
PROGRAMME LEAD

The Economist Educational Foundation

Reports to: Programme Director

Hours: Full time (40 hours) with flexible working. Core hours are 10am to 4pm Monday-Friday

Location: Hybrid. Central London on Wednesdays and Thursdays for team collaboration, remote working on other days

Salary: £35,000

Closing date: July 30th, 8pm

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply:

1. Complete [this](#) application form (also found here: bit.ly/TEEF-PL24).
2. Complete and return the equality and diversity monitoring form to Manni at manthuramohamed@economist.com, using the subject line "Monitoring Form".

If you have any questions about the role, please contact our Programme Director, Olivia, at oliviaplatman@economist.com.

We will contact all applicants after the closing date.

ABOUT US

We're a small, creative and fast-growing charity that was established from inside *The Economist* in 2012. We support children, aged 10 to 16, from under-served backgrounds to develop essential skills for the modern world. We do this by enabling them to join inspiring discussions about the news, which teach them to think critically, communicate effectively and understand global issues.

Our activities: Our programme, Topical Talk, brings about these discussions in four ways:

- We create world-class teaching resources for classroom discussions about global news stories
- We run *Topical Talk Festival*: the only news festival for young people. Children from countries all over the world join discussions with each other and global experts; and they work towards publishing their opinions in written, audio and film format for the chance to win awards
- We offer Topical Talk Prizes: collections of resources for a series in-depth discussions about a big global issue or theme, following which students submit their work for the chance to win prizes
- We train and support teachers to bring high-quality news discussions into their classrooms; including through intensive, in-person community partnerships in the UK, US and Nigeria

Our impact: Children who take part in Topical Talk can make seven times more progress compared to their peers in creativity, problem-solving, open-minded listening and confident speaking. These skills are linked with better outcomes at school, in employment and as citizens. Our programme has received international recognition, including by HundrED as one of the top 100 educational initiatives of 2020 and 2021, and as first-prize winner of the UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy Awards 2022.

Our ambitions: We are at an exciting point in our trajectory. We have demonstrated huge growth potential, going from a small UK pilot in 2013 to working with thousands of teachers globally today, including on-the-ground work in the UK and US. There is still an enormous unmet need, so we have bold plans to reach one million children in 2026, with 100,000 engaging on a weekly basis.

THE ROLE

We're looking for a qualified teacher or ex-teacher who is excited to play a hands-on role in our team, training and building relationships with Topical Talk teachers in the UK and internationally.

You'll be responsible, alongside our Teacher Engagement and Development Lead, for supporting teachers to get the most from Topical Talk programmes. You'll do this by building strong relationships with a range of individual teachers, school groups (for example multi-academy trusts) and organisations. You'll be confident communicating with and motivating teachers, and delivering inspiring teacher training in a range of settings in the UK and internationally. You'll also work directly with 10- to 16-year-old students on a regular basis, to model lessons to teachers, deliver workshops and facilitate online discussions.

From time to time you will work with our content team to give input into the creation of interactive lessons on news topics. You'll share ideas for class activities or topics, join idea-generation and feedback sessions, and occasionally draft lessons yourself.

OPPORTUNITIES WE CAN OFFER YOU

- **Real impact:** you'll work directly with teachers and students to make a real difference to children's ability to think critically, listen well, express themselves and understand the big issues of our time
- **Growth and development:** you'll join a fast-growing charity with opportunities to grow your skills and responsibility as the organisation takes on bigger challenges. We invest in training and development and will support you to build the skills and experience as you need, for example, working with you to find expert mentors within The Economist Group
- **A friendly, driven and highly-effective team:** we are deeply committed to being an inspiring, happy place to work, where we learn and achieve things that matter together. We work collaboratively and supportively, with the freedom to use our own judgement and be creative
- **Flexible working:** our core hours are from 10am to 4pm with a minimum of two days spent in the office each week (Wednesdays and Thursdays)
- **Other benefits:** Economist Group benefits include a great central-London office (The Adelphi Building near Charing Cross), private medical insurance, a cycle to work scheme and more

RESPONSIBILITIES

Design and deliver teacher training and support to maximise impact of Topical Talk (40%)

- Work with the Teacher Engagement and Development Lead to design and deliver online and in-person teacher training that supports and inspires teachers to run Topical Talk lessons regularly
- Visit schools to observe, and occasionally teach, Topical Talk lessons
- Collect data, such as case studies and progress reports, to help evaluate the impact of Topical Talk
- Test and evaluate different approaches to teacher support in order to continually improve how we work with teachers

Engage students with Topical Talk lessons (30%)

- Deliver inspiring workshops and lessons about the news to young people aged 10 to 16 globally
- Co-plan and present Live Lessons to a global audience
- Facilitate [online discussions](#) between young people during Topical Talk Festivals
- Collaborate with the content team to share ideas, give feedback and occasionally draft lessons about the news

Build and nurture effective relationships with teachers, school groups and organisations (30%)

- Build strong relationships with teachers, administrators, local education authorities, school districts or multi-academy trusts, to make Topical Talk a long-term success in the schools
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of Topical Talk in depth in these schools or communities, using evidence to recommend programme-wide changes
- Work with the Head of Marketing and Teacher Engagement Development Lead to recruit schools to participate in Topical Talk Festival, liaising with teachers and persistently following up as needed
- Support teachers to get ready to participate in the Topical Talk Festival, including briefing them, guiding them through the sign-up process and answering their questions / troubleshooting

This role will involve international travel so a valid passport is required. It also involves working with young people, so you will need to have an enhanced DBS check (which The Foundation will organise).

REQUIRED ATTRIBUTES AND EXPERIENCE

You are...

- A clear and compelling communicator, verbally and in writing – you're able to engage people with our work and build strong relationships
- Willing to travel – you are keen to travel across the UK on a regular (weekly) basis, and overseas on a termly basis
- Highly personable – you build rapport quickly and nurture ongoing relationships
- Passionate about current affairs – you want to help young people to understand the news
- Meticulous in your work – you have exceptional attention to detail and time management
- Collaborative – you are happy to work as part of a team to ensure the best results
- A great problem-solver – you can manage the needs of different audiences and stakeholders
- Results-oriented – you use your initiative and are driven to achieve our targets

You have...

- Qualified Teacher Status (or equivalent) – you have at least two years of experience teaching primary or secondary students and an up-to-date knowledge of educational research and developments
- Experience delivering training to teachers on multiple pastoral and curriculum-related topics
- Experience of building relationships and managing stakeholders to secure what's needed from them
- A proven track record of planning, analysing and reporting on projects

You might have...

- Experience of working in schools or with teachers outside of the UK

We're particularly keen for you to apply if you are from a community under-represented in the charity sector or have lived experience of facing extra barriers because of your background.

If you require any adjustments for your interview, just let us know.