

Office for National Statistics

Recruitment information

Making sense of the world around us

The work of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) affects every man, woman and child in the UK. Our statistics help shape social and economic policy and make headline news on a daily basis.

We produce the most up-to-date official information about every aspect of life in the UK today, so the work is always challenging and diverse. One of the many surveys for which we are responsible is the 10-yearly census.

ONS offers great development opportunities for staff at the start of their careers through to experienced professionals. Training and development of all our staff is given the highest priority.

We have statistical offices in London (Pimlico and Islington), Newport (South Wales) and Titchfield (Hampshire). We also employ home-based social survey interviewers

Why does our work matter?

In order to make policy decisions and allocate funds, the Government needs reliable statistics.

We produce and publish official statistics about the UK's economy, society, population and environment.

Here are a few examples of how vital our work is vital to each and every one of us:

- We all use public services – schools, health services, roads, libraries and so on – which require planning and funding. The census provides Government with the information needed to allocate funding to local and health authorities
- When setting interest rates, the Bank of England uses our statistics. Economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which are also calculated by ONS, are used to gauge the health of our economy
- Our data helps businesses with market research, location decisions and production planning.

Who works for ONS?

The people who take part in our surveys and the users of our statistics come from all walks of life and we seek to reflect this diversity in our workforce.

ONS has around 2600 employees working across our four main sites. We also employ around 1300 social survey interviewers who work from home.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people who enjoy fulfilling work which benefits the whole of society. We need team players who can communicate with people on all levels - both inside and outside ONS – and those who enjoy working in a hi-tech, fast-paced environment.

How do we develop our staff?

All our staff benefit from a personal development plan tailored to suit their individual needs. Many staff work towards valuable professional qualifications and there are plenty of opportunities for on and off-site training courses. ONS has Investors in People accreditation.

ONS offers a supportive environment and we are committed to:

- ensuring equality of treatment for all, based on objectivity, fairness and respect
- building on family-friendly policies
- communicating well and encouraging dialogue
- ensuring our HR systems, including pay, progression and appraisal, develop to reflect the changes in culture, behaviour and skills needed in a modern statistical and registration office

What are the benefits of working for ONS?

As well as competitive rates of pay, we offer 25 days' annual leave on appointment. In addition, staff receive 10.5 days public holiday and privilege days. All leave is on a pro-rata basis for part-time staff.

We offer flexible working hours at all our sites, although there are restrictions in some areas because of the nature of the work.

On-site facilities vary and full details can be found in each site's Location Guide.

Appointments are pensionable from the outset and you can choose between two pension arrangements:

- Premium: This is an occupational pension scheme that currently with a 3.5% member contribution rate. We also pay contributions on your behalf.
- Partnership pension account, which is a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution based on age. You do not have to contribute, but if you do, ONS will match your contribution up to 3% of pensionable pay.

Please note:

- The maximum retirement age is 65, although it is possible to retire at any age between 60 and 65

Who can apply?

- You must be a British or Commonwealth national, a citizen of the Irish Republic, a British Protected Person or a European Economic Area (EEA) national. (Certain family members of EEA nationals who are non-EEA nationals may also be eligible).
- Exceptionally, nationals of other countries who are granted an Aliens' Certificate may also apply.
- Otherwise, if you are from outside these areas you must have a valid working visa. Work permits can only be applied for in exceptional circumstances.

Disabled people

ONS operates a guaranteed interview scheme for disabled people (as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) who meet the minimum criteria for this appointment. For consideration under this scheme please complete the appropriate section of the application form.

Equal opportunities

ONS is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified people. We support and encourage staff networks representing diverse groups.

Additional information

New staff are required to undertake a probation period of at least 12 months during which attendance, conduct and performance are monitored.

Our vision

As the UK's leading and foremost statistical organisation we rely on our staff to help us to build our reputation as a statistics provider which

- adopts leading practices to develop our research and analysis
- applies common and recognised standards and practices
- is highly efficient and delivers reliable statistics on time
- strives to secure the highest possible response rates
- is recognised and valued

And a 21st century registration service which

- provides a high quality service that is easy for everyone to use
- seeks opportunities to work with other public services to provide one-stop-shops
- offers electronic access to records