



Economic Development Consultancy Opportunity – Manchester

Are you committed to a career in economic development?

Would you like to support clients to realise their economic inclusion and growth ambitions?

Do you want a role with variety in a business that gives you the opportunity to grow?

If so, ekosgen have the role for you!

The company

ekosgen is one of the UK's leading independent economic consultancy firms providing advice to public and private sector clients. We provide economic and social insight to help our clients make better decisions and have a positive impact on people, places and the economy.

Our work includes:

- Strategy development
- Project and programme evaluation
- Preparation of business cases and funding applications
- Economic impact assessment
- Socio-economic baselining

We currently have a team of eight consultants serving clients across England plus a Glasgow office serving the Scottish market.

The opportunity

We have a consultancy vacancy in our Manchester office for a committed, enthusiastic and capable individual to join our team. Ideally you should already have 2-7 years' experience in an economic development, research or consultancy environment. You will play a central role within our Manchester based consultant team working on a wide variety of economic development related commissions.

As a consultant your workload will always be changing to reflect new local and national priorities and the needs of our individual clients but you will work on a wide range of economic issues including employment, skills, innovation, business growth, land and premises, culture and leisure. Depending on your experience, the role will include:

Candidates with 2-5 years' experience	Candidates with 5+ years' experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out desk research using a variety of official data sources and the internet. • Manipulating, analysing and presenting study data in a range of formats. • Carrying out study fieldwork including research interviews (face-to-face and by telephone as well as administering online surveys) and supporting focus groups. • Providing written input to high quality reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the delivery of a wide range of projects, including client contact, team management and taking responsibility for the preparation of study outputs. • Playing a leading role in the delivery of workload within the team across a variety of project types. • Helping to build the company's profile and reputation with a cross-section of clients, particularly within the north of England.

- Assisting senior staff to prepare proposals for new client assignments.

- Supporting the generation of new contacts and work for the office, to be delivered by varied project teams.

What have we been working on?

Our team works on high profile commissions across the country to both develop and evaluate economic development initiatives. Examples of the team's current and recent studies include:

- Working closely with client teams to develop business cases for Housing Infrastructure Fund investment in Manchester and Salford.
- Preparing an employment and skills plan for the HS2 stations developments in Sheffield City Region.
- Evaluating the economic impact and lessons for future delivery of a package of European funded projects for Lancaster University.
- Drafting evidence based economic frameworks for Preston, South Ribble and Chorley.
- Preparing a local economic assessment for North East Lincolnshire to guide development of a new economic strategy.
- Assessing the economic and social impacts realised to date and anticipated in future across a private sector client's site portfolio.

What are we looking for?

With a good Honours degree (2:1 or higher) and ideally a postgraduate degree in economics, social geography or similar, we need someone who is flexible, a team player, self-motivated, great at multi-tasking and who exhibits professionalism, even when under pressure. Strengths in statistical work, including analysing and presenting quantitative data are a must as are good organisational skills, and excellent writing and IT skills. The successful candidate will have a strong interest in the economic development sector and previous experience of working in a consultancy environment would be preferred, particularly for a more senior role.

What do we offer in return?

We offer a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package including:

- 35 days holiday (including bank holidays)
- Employer contribution pension scheme
- Employee wellbeing initiatives such as a cycle to work scheme and travel pass funding
- A positive and supportive work culture where people are assisted to realise their full potential (including through a personal performance and career management system and training)
- A Staff Wellbeing Package which includes allowances for dental and optical care, a GP helpline and subsidised gym membership

We are an Equal Opportunities employer. We do not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, disability, religion, age or sexuality.

How do I apply?

To apply, please send your CV, a covering letter explaining why you would like to work for ekosgen and details of your salary expectations for the role, as well as details of your current salary to lee.williamson@ekosgen.co.uk by **28th February 2019**.

If you have any questions ahead of making your application, please contact Kirsten Powell at kirsten.powell@ekosgen.co.uk, to arrange a convenient time for a telephone conversation.