

PROJECT OFFICER: UNIVERSAL BASIC SERVICES (UBS)

Summary

We are seeking to engage the services of an energetic and creative person to help build support for Universal Basic Services. UBS aims to ensure that everyone has access to life's necessities as a pre-condition for individual freedom and security, sustainable social justice and economic prosperity.

This is a flexible part-time contract, initially for 24 days over five months at £200 per day, with a possible one-year extension. Work includes building the profile of UBS through social media, identifying potential allies and critics, making contacts and arranging meetings, and collecting and reviewing relevant literature. Would suit a graduate with one or more years' relevant employment experience and a keen aptitude for communications and organising.

Deadline for applications, Monday 16th November 2020

UBS Project Officer: Contract Task Description

We are seeking to engage an energetic and creative person to work with us to build support for Universal Basic Services (UBS).

UBS aims to ensure that everyone has access to life's necessities as a pre-condition for individual freedom and security, sustainable social justice and economic prosperity. '*Services*' are collectively generated activities that serve the public interest. '*Basic*' denotes that they are both essential and sufficient to enable people to meet their needs and flourish. '*Universal*' means that everyone is entitled to such services according to need not ability to pay.

UBS offers a principled framework for improving existing services such as education and healthcare, and reaching into new areas such as housing, care and transport. The concept has been developed by the Institute for Global Prosperity at University College London and the New Economics Foundation. The aim now is to generate wide-ranging interest in this agenda, to stimulate scrutiny and dialogue, and to explore its potential - both as a secure and stable route to post-pandemic recovery and as a key to achieving wellbeing for all within planetary boundaries for the longer term.

The Project Officer's services and role will include

- building the profile of UBS through social media,
- identifying potential allies, critics and others with relevant expertise,
- making contacts and arranging meetings, and
- collecting and reviewing documents pertinent to the project.

This is a part-time contract, for approximately one day a week for five months, with flexible hours of work, and with potential for extending the contract on a similar basis for a further year. A daily rate of £200 is offered for up to 24 days in the first instance. It is an excellent opportunity for a graduate with one or more years' relevant working experience, and knowledge of contemporary UK politics, social policy and economics.

The selected candidate will have:

- a keen aptitude for communications and advocacy,
- practical experience of work in this field, such as building networks and promoting policy ideas,
- a proven ability to organise meetings, build relationships and keep deadlines,
- strong capacity to reflect critically on the project as it develops.

You will report to – and be supported by - the newly-established UBS Task Force, a small, independent group of experts who are responsible for defining the objectives of the project, the schedule of activities, the tasks and priorities of the Project Officer, and the outputs and outcomes required.

The Task Force is led by Anna Coote, Principal Fellow of the New Economics Foundation. It will have up to 10 members, all contributing on a *pro bono basis*. They include Andrew Percy, director of the Social Prosperity Network at the Institute of Global Prosperity, UCL and co-author with Anna Coote of *The Case for Universal Basic Services* (Polity Books, 2020), Ann Pettifor, Director of Prime Economics and author of *The Case for a Green New Deal* (Verso, 2020) and Ian Gough, Visiting Professor at the LSE and author of *Heat, Greed and Human Need* (Edward Elgar 2017). The project is funded by a grant to Prime Economics from Network for Social Change.

Applications are invited by email, setting out:

- Your relevant qualifications and experience (no more than 800 words);
- A brief statement (no more than 800 words) of your reasons for wanting to do this work, why you are suitably qualified and your ideas for promoting the UBS agenda
- A note of your current circumstances and availability from November 2020.
- Names and contact details of two referees.

Please send your email to annacoote@hotmail.co.uk

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