

Diogo Ferreira

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Dear Hiring Team,

I am writing to express my interest in the Research Data Analyst position at UKCDR. I am a third-year Philosophy, Politics and Economics student at the University of Leeds, currently on track to graduate with First Class Honours. With a strong foundation in quantitative methods, economic theory, and policy analysis, I am eager to apply my skills in a practical setting that values intellectual rigour and evidence-based problem solving.

My academic training has included modules in microeconomics, macroeconomics, political economy, public policy, and advanced research techniques. I have achieved consistently high marks, on track to graduate First Class with Honours this year - 75% of my effective credits will be on quantitative modules. I regularly apply econometric and statistical reasoning in both academic and personal settings and received 75%, 93%, and 85% in my Applied Econometrics, Maths for Business and Economics, and Stats & Econometrics exams, respectively. This, combined with my National Foundation Diploma in Information Technology, has also given me a strong familiarity with STATA and MS Excel.

My academic strengths are complemented by a broad range of professional experiences across government, research, and consultancy. I previously worked at the Department for Work and Pensions as a Policy Intern, where I contributed to internal briefing materials, conducted horizon scanning on data ethics and digital regulation, and delivered workshops simplifying technical policy concepts for wider departmental use. This work taught me to embed the PESTLE – political, economic, social, technological, legal, and ethical – framework into my analytical toolset and strengthened my ability to tackle problems from a diverse perspective. I was further tasked with preparing a plethora of briefing documents on important political events, most notably the Chancellor of the Exchequer's maiden speech and the King's Speech, which were to be delivered on a strict timetable following their initial announcements; I wrote these concurrently with my main research and balanced both tasks to ensure neither quality nor punctuality was sacrificed. I currently serve as the Technology Director at Leeds Community Consulting, where I negotiated and secured a partnership with a professional consultancy to help expand our student-led, pro-bono service. Additionally, I co-founded and currently serve as Secretary and Policy Editor for the Leeds Policy Institute, a student think tank that has had multiple research teams accepted to the British Conference for Undergraduate Research. Across all these roles, I have refined my skills in strategic thinking, written communication, stakeholder engagement, and team leadership.

UKCDR's mission to support and enhance the impact of international development research closely aligns with both my academic background and professional interests. I am particularly drawn to the organisation's focus on evidence-based policymaking and its role in promoting research that addresses global development challenges. The chance to contribute to this important work and deepen my experience in applied economics and policy analysis would be a natural extension of my studies and prior experience in public sector research.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be excited to support UKCDR's work and gain valuable experience in research and development policy this summer.

Yours sincerely,
Diogo Ferreira