of the banking system and monetary policy could help to address a wide range of economic, social, and environmental problems.
- An effective relationship-builder. Excellent interpersonal skills to work with external researchers.

Values and behaviours

- Be committed to our vision for a fair, democratic, and sustainable money system
- Enjoy working with a high level of autonomy, trust, and open-mindedness
- Be committed to working in an innovative and collaborative way
- Friendly and professional manner
- High degree of maturity and able to respond positively in pressured situations
- Ability to work well alone or within a team, as required, and be self-motivated
- Ability to multi-task and manage interruptions
- Ability to work in time-pressured situations and to meet deadlines
- Be self-reflective with a high degree of empathy and self-awareness

Terms and conditions

Contract: The role is for an initial fixed term of 1 year with a 6-month probationary period.

Salary: Depending on experience £26,000 - 31,000 pro rata + 8% pension contribution

Reporting to: Executive Director, Positive Money

Hours: 35 hours per week with some flexibility; the post holder would be expected to work the occasional evening or weekend for time off in lieu. 2 – 4 weekends a year may be affected.

Holiday: 25 days per year in addition to statutory holidays.

Location: The role is based at 212 Davina House, 137-149 Goswell Road, London, EC1V 7ET with occasional work away from home and outside normal office hours.

How to Apply

Please send a CV (max 2 pages, including links to any published work) & cover letter (max 2 pages) answering the questions below to recruitment@positivemoney.org

- Why do you want this role?
- What skills and experience do you have that make you suitable to apply for this role?
- How does this job fit with your career aspirations?

Closing date for applications: 2pm Monday 15th May 2017

Interview dates: 19th and 22nd May 2017

Positive Money is committed to providing equal opportunities for everyone regardless of their background. We welcome applications from everyone irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, disability and ethnicity but, as women and Black, Asian and minority ethnic people are currently under-represented within the Positive Money network, we would encourage applications from members of these groups.

If you have any queries about the role and would like to have an informal chat - we would love to talk to you. Please contact Positive Money's Fran Boait, fran.boait@positivemoney.org.uk, 020 7253 3235.

Please note that Positive Money can only accept applications from individuals with the right to work in the UK.