The Brilliant Club
Recruitment Pack
Part-Time Economics Research Associate
October 2023
Part-Time Economics Research Associate (Subject to Funding)

Start date: November 2023
Payment: Approximately 315 hours at £20 p/h plus holiday pay.
Contract Type: Fixed term until March 2024.
Location: Remote working

About The Brilliant Club
At The Brilliant Club, we mobilise the PhD community to support students from less advantaged backgrounds to access the most competitive universities and succeed when they get there. We work with students who, because of their family income, parental history or the postcode they live in, are at risk of missing out on the life-changing opportunities linked to higher education.

We are recruiting a PhD student (or post-doctoral researcher) with a background in economics/sociology to work 1.5 days / 2 days a week from (ideally) the second week of November 2023 through to the end of March 2024. We are flexible in terms of the days when the project is undertaken within the week and can discuss as part of the recruitment process.

Please note, this position is conditional on The Brilliant Club winning a research bid, and we expect to know the outcome by Monday 6th November. Therefore, we are currently taking expressions of interest for this speculative role – further details about the project and post are provided below.

About the project
This project will consolidate and connect information found in the literature review/stakeholder engagement to establish links between impact evaluations and the monetary value of these impacts for educational interventions conducted by HE institutions.

A key outcome of the project will be to understand the current economic evaluation landscape in the HE sector and to establish an economic evaluation framework and guidance to support HE institutions to conduct robust economic evaluations of their educational interventions.

Further information about the project can be found here.

About the role (subject to funding)
The ideal candidate will have a background in economics / quantitative sociology and is interested in research involving impact and economic evaluation. This role will consist of assisting in the creation of an economic evaluation framework from existing published research on the impact of educational interventions on educational attainment and the monetary value of improved attainment. This research will enable higher education organisations to put a monetary value on the benefits from widening participation and broader educational interventions which improve educational outcomes of students.

The following provides a breakdown of the type of work the Research Associate will be a part of:

Phase One:
Able to do literature review of:
- Types of economic evaluations (cost benefit analysis, social return on investment, etc.).
- Types of economic evaluations done in education sector (both secondary school and higher education).
• Research linking educational interventions to improvements in KS2, GCSEs, A levels, university progression and completion.
• Research linking improvements in educational attainment to monetary values.

Write up of literature review:
• Needs to be written in non-technical manner (for non-economists).
• Sets the landscape for what role economic evaluation is currently playing in analysis of educational interventions.

Phase Two (outputs of this phase depend on what’s found in Phase One):
• Aid in development of framework of how to do an economic evaluation of educational interventions.
• This requires using the literature found in Phase One to develop a framework by linking the literature of interventions that improve educational attainment to the literature which provides a monetary value to improvements in education attainment.

Phase Three (outputs of this phase depend on what’s found in Phase One / Phase Two):
• Aid in writing guidance on how to use the framework for non-specialist audiences.
• Aid in making training materials for how to use the framework.

Expression of interest

If you are interested in this role, please email your CV, outlining your relevant skills and experiences, to madison.kerr@thebrilliantclub.org by 5pm on Tuesday 7th November.

We will then be in touch by Friday 10th November with an update about whether we have been awarded the funding to deliver the economics evaluation project and, if relevant, the next steps of the recruitment process for the Research Associate role.
Our values
The Brilliant Club has three core values that underpin how we work. We look for people who share these values:

- We get to a solution
- We seek and act on the best data available
- We understand that little things go a long way

“As the first in my family to go to university and having worked as a teacher in a state school, I applied to join The Brilliant Club with a real passion for the charity’s mission. I am grateful every day that I work at a charity that is supportive of both professional development and flexible working, as well as being full of kind and passionate colleagues.”

Leanne, Chief Operating Officer

Diversity at The Brilliant Club
We mobilise the PhD community to support students who are less advantaged to access the most competitive universities and succeed when they get there. We think it is important that our charity reflects the lived experience of the communities we work with, and we want to be an organisation where employees from any background can thrive. We particularly welcome applications from disabled, Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic, Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Non-binary (LGBTQ+) candidates, and candidates from low-income families.

“We are the Diversity and Inclusion Staff Engagement Leads at The Brilliant Club. Our role is to help make the charity an inclusive working environment for all of our colleagues. We work with our amazing affinity groups and colleagues in HR to ensure everyone at the charity has a sense of belonging.”

Keasha and Mano - Diversity and Inclusion Staff Engagement Leads

Safeguarding
The Brilliant Club is committed to proactively safeguarding children, beneficiaries and staff and to taking reasonable steps to protect all those who come into contact with the charity from harm. The safety and welfare of everyone affected by the charity’s activities, especially children, is a key governance priority.

As part of our recruitment and selection process and commitment to safeguarding, we will undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check of individuals in this role. Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory disclosure report.
Our Year in Numbers

We have supported 22,073 students

- 14,266 students took part in The Scholars Programme
- 4,250 students took part in The Brilliant Tutoring Programme
- 321 schools were in rural or coastal areas
- 1,067 schools
- 154 schools were in social mobility cold spots
- 803 PhD researchers
- 3 Parent Power chapters worked to improve their children’s education journey
- 141 students took part in our Uni Pathways Programme, run by their Researchers in Schools teacher
- 31 ambassadors and 13 experience experts
- 6,694 students on The Scholars Programme were eligible for Pupil Premium
- We partnered with 42 universities