

Cover Letter

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing you this letter to apply for the Senior Evaluation Officer (Quantitative/Economist) position. Let me briefly address your questions below.

1) Why do you want to work at Foundations?

I am applying for the Senior Evaluation Officer (Economist) because I want to use my extensive academic and applied evaluation knowledge to work for a place that makes a real difference in people's life.

As a professional, I am willing to build a research career for organizations that aim at working for the social good. I believe that the Foundations would be the perfect place to do so.

I also want to work with the leaders in the evaluation field and further improve my knowledge as a quasi-experiment expert. During my experience at the National Centre for Social Research I came to realise that the Foundations are one of them, as we had multiple experience to work with this organization.

2) How you believe your skills and experience will provide specific value in relation to the essential and desirable criteria outlined in the job description/role profile?

I believe my skills and experience will provide further high-quality knowledge and professionalism to the team. These skills would come from my most recent working experiences as a Senior Evaluation Researcher for the National Centre for Social Research and as a Postdoctoral Researchers at SciencesPo, which is one of the leading European universities in applied social science research. Furthermore, I also have experience from my role as a Early Stage Researcher at the European Commission and my PhD in Economics.

For what concerns my skills, I have extensive experience in leading the day-to-day delivery of quantitative evaluations for a charity thanks to my Senior Research job at the National Centre for Social Research. As a member of the Evaluation team, where I work on a daily basis with creative and driven evaluators aiming to measure policies and interventions

Also in this position I oversaw multiple externally commissioned evaluations, from clients that include the UK Ministry of Justice, The National Lottery Community Fund, the UK Department for Education, the Education Endowment Foundation, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), and others.

I have research writing experience for what concerns feasibility studies, reports, and academic publications. I wrote and published a feasibility most recently in 2023, with the title 'LNK Educate: Feasibility and pilot study'. This feasibility study was for the Lives not Knives evaluation, where I independently used and reported on propensity score matching to see the effect of the intervention. The LNK evaluation measures the effect of targeted tutoring on lives crime attitudes among kids in targeted schools.

At NatCen I also gained experience in designing Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT), most recently by designing the RCT for an evaluation called 'Send me a Pic' (SMAP), which is a two-arms randomised trial measuring the effect of targeted tutoring on nude-image sharing awareness.

I also have extensive experience in quasi-experiments, from matching to Synthetic Control, gained through my PhD but as well through my experience at NatCen. I published an academic paper that measured the effect of policies on GDP growth in Hungary as part of my PhD dissertation. I also have an overall high-level track record of academic publications.

At NatCen I also wrote multiple bid to get new projects, most recently on a project that uses Natural Language Processing to evaluate the sentiment text of disability-related documents.

Last but not least, I have vast experience in working with different kind of dataset, gained through all my work experiences as a researcher, but in the evaluation sector as a researcher directly working on the ELSA dataset. ELSA, 'the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing', is one of the longest lasting survey in the UK, and it provides a lot of skills

as a data manager working on it. I am also confident in using R, Python, and a variety of other languages and related software to conduct high-level data management and data analysis.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of discussing how my qualifications and experiences align with the needs of What Works Centre for Children & Families in more detail. Please feel free to contact me at elena.cossu@live.it or +33 6 95 10 79 67 to schedule an interview.

Sincerely,

Elena